

# MUSIC IN LIBRARY: ENTERING THE DIGITAL AGE FOR A BETTER EDUCATION OF AUDIENCES

## Renewing the role of the music library

Gaining access to music with a computer and the Internet is today becoming common at home or in a library. Given the extensive expansion of information and communication technologies, combined with the CD market crisis, music libraries have to thoroughly renew the way they play their role as cultural mediators between music collections and audiences. One possible orientation is to build closer relations between cultural activities and uses in the digital world.

## A bridge between cultural activities and digital uses

The Cité de la musique's media library has an active role in this movement. As part of a national public institution dedicated to the dissemination of music (through two concert halls within the Parc de La Villette and the Salle Pleyel in downtown Paris), music heritage (through the Museum of Music) and music education and documentation, the library can take advantage of this resources of the venue, such as the artistic programming of concert halls and a rich experience in music education. The model is also transposable to a regional or town library, which can top in on local potential.

Since 2003, the library has run an intensive digitisation programme of recordings of the concerts given in the halls and the ancient instruments kept by the museum. It offers the audiences the possibility to listen to and watch very diverse and unpublished music (classical, jazz, traditional and world music) and creates new relationships with consumers beyond selling and buying tickets for a performance.

## Listening and understanding

Giving online access to concerts is a first step towards encouraging audiences to develop a comprehensive reception of music, which supposes both skilled listening and background knowledge for a deeper understanding of artistic expressions.

That is why a large choice of educational tools comes with the musical recordings. Ultimately, beyond the discovery of the works and collections themselves, what the Cité de la musique aims to do is to arouse curiosity and to educate and accompany all music lovers in the development of their tastes and culture.

## Cultivating one's ability to appreciate music

Encouraging listeners to appropriate a musical work *as a whole* implies that they associate sensory discovery with an exploration of the aesthetic, cultural and historical contexts underpinning the work; therefore, we systematically provide listening tools that combine a musical stream with additional comments on the music. Two complementary types of activities are offered: The reading of texts on music punctuated by sound illustrations, or, inversely, the listening of music punctuated by comments.

## The listening guides: an interactive way to learn about music

The listening guides are interactive tools based on digitally recorded concerts. They combine sound and video materials with comments, scores, explanatory schemes, etc., that can be used freely by listeners, thus avoiding any predefined, linear way of presenting things and providing in a playful way all the necessary keys to a personalised, step-by-step approach to music.

The screenshot shows a digital listening guide for 'La forme-sonate' by Edvard Grieg. It features a video player at the top, a musical score on the right, and a text panel on the left. The text panel is divided into sections: 'La forme-sonate', 'I - Une forme incontestable', 'II - Tirer parti du contraste', and 'III - Résoudre les tensions'. It also includes a 'Développement' section with a diagram of the miz mode. The interface is designed to be interactive, allowing users to explore the music and its structure in detail.

Fig. Listening guide – Texts, score, images and audio file are synchronised.

## The Cité de la musique's associated libraries

While music is generally partly accessible through excerpts (or fully accessible but on a restricted period of time), integral online access is authorised within the library of the Cité de la musique, but also on the network of associated libraries throughout France. This network federates today over 40 libraries and music schools and is intended to grow, allowing for a better dissemination of this digital enhanced access to music and culture.

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