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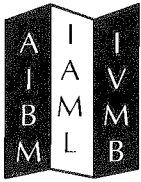
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The Netherlands

In 2010, the Nederlandse Vereniging van Muziekbibliotheken, Muziekarchieven en Muziekdocumentatiecentra (NVMB) board got back to basics after the hectic and inspirational year 2009, when the Netherlands had the honor of hosting the IAML-IMS conference. Alongside with the normal activities such as the organization of workshops and lectures for the benefit of music librarians, a survey was initiated to investigate a presumed function of public libraries in smaller, rural settings as a local forum for cultural presentations and production.

For the realm of music one may think of the organization of concerts, music workshops and introductions to the reception of music, based on what a given collection can offer for support like CDs and scores. By the end of the year, the results of the survey were to be presented at a meeting, bringing together the results from the north, central and the southern part of the Netherlands. Often neglected by policymakers, a vital element of cultural life and expression is

made real in many branch libraries all over the country, without exception fostered by librarians who likewise extend their field of professional work for the community.

In May, a workshop was held in Delft, focusing on music education, both for children and the adult audience. Two presentations were given, one by Corinne Scheltens based on the practice in the city of Delft where children get their introduction to music in a close cooperation with the local primary schools. The other presentation was by Gert Floor who gave an account of courses given in the public library of the Heiloo village (northern Holland). Both the introductions underscored the above-mentioned notion of the public library as a nucleus of cultural activity.

Similar to initiatives in Flanders (<http://www.muzeekbankvlaanderen.be>) and the UK (<http://www.cecilia-uk.org>) both the Netherlands Muziek Instituut/NMI and Muziek Centrum Nederland/MCN have formulated their wish to build in cooperation a digital portal, bringing together all of the music heritage in the Netherlands. By doing so, an important step forwards would become reality, offering to researchers, students and journalists a sophisticated digital tool of research.

Utrecht University welcomed a renovated and extended housing of the Library for the Humanities, located in the City Centre. The musicological holdings, including the organ archives, will surely benefit from these new premises in future. The centre is headed by Joost van Gemert

In Amsterdam a congress was held on the organ in a broad sense, with an emphasis on the interdisciplinary range, attracting specialists from all over the world. (<http://www.orgelpark.nl>)

Nine delegates from the Netherlands attended the IAML-conference in Moscow. As usual the programme offered an inspiring blend of lectures, points of view, and social activities. One morning session was dedicated to a discussion about goals and impact of IAML, as proposed by some of the Scandinavian delegates. One element deserves to be underlined, namely the strong bonds between colleagues, mutual motivation, exchange of professional experience, even friendship, that can be perceived

on the distinct national levels. This ongoing activity is also apparent in IAML, but shows itself less prominently when compared with the several national activities. As an example: in the Netherlands there is an effective cooperation in the field of music between research libraries, public libraries, and documentation centres, that has no equivalent in a broader context. Let's benefit from this . . .

The Netherlands is preparing for the implementation of the ISMN, after some time of deliberation and even reluctance from the side of the Dutch music publishers. With the commitment of MCN and several minor publishers a fresh start can be made, leading to a Dutch general use of ISMN in the near future.

The NVMB board decided in spring 2010 to install a working group to focus on issues that come along with copyright, especially in the field of music. The aspects of the legal approach are less at stake, as the main attention will be given to the day-to-day practice when working in a library and being confronted claims of copyright and judging if they are correct or not. These claims concern both recorded and printed music. Though there will be input from the side of legal specialists, NVMB is anxious to learn what the working group may find, and how this can give shape to an applicable policy.

Three professors of musicology have joined Dutch universities: Utrecht University welcomed Sander van Maas for music theory, the University of Amsterdam appointed Henkjan Honing for music cognition, and Hans Fidom now holds a chair at Vrije Universiteit (Amsterdam) for the history of the organ.

Gert Floor stepped down as president of NVMB after an extended three terms on May 27. The extension was felt necessary because of the preparations for the 2009 Amsterdam Congress. In a warm farewell speech, Martie Severt referred to the "Gert Era" as a time of growth, motivation, and strengthening of the organization, made possible by the unique personality and warm character that Gert shared so generously with those he worked with, whether board members, IAML delegates, or colleagues in the field of music.

Apart from the usual presents, Gert Floor received a first edition of a score by Dutch com-

poser Jeroen Slothouwer, the *Sonate per viola e piano* (2000), who, in honor of the occasion, made it a unique copy by the addition of a printed tribute to the outgoing president.

ArteZ music librarian Jantien Dubbeldam took over the presidency, stating that she owes much to the work of Gert Floor, and that she will continue the good work for her upcoming terms to serve.

Willem Rodenhuis
IAML (The Netherlands)