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## The Netherlands

With the vivid memories of the past conference ([www.iamlconference2009.nl](http://www.iamlconference2009.nl)) held 5–10 July at the Conservatory of Amsterdam and hosted by the Dutch branch of IAML it is now time to focus on what happened in between in the overture to and the wings of this event and to look a bit ahead as well.

The past period can be characterized by terms like fusion, concentration of energy, and moving. The *Muziekcentrum Nederland (MCN)* – [www.muzeekcentrumnederland.nl](http://www.muzeekcentrumnederland.nl) is a concrete result of a process of fusion and concentration of abilities in the field of music in a broad sense, leading to a dome organization covering most of the professional music life and archiving in the Netherlands, however, leaving apart the amateur realm. Governmental policy of long-term concentration of branch institutions led to this newly-structured organization that opened its doors to the public in Spring 2009. Reputable institutions like *Donemus*, *Gaudeamus*, the *Jazz Archive*, and the *National Pop Institute* cooperate in future as MCN, offering a balanced service to the field.

Another result of this shifting process is the new housing in Amsterdam of the *Theater Instituut Nederland (TIN)* – [www.tin.nl](http://www.tin.nl) that will focus in the next future on its archival function more than its museum division. Flexible and diverse programming should meet the needs of a broad audience in the field of theatre, dance and cabaret. The archive will function as a key stone, combining both theatre-related items such as scores, recordings, artifacts, and the need for professional support.

A widely discussed subject was the position of the *Toonkunst-Bibliotheek*, leading to a final splitting up of the collection. The historical part of the collection was taken over by the *Bijzondere Collecties* Department of the University of Amsterdam, a truly wise decision, offering a

promising future for this unique library. Scores and songbooks dating back to the sixteenth century, alongside with theoretical music treatises by Glareanus (1547), Zarlino (1558), and Fux (1725), and the archival collections of the eighteenth-century Amsterdam *Felix Meritis* Society and the *Mozes en Aaron* Church are fostered by curator Simon Groot, who moved from the Public Library in Amsterdam to the University of Amsterdam. Research facilities are fine and up-to-date, in combination to a setting that suits the contemporary researcher. The same goes for the *Jaap Kunst* Collection that was formerly kept in isolated and poorly accessible bookcases at the Humanities Faculty, but since 2005 is available at the *Bijzondere Collecties* Department. This is also true for the collection of letters and the private book collection as acquired by the University of Amsterdam after Jaap Kunst' death in 1960. Meanwhile, the contemporary part of the Toonkunst collection will be kept in the premises of the public library of Amsterdam, open to a broader public of music lovers.

Also a newly-fused organization is the Utrecht-based *Kunstfactor*, bringing together all of the art disciplines where amateur or community practice is at stake. However, as one of the consequences of the fusion, the repertoire scores were disposed of. We do try our best to re-arrange the scores and books that have been deaccessioned, for example, by offering them to sister organizations through our outreach programme. This has led to some successful transferring of book- and score collection in the recent past.

The board of the Dutch IAML-branch, NVMB, organized a session on marketing and cultural entrepreneurship, to be followed in November of the current year 2009 by a meeting focusing on the theme of children and music. This event will be held in Enschede, where a newly-built complex has been constructed serving the needs for the ARTEZ conservatory, the opera, and orchestra concentrating on the eastern and northern parts of the country.

Ria Warmerdam wrote a well acclaimed introduction to the IAML-IMS Congress in the Dutch magazine *Informatie Professional* (2009, 7/8), serving as an appetizer for the things to come in July. The NVMB board took leave of

three of its members whose term had ended, Ank Schonewille, Hanneke Kuiper, and Luuk Hoekstra. NVMB intends to resume the good work that has been done when organizing courses in the field of librarianship for music collections. The same is true for issues in the field of copyright, the implementation of the ISMN and the maintenance of our website and the furthering of electronic communication.

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