

How to Collaborate? Music Research and Unsolved Issues in Korea

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In recent decades music research in Korea has been changed in many ways, especially in subjects and methods. Since Korean modern music culture had started, it had been mostly lead by player and performances. So the subjects in music research were also predominated by repertoires western-oriented music which were famous and often played. With multidisciplinary approaches and interests, more researches become to range over Asian, exactly East Asian music, and they naturally need diverse methodologies for comprehensive analysis and integrated understanding. Practically boundless!

However it is still unsatisfied for music researchers to access to music sources and information in Korea regardless of how professional the researchers are and what kind of information they are looking for. The basic reason is because there are only a few music libraries¹ or archives and music database² which help music researches much easier and faster. Sometimes some of them are used less than intended because of a lack of promoting them and never updated, or unfortunately cannot be maintained with financial problem and finally closed. Further, no professional music librarians to ask for help and no specific training programs for music librarians in educational system now. That is, unlike advanced music researches themselves, constructing or laying the foundation of them is at an early stage and it must be another issue.

We should take this situation seriously, but we don't need to be discouraged too much. We know IAML(International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres), RILM(Répertoire International de Littérature Musicale) and the other 'R' projects(RISM, RIDIM, RIPM), showing how important collaborations and international networking are in music research. Korea doesn't have a very long history since belonging to IAML and RILM but has plenty of valuable researches on music. Through international collaboration and networking, much more music sources and information of Korea can be shared further. Then, how to collaborate? I want to suggest to make a working group and to have a regular meeting in Asia.

¹ Some universities which have music department, (such as Ewha Womans University, Seoul National University, Yonsei University etc.) have their own music libraries.

² Here are two database examples on Korean music. DA-Arts(Korea Digital Archives for the Arts) by Arko Arts Archive, Arts Council Korea, has a database for Contemporary works of Korean composers. (<http://www.daarts.or.kr/creation-music>), and EMDB(emusicdb.info) funded by National Research Foundation of Korea, is a music education database focusing on Modern East Asia.