

The Music Encoding Initiative Council announces the release of MEI 2010-05 – a groundbreaking digital musical notation model

The MEI Council is pleased to announce the first collaboratively-designed method for encoding the intellectual and physical characteristics of music notation documents and their scholarly editorial apparatus. MEI has the ability to manage complex source situations and will dramatically improve the search, retrieval and display of notated music online, benefiting music scholars and performers. Because of MEI's software independence, the data format defined by the schema also serves an archival function.

The MEI model is free and available for download at <http://music-encoding.org>. The site also offers tutorials, examples, and experimental software for MEI conversion – more will be available in the near future. Information about the future of the project and how to get involved are also on the site.

The MEI Council is an international group of scholars, technologists, and educators representing a broad range of musicological, theoretical, and pedagogical interests. The Council was created through funding to the University of Virginia Library and the University of Paderborn from the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Foundation) and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

About the University of Virginia

With 14 physical locations as well as the original Rotunda, the U.Va. Library contains more than 5 million books, 17 million manuscripts, rare books and archives, and rapidly growing digital collections. The Library is a leader in developing collections, tools, and collaborations that foster scholarship at the University and worldwide. It is known, in particular, for its strength in American history and literature and its innovation in digital technologies. The MEI project is a continuation of work begun in 2000 at U.Va.

About the University of Paderborn

The University of Paderborn has a special focus on Computer Science, exemplified by its Heinz-Nixdorf Institute. Together with the Hochschule für Musik in Detmold, the University conducts the Seminar for Musicology where, in 2004 and in cooperation with the Carl Maria von Weber Complete-Edition project, preliminary work was performed regarding digital critical editions of music. Its "Edirom" project (also DFG-funded) has been developing platform-independent solutions for musical editions since 2006.

About the granting agencies

The Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft is the central, self-governing research funding organization, serving all branches of science and the humanities by funding research at universities and other publicly financed research institutions in Germany and facilitating cooperation among investigators.

The National Endowment for the Humanities is an independent grant-making agency of the United States government dedicated to supporting research, education, preservation, and public programs in the humanities.

Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily reflect those of the National Endowment for the Humanities or the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft.