

RISM Canada Report

By Cheryl Martin (RISM Canada Coordinator, Western University)

The mandate of RISM is to collect and document musical sources. From the RISM web site:

The International Inventory of Musical Sources - Répertoire International des Sources Musicales (RISM) - is a multinational, non-profit joint venture which aims for comprehensive documentation of extant musical sources worldwide. These primary sources are manuscripts or printed music, writings on music theory, and libretti. They are housed in libraries, archives, monasteries, schools and private collections.

The organization, founded in Paris in 1952, is the largest and only global operation that documents written musical sources. RISM records what exists and where it can be found. As a result, musical traditions are protected through cataloguing in a comprehensive inventory while also being made available to musicologists and musicians. Such work is thus not an end in itself, but leads directly to practical applications. (<http://www.rism.info/en/organisation.html>)

RISM is coordinated by the RISM Zentralredaktion (Central Office) in Frankfurt, Germany (<http://rism.info>). RISM staff coordinate the work of RISM members and provide them with technical support and training. While managed by a Coordinating Committee made up of 5-8 RISM members (who are in turn members of IAML or IMS), there is also an Advisory Council of RISM members from each country that meets at every IAML conference. I represent Canada on the Advisory Council, and am presently the only person submitting material on behalf of Canada.

RISM recently released a new version of its [online catalogue](#) which is easier to use and provides more search options. The new interface includes features that will make it easier to find musical sources, especially those that have been digitized.

New features include:

- Search for digitized music
- Auto-complete in the search boxes
- Boolean search
- Incipit input using on-screen piano keyboard
- Sort results by year, title, or author
- Clearer attributions

If you have any feedback about the online catalogue, please let me know.

Cheryl Martin is a Metadata Management Librarian at Western University in London, Ontario. She has been the RISM Coordinator for Canada for the past three years.

One of the goals of RISM is to increase the amount of material in the database by developing a “minimum-level” record that will include enough data to identify the item but may not include extra information such as incipits or extensive notes. Another goal is to market the database to music libraries and librarians, musicologists, musicians, and other researchers. One of my personal goals for the Canadian material is to add a digitized copy to each source in Canada, whenever possible.

One significant recent change is that RISM will now accept material from all time periods. Previously, only pre-1800 material was usually accepted. To celebrate this development, I have catalogued most of Western’s Mahler manuscripts for RISM. I am very glad that these resources are now represented in RISM, as this may provide more exposure for them and bring researchers to Canada. I will be contacting CAML members over the next year to ask what music manuscript material is held in each library/archive/museum collection, and to make arrangements to add records for this material to RISM. I am also participating in a project to send MARC records from library catalogues directly to RISM, and then make any updates needed to comply with RISM standards (such as entering incipits). I hope that this will be successful, because it will be much faster than entering all of the data manually and will encourage more country groups to submit records to RISM.

The two record examples included at the end of this report are from the RISM database Kallisto (fig. 1) and from the Western Libraries catalogue (fig. 2). There are several differences in the formatting and content of the fields and in how the information is displayed. For example, the RISM record (fig. 1) includes a detailed listing of the medium of performance and a link to an article about the source (in this case, an article by Stephen McClatchie about the Mahler-Rosé Collection at Western). The MARC record (fig. 2) will probably look more familiar, with Library of Congress authorities for names and the uniform title, and Library of Congress subject headings. The public catalogue view of these records can be seen in the RISM and Western Libraries catalogues.

With Jennifer Ward from RISM, I will be presenting a paper during the RISM session at the IAML conference next year. We will talk about how a small RISM committee can contribute to the catalogue, and how our pilot project to use MARC records from library catalogues for input into RISM has progressed. We hope that this will encourage further submissions to RISM, especially from countries with a smaller presence in the catalogue.

RISM Series C (library sigla and descriptions of libraries and their collections) is being revised; a committee is now working on information for libraries in European countries. When they move on to North America they will send the records to me, and I will be asking CAML members to look at the records for their libraries and make any corrections needed.

The RISM Coordinating Committee has held useful sessions at IAML conferences and has also provided advice on a successor to Kallisto. Various options for a new system were considered, and in the end Muscat, the system used by the UK and Swiss working groups, was chosen as a replacement. I do not have a timeline for this, but will welcome the implementation of a system that is easier to use.

If you are interested in RISM, either to contribute records or to become involved in other ways, please let me know.

RISM number	820000241
Composer	<input type="checkbox"/> Mahler, Gustav <1860-1911> [verified]
Further person	<input type="checkbox"/> Mahler, Gustav <1860-1911> [Text author] [verified]
RISM Classification title	Klagende Lied. Excerpts
Alternative title	Waldmärchen
Standard. formal title	Cantatas
Diplomatic title	[cover title:] Gustav Mahler Das klagende Lied I. (ungedruckter) Teil Klavierauszug von Alfred Rosé
Further information	c
Other person	<input type="checkbox"/> Rosé, Alfred E. <1902-1975>[Copyist][verified] <input type="checkbox"/> Rosé, Alfred E. <1902-1975>[Previous owner][verified]
Source type	Copy
Dating	05.1934-06.1934
Language	German
Presentation form	score
Volume	39p.
Format	32 x 25 cm
Binding	Bound in marbled paper boards.
Medium of performance	VSol: S, A, T, B Coro: S, A, T, B 2 vl strings: 2 vla, vlc cb woodwinds: 2 fl, 2 ob, 3 cl cor inglese brasses: 4 cor, 3 trb tb 2 harp
Note on Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> McClatchieM 1995
Remarks	First movement of cantata. Score written in pencil; rehearsal numbers in red pencil; corrections in red or blue pencil. At end of score: Mai Juni 1934 Alfred Rosé Text by Gustav Mahler.

Figure 1: Example of a record from the RISM database Kallisto

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LEADER 00000ncm 2200000 i 4500
001 CaOLU015831292
008 960108s1934 xx cta d ger d
039 HUMORI
040 CaOLU|beng|erda
099 MZ3144
100 1 Mahler, Gustav,|d1860-1911,|ecomposer.
240 10 Klagende Lied.|pWaldmärchen.|sVocal score.
245 14 Das klagende Lied :|bI. (ungedruckter) Teil /|cGustav
    Mahler ; Klavierauszug von Alfred Rosé.
246 33 Waldmärchen
264 1 |c1934.
300 1 score (39 pages) ;|c32 cm.
336 notated music|2rdacontent
337 unmediated|2rdamedia
338 volume|2rdacarrier
500 Secular cantata for SATB, mixed voices (SATB), and
    orchestra; accompaniment arranged for piano.
500 Text by Mahler.
500 Manuscript, copied by Alfred Rosé in 1934, of the the
    first movement, "Waldmärchen", which was omitted in the
    published version.
500 Score written in pencil; rehearsal numbers in red pencil;
    corrections in red or blue pencil.
500 Bound in marbled paper boards.
546 German words.
592 Alfred Rosé donation.
650 0 Cantatas, Secular|vVocal scores with piano.
650 0 Choruses, Secular (Mixed voices) with orchestra|vVocal
    scores with piano.
650 0 Music|xManuscripts.

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Figure 2: The corresponding MARC record from the Western Libraries catalogue