

Music Documentation in Libraries, Scholarship, and Practice



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The RISM Project at the Glinka National Museum Consortium of Musical Culture and the Association of Musical Museums and Collections: To the Centenary Celebrations of the Museum in 2012

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Introduction

Ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues! I am honored to be invited to this international professional forum. So, first of all I would like to thank the organizers of this meeting, who found an opportunity to include my report in the rich program of the event.

The presentation will focus on the history and current state of the museum, a description of its collections, projects and activities of the Association of Musical Museums, and proposals for future cooperation with RISM.

About the Museum

The Glinka State Museum of Musical Culture (Moscow, Russia), which has the status of a particularly valuable object of cultural heritage of the Russian Federation, is preparing to celebrate its centenary in 2012. Today it is a consortium of six museums located in the historical centre of Moscow.

There are nearly one million items in the museum's collections in total: musical instruments, autographs, musical and literary manuscripts, rare books, posters and programs, portraits and scenery artwork, photographs and sculptures, and memorial household items, audio and video recordings.

Therefore, I would like to start my presentation with a short video, which I think is the best and the most entertaining way to tell the audience about the history of the museum and its development over the last century, to highlight current achievements, and provide an outlook on future projects.

Key facts about the museum. Museum consortium.

There are nearly a million items in the museum's collections in total. This is the world's biggest multidisciplinary collection that aims to introduce to the audience the concept of "musical culture."

The museum holds in its collections musical instruments, autographs, musical and literary manuscripts, rare books, posters and programs, portraits and scenery artwork, photographs and sculptures, and memorial household items, audio and video recordings. The museum's collection of musical instruments includes over 3000 items – ancient and new, originating from different regions of Russia and from around the world, wind instruments, drums and keyboards.

Through its history the Museum has been continuously expanding. Now it is a museum complex, incorporating, apart from the main building in the centre of Moscow, six memorial museums, dedicated to the life and work of outstanding Russian musicians:

1. Fyodor Chaliapin Memorial Estates (Novinsky Boulevard 25/27)
2. Tchaikovsky Cultural Center and the Museum «Pyotr Tchaikovsky and Moscow». (Kudrinskaya Square 46/54)
3. The Museum of Sergei Prokofiev (Kamergersky Lane 6)
4. Memorial Apartment of Alexander Goldenweiser (Tverskaya Street 17)
5. Memorial Apartment of the outstanding Russian conductor Nikolai Golovanov (Bryusov Lane 7)
6. Memorial Estate of Sergei Taneyev (currently under construction).

State Collection of Unique Musical Instruments

The Museum acquired the State Collection of Unique Musical Instruments in June 2010. It contains over 300 instruments by the best violin makers of different countries and epochs, including masterpieces by Amati, Stradivari and Guarneri del Gesu. Some of the instruments are over five centuries old. It is the largest state-owned collection in the world.

A distinctive feature of this collection is that the instruments aren't kept on shelves as museum exhibits - they are lent to musicians and played all over the world.

It seems that the world hasn't seen any significant music competition that didn't involve violins from the State Collection. These competitions include the Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow, the Marguerite Long — Jacques Thibaud Competition in Paris and the Paganini Competition in Genoa.

Among the musicians who cooperated with the State Collection were such celebrities as David Oistrakh, Mstislav Rostropovich, Leonid Kogan, Vladimir Spivakov, Victor Tretyakov, Yuri Bashmet, the orchestras of the Bolshoi and Maryinsky theatres, the «Moscow Virtuosos» and «Moscow Soloists» orchestras, the Tchaikovsky Great Symphonic Orchestra, and the Russian National Orchestra.

Yuri Bashmet Project

A unique example is a project with the "Soloists of Moscow" orchestra directed by Yuri Bashmet - when at concerts nineteen Stradivari and Guarneri del Gesu instruments from the collection were simultaneously presented.

Association of Musical Museums and Collections

The Glinka State Museum of Musical Culture, supported by the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation in November 2009, established the Association of Musical Museums. The Association was set up with the objective to promote cooperation between the musical museums

across Russia, and facilitate development and implementation of federal, regional and international cultural programs.

Currently the Association represents as members 44 musical museums in Russia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine. The geographical scope of the organization is constantly expanding and the Association is becoming truly international.

The Association has managed to implement a number of significant projects since its recent establishment.

The Association members meet twice a year in one of the member museums to discuss current projects and plan future projects. We would like to invite RISM members to join our meetings.

RISM Project

A RISM coordination centre for the Russian Federation started in 2010 with establishment at the Glinka Museum. The project at the moment is in its planning and preparation stage, since the Museum had to undergo a major restructuring in 2010-11 which has been successfully completed by 2012.

The Project's priority theme: Autograph manuscripts of Instrumental Music of 1600 – 1850.

The Project plan includes:

- Creation of working groups in the Glinka Museum and in leading partner museums of the Association
- Kallisto cataloguing training for Glinka Museum and Association staff
- Collections assessment and materials selection
- Workload planning and implementation

Celebration events

The Glinka National Museum Consortium of Musical Culture (Moscow, Russia) is celebrating its centenary in 2012 with a rich programme of events:

- **“Rostropovich - Vishnevskaya. Cross of Destiny”**
An exhibition about the life and work of internationally renowned musicians. April-June 2012
- **INTERMUSEUM2012.**
The museum will present a special anniversary program at this international museum festival to be held in Moscow in June 2012.
- **"Muses. Music. Museum."**
The largest project of the jubilee year will present the best treasures from the museum collections, which have never been on display. October-December 2012.
- **"Musical Heritage in Modern Society"**
An international conference organized jointly with the Moscow State Conservatoire and the Association of Music Museums and Collections will be held in Moscow on 2-4 October 2012.
- **Gala Evening in the Grand Hall of Moscow Conservatoire.** The highlight of the anniversary season will be held on October 4, 2012.

Conference

The main topics:

PRESERVATION AND STUDY OF MUSICAL HERITAGE

Classical music

Folk art

Heritage institutions: museums, libraries and archives

Current issues in music education

MODERN MUSICAL CULTURE

Performing Arts

Avant-garde and post avant-garde

Music for masses: jazz, rock, popular and incidental music

Registration - www.glinka.museum

Please send your reports by July 1 and registration is open until August 1, 2012.

Conclusion. Contact details.

The Glinka National Museum Consortium of Musical Culture and the Association of Musical Museums and Collections would be happy to cooperate in the framework of the RISM cataloguing project and consider any proposals from RISM participants. **Thank you for your attention!**