臺灣音樂館
Taiwan Music Institute

Taiwan Music Institute's Collections Development, Approaches and Possibilities from the Past to Present

1. Introduction

Taiwan Music Institute, National Center for Traditional Arts (TMI) is one of the affiliated institutions of the Ministry of Culture in Taiwan. It was established as the Center of Ethnic Music in 1990, specializing in ethnomusicological research, education, and preservation of musics of Taiwan. With gradual development over years, TMI has evolved its target field from Taiwanese indigenous music to all kinds of music in Taiwan.

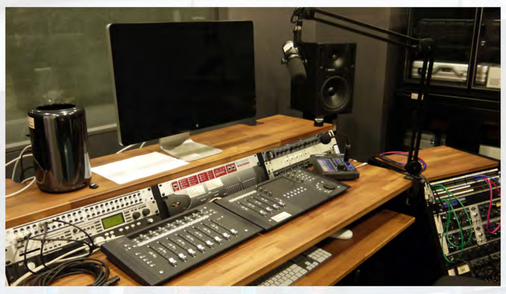
Nowadays, TMI has missions of collecting, researching, and preserving historical sources and documents of Taiwan's music and of publicizing the ethnomusicological work through diverse forms, such as exhibitions, performances, and educational activities. TMI hopes to build a bridge crossing Taiwan and the world for everyone to know Taiwanese music cultures.

2. TMI's Collections

(1) Collection Storage and Workplace

Collection storage with open-shelf cabinets

Temperature and humidity monitoring system



Studio

Humidity control cabinets

(2) Subjects & Types of Objects

- Subjects: Taiwanese composers, musician/historical events, and documents of Taiwanese music development.
- Types: sheet music, manuscripts, documents, newspaper clippings, ephemera, photographs, audio-visual media and so on.
- Acquisitions: From 2015 to 2022, 45 donors donated around 20,000 objects containing 33 different composers' and musicians' manuscripts and belongings.

3. Collection Management Guideline

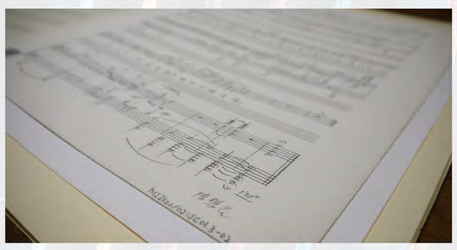
(1) Initial preservation: cleaning, flattening objects, and removing unnecessary binding supplies.

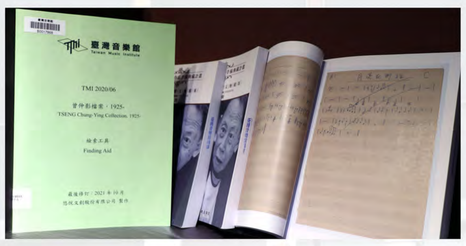
(2) Classification and arrangement: recording object information, numbering objects, and creating finding aids.

(3) Further preservation/care: using acid-free materials to make objects protected.

(4) Digitalization: converting objects into digital format.

(5) Proceeds to storage: preserving objects in storage where temperature and humidity are controlled.





4. Collection Revitalization

TMI attempts to revitalize collections via different approaches. For example, the Institute invites musicians to perform the compositions from the manuscript collections and film the performances, edits and prints handwritten sheet music with scorewriters, and converts pieces of vinyl into digital media. These results are accessible through online platforms: The Online Database of Taiwanese Musicians, Open Museum: Taiwan Music Culture Map, and RISM Catalog. TMI maintains the fundamental belief, keeps working hard on related research and practice, and develops a unique collections management strategy, in order to create possibilities for passing on the diversity of Taiwanese music culture.

Publications

Promoting understanding of Taiwanese music by publishing the TMI's works like scores, audio, and video.

The library of TMI

This area is open to the public to read and listen to Taiwanese music.

Concerts

Performing classic works of Taiwanese contemporary composers or Taiwanese ethnic music.

Lectures

Inviting musicians to share their own stories with the TMI's collections.

Website: RISM Catalog

TMI has uploaded the data of Taiwanese composer David. Loong-Hsing, Wen's music manuscripts to the RISM online catalog for research.

International conferences

Website: The Online Database of Taiwanese Musicians

This website contains introductions and digital objects of Taiwanese musicians.

Website: Open Museum

To share information on Taiwanese music, TMI maintains this website for everyone to access the open data on it.

國立傳統藝術中心
National Center for Traditional Arts

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