THE MUSIC INVENTORY DATABASE

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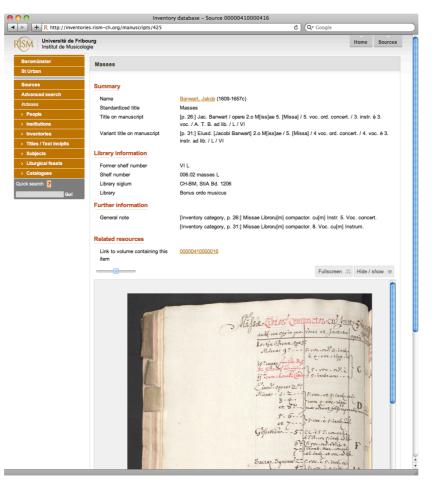
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ABSTRACT

The Music inventory database is an online resource that brings together the detailed content of several European music inventories of the past (1500-1800). It acts as a tool for analysing music production, transmission and consumption in early modern Europe. The database enables a better understanding of the context of preserved sources and brings to light important information about sources or indeed whole music collections that no longer exist. Having the content of the inventory in a digital form in the database creates new opportunities to browse and search library catalogues as they existed several centuries ago. The database also enables the connections between the different centres to be better understood by analyzing the printed and manuscript music shared (or not) across the inventories. Every record in the database is linked to high-resolution images of the source from which the information was taken from. The records are compared to existing bibliographical tools, e.g. RISM A/I and EitnerQ. So far, two important inventories of Switzerland have been entered, namely the inventories of the Cistercian monastery of St Urban (1661) and of the collegiate church of Beromünster (1696). Preliminary analysis shows that up to 25% of the content might refer to unknown or lost editions.

The database is a collaborative project started in 2009 by the Institute of Musicology of Fribourg University and the Swiss RISM, with the support of the Swiss National Science Foundation. The database is compliant with the RISM cataloguing rules and uses the MARC21 metadata format.



http://inventories.rism-ch.org