

Broadcasting and Orchestra Libraries Section Report – Salzburg, 6–11 July 2025

Submitted by Monika Drygalska – Secretary

The Broadcasting and Orchestra Libraries Section had one Session and one Working meeting at the congress in Salzburg.

Session: Opera, Ballet and Metadata

Date: Tuesday, 8 July 2025

Time: 14:00–15:30

Venue: Meeting Room E.001 HS Thomas Bernhard

Chair: Nienke de Boer (Vice-Chair, Broadcasting and Orchestra Libraries Section)

Attendance: 33 participants

This session featured three insightful presentations focused on metadata and archival practices in opera and ballet contexts:

Documenting 15 Years of the Royal Opera House Muscat

Speaker: Ruaya Al-Kharusi (Royal Opera House Muscat, Music Library)

A comprehensive bilingual (Arabic-English) database was developed to archive over 400 performances since 2011. It includes video recordings, images, production data, and digital program booklets. The project addresses the challenges of multilingual cataloging and metadata management in performing arts institutions.

Meta-stasio: Recovery and Standardization of Opera Metadata

Speakers: Ronan O'Flaherty and Brian McMillan, (University of Western Ontario, Western Libraries)
A large-scale metadata preservation project focusing on the works of librettist Pietro Metastasio. The database comprises 237 operas, 3310 arias, and 5979 settings by 630 composers. The project included cleaning and standardizing metadata, restructuring databases, and migrating the content to Omeka S with a custom ontology for opera libretti.

El amor brujo (1925) by Manuel de Falla: A Hundred-year-old Ballet in the Portal de Archivos Españoles (PARES)

Speakers: Candelaria Tormo-Valpuesta (Manuel de Falla Archive), Antonio Álvarez Cañíbanos (Ministry of Culture, Spain)

This project celebrates the centenary of *El amor brujo* by archiving related correspondence in the Spanish national archive portal PARES. It is also part of a European Union-funded program (TándEM) that trains 16 young professionals in archival work.

Working Meeting

Date: Thursday, 10 July 2025

Time: 09:00–10:30

Venue: Meeting Room 1.006/7 Seminar

Chair: Nienke de Boer (Vice-Chair)

Attendance: 13 participants

The meeting began with a round of introductions, during which participants presented themselves and briefly described their roles and responsibilities within their respective institutions.

Presentation:

Agathe Courtin (Orchestre national des Pays de la Loire, Angers / Nantes) discussed the complex relationship between orchestra libraries and music publishers in France. She highlighted ongoing difficulties related to non-transparent licensing fees for performances, archival recordings, broadcasting rights, mechanical rights, and the negotiation of contracts with individual publishers.

This sparked a lively discussion among participants, who shared similar challenges from their own countries across Europe and Canada. The exchange of experiences revealed a shared need for more clarity and consistency in the licensing of orchestral materials.

Official negotiations have been ongoing in France between the Syndicate Chamber of Publishers and two professional associations of French orchestras and operas, with the support of independent lawyers who were hired to analyse the rental contracts.

The first part of these negotiations resulted in the drafting and signing of a charter promoting good relations between publishers and orchestras (in effect since January 2025). The second part is still ongoing, aiming to reach a fair agreement on capitation fees.

Outcome:

A proposal was made to organize an **online mid-season meeting** to continue the discussion and collaborate on solutions to shared challenges.

Nienke de Boer concluded the meeting by asking participants to fill out a contact list with email addresses to facilitate communication and strengthen cooperation within the section.

Officers Broadcasting and Orchestra Libraries Section:

Chair: Enrique Monfort, Palau de la Música de València, Spain (Enrique could not be present in Salzburg)

Secretary: Monika Drygalska, Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra in Katowice, Poland

Vice-chair: Nienke de Boer, Het Balletorkest Amsterdam, The Netherlands