



Musical Archives

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RESEARCH UNIT

Conservatorio di Brescia “Luca Marenzio”

Project Overview

The Library of the “Luca Marenzio” Conservatory preserves several documentary archives pertaining to musical institutions and organizations active in the Brescia area.

Among these are:

- The archive of the *Società dei Concerti di Brescia*, an important institution that, from the mid-19th century until 2004, organised concerts of major significance in the city, featuring internationally renowned performers. Its archive contains minutes of council meetings (attended by figures such as Antonio Bazzini—founding member—Isidoro Capitanio, Paolo Chimeri, Rodolfo di Brehm, Gaetano Franchi, and, in more recent decades, Romano Romanini and Renzo Baldo), financial registers, concert programmes from various seasons, annual membership lists, and correspondence with invited performers. **The archive extends over 7 linear metres and covers the period from 1872 to the early 2000s.** The Library also holds the Society’s musical collection, already catalogued in the SBN, totalling 145 records.

- **The archive of the Foundation *I Classici Musicali Italiani***, established in 1939 by Giacomo Benvenuti—with the support of Eugenio Bravi—and active until 1943, **responsible for producing some of the first “philological” editions of early Italian music**. Collaborators included Claudio Sartori, Federico Mompellio, Enrico Polo, Alberto Poltronieri, Guido Agosti, and Ruggero Gerlin. The musical editions of the *Classici*—including several 18th-century printed works—are already catalogued in SBN (92 records). What remains is the documentary section, **extending over 7 linear metres**, which contains correspondence and documentation involving reviewers, libraries, theatres, and bookshops interested in the Foundation’s publications. Notable correspondents include Alfredo Casella, Ildebrando Pizzetti, and Vittorio Gui. Preparatory materials for editions—especially those left unpublished due to the outbreak of World War II and the death of Giacomo Benvenuti—are suitable for digitisation.

Actions

Inventorying and digitising the documentary material of historical-musical interest outlined above—namely the archives of the *Società dei Concerti di Brescia* and the documentary series of *I Classici Musicali Italiani* (curated by Claudio Sartori and Giacomo Benvenuti). Although varied in type, all materials are paper-based and are being integrated into the Lombardia Archivi portal.