



**ORPHEUS INSTITUUT
PRESS RELEASE
28.02.2020**

Orpheus Instituut acquires prestigious library Ton Koopman

The internationally renowned Orpheus Institute (Ghent, Belgium) acquires the prestigious library of Ton Koopman, one of the pioneers of the early music movement. The focus of the collection is 17th- and 18th-century music, its cultural context and performance practice. The collection will be housed in the historic Koetshuis (coach-house), which is located next to the Orpheus Institute. The new research group 'Resounding Libraries' will develop projects around the collection.

Ton Koopman (°1944) enjoys worldwide fame as an organist, harpsichordist, conductor, music pedagogue and researcher. His historically informed interpretations of Bach, Buxtehude and their contemporaries, as well as music from the later 18th- century, can be heard on hundreds of acclaimed CDs.

Peter Dejans, director of Orpheus Institute:

This is a real working library with a wealth of practice-oriented literature and scores. This collection is a dream for every performer of baroque music."

The collection is subject of a new research group at the Orpheus Institute. The research group *Resounding Libraries*, with baroque specialists Dr Bruno Forment (principal investigator) and Dr Huub van der Linden, will develop projects around the collection to encourage innovative artistic practices and develop new methods within the digital humanities. In this context, the Orpheus Institute will also open up the collection digitally to make it available to researchers in Belgium and beyond.

For the development of a new research group around the Koopman collection, the Orpheus Institute has secured the financial support of the Department of Economy, Science & Innovation of the Flemish Government.

More information

Press agency

Micha Pycke
Club Paradis
+32 (0)486 680 070
micha@clubparadis.be

Orpheus Instituut

Korte Meer 12, B-9000 Ghent
info@orpheusinstituut.be
+32 (0)9 330 40 81
www.orpheusinstituut.be

The library of Ton Koopman

Ton Koopman (°1944) enjoys worldwide fame as an organist, harpsichordist, conductor, music pedagogue and researcher. He is one of the pioneers of the early music movement. His historically informed interpretations of Bach, Buxtehude and their contemporaries, as well as music from the later 18th-century, can be heard on hundreds of acclaimed CDs.

In the course of his sixty-year career, Koopman has collected an impressive collection of books and music. Among the thousands of prints and manuscripts are numerous unique works, including a cantata by Handel unknown until recently. In addition to this historical library with works from the 15th to the 19th century, Koopman has also collected thousands of modern books and periodicals on Baroque music and culture. Many of the books, both old and modern, have been annotated extensively by the artist himself, making the collection unique.

Thanks to the patronage of the Désiré Collen Foundation, the Orpheus Institute is able to bring this gem to Ghent.

Orpheus Instituut

The Orpheus Institute, founded in 1996, is a leading European centre for artistic research in music, or research embedded in musical practice and primarily guided by artistic objectives.

The Orpheus Institute hosts the international inter-university docARTES programme for practice-based doctoral study in music, and the Orpheus Research Centre, home to some 35 artist-researchers involved in advanced artistic research. To promote and disseminate this knowledge, the Orpheus Institute organises seminars, study days, workshops, concerts, and masterclasses. Next to that, the Orpheus Institute also has its own publication series. All these aspects have made the Orpheus Institute what it is today: a leading European centre for artistic research in music and an influential driving force for new developments in artistic practice, with an impact that is felt worldwide.

Korte Meer 12, 9000 Ghent

Orpheus Instituut Koetshuis

The Koetshuis (coach-house) is located next to the Orpheus Institute. This eighteenth-century building on the historic site of d'Hane Steenhuyse will also include a multifunctional space for publicly accessible lectures, seminars, workshops and concerts. The building is made available by the City of Ghent and will preserve Koopman's books in optimal conditions. The renovation of this historic building started in the autumn of 2019 and will last until summer 2020.

Korte Meer 20A, 9000 Ghent