Sharing punched sounds
The case of Lithuanian Piano Rolls Collection at Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania

BAAC Annual Conference
Vilnius, 3rd November, 2016
Piano rolls: general info

Produced mostly in 1890-1932

Different types of rolls (65, 73 and 88 notes)

US became world leader in 1920-1930 (millions of rolls and titles)

All piano rolls industry stopped before 2WW

Piano rolls extended sound recording heritage with unique and rare recordings: famous pianists, world popular music, ethnic music

Not fully catalogued and researched until nowadays
Piano rolls: collections and research

Only few state collections known in the world (Vienna, Berlin, Washington, Maryland, Los Angeles, San Francisco)

Rich and valuable privat collections (mostly in US) are difficult to access and research

Need of a special instrument – pianola or player piano – to play and research rolls

Digitizing process have many discussions and sometimes is not the best way for preservation of recorded music (dublicate? re-play? scan? photo?)
Piano rolls: what it is?
Piano rolls: registries and catalogues

THE BILLINGS ROLLOGRAPHY

VOLUME ONE
QRS WORD ROLLS, 99-6000

PLAYER PIANO MUSIC
FROM 1917 TO 1934

Ginny and Bob Billings

This three-volume set has been compiled, edited, written, typeset, reproduced, bound and published by

ROCK SOUP
Ginny and Bob Billings
1518 Sunnyslope Avenue
Belmont, CA 94002

Copyright © 1990 by Ginny and Bob Billings
All rights reserved, including the right of reproduction in whole or in part in any form. Published in the United States of America by Ginny and Bob Billings

Mechanical Music Registry Project

Wurlitzer-Apollo Era DeKalb Factory Output Database Report
Serial Numbers 105,000 to 107,599 (latter part of 1927 to latter part of 1928)

Grouped by Year and Instrument Type; Indexed on Serial Number

Sunday, August 11, 2013

Ledger information courtesy of Q; David Bowers and the Archives Department, Smithsonian Institute
Copyright © 2013 by Mechanical Music Press, et al. - All Rights Reserved
Total items listed in this report: 2424

Style Notes:
1. Undecipherable or missing characters and/or digits are indicated with a tilde or swinging dash (~) character.
2. Editor’s comments and/or additions to the text are shown in “[“]” brackets.
3. All pianos shown in the report were manufactured in Wurlitzer’s DeKalb, Illinois, factory. However, any and all Wurlitzer North Tonawanda factory output, such as coin pianos, phonophones, organettes, mercury organs, and theater organ pianos, are specifically excluded from this report. Also excluded are blank unassigned serial numbers.
4. The original ledger material has been slightly edited and obvious spelling errors and omissions corrected, but in all instances the original intent has been preserved. Otherwise the reader would be confronted with an endless number or annoying [sic] notations.

1927 Ledger Sale/Shipping Date Entries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/N</th>
<th>Style Name and/or Typ</th>
<th>Finish</th>
<th>Ledger Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>105468</td>
<td>Style 703 EE Piano</td>
<td>Brown Mahogany</td>
<td>12/14/1927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>106500</td>
<td>Style 703 EE Piano</td>
<td>Brown Mahogany</td>
<td>11/06/1927</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total items for Style 703 EE Piano: 2

Style 707 Piano

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/N</th>
<th>Style Name and/or Typ</th>
<th>Finish</th>
<th>Ledger Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

1927 Ledger Sale/Shipping Date Entries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/N</th>
<th>Style Name and/or Typ</th>
<th>Finish</th>
<th>Ledger Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>105468</td>
<td>Style 703 EE Piano</td>
<td>Brown Mahogany</td>
<td>12/14/1927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>106500</td>
<td>Style 703 EE Piano</td>
<td>Brown Mahogany</td>
<td>11/06/1927</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total items for Style 703 EE Piano: 2

Style 707 Piano

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/N</th>
<th>Style Name and/or Typ</th>
<th>Finish</th>
<th>Ledger Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Highlights from the Ethnomusicology Archive: the Robert Berkman collection

Submitted by Maureen Russell on August 8, 2013 - 8:39pm

Robert "Bob" Berkman is one of a handful of performing pianists in the world today. Instead of the purely mechanical renditions often associated with the player piano, Berkman's performances sparkle with life and emotion through his expert manipulation of the pianola's subtle controls. In addition to his performance expertise, Berkman worked at one of the last companies that produced piano rolls, and is a well-known collector of piano rolls and an expert in the subject. He donated an important collection of piano rolls to the UCLA Ethnomusicology Archive. The collection includes a wide variety of musical traditions, including Spanish, Greek, Polish, Czech, Italian, Hungarian, and German piano rolls.
The Player Piano Project

presented by the

Stanford Department of Music & Archive of Recorded Sound

The Player Piano Project promotes study and research into all aspects relating to the player piano and organ, especially as they relate to historically informed performance practice of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The Project seeks to bring together researchers, musicians, and others interested in contributing to knowledge of the player piano and organ.
Piano rolls: archives and libraries

2015 Reactions to the Record Symposium:
The Player Piano Project

Overview

The 2015 Reactions to the Record symposium will take place April 17-18 in Braun Music Center on the Stanford University campus and will focus on an exciting new initiative at Stanford, The Player Piano Project. It will feature a concert with the Stanford Symphony Orchestra in Bing Concert Hall on Saturday, April 18th that will showcase this remarkable historical medium. The Player Piano Project is an outgrowth of the Reactions to the Record events and a collaborative effort of the Stanford Department of Music and the Archive of Recorded Sound with support from individuals and institutions around the globe.

Reactions to the Record highlights work in performance practice that engages historical recordings as vital source material. Central to this interest are performances inspired by historical models and efforts toward revival. Presentations in related areas include cultural studies in performance, methodologies of performance analysis, and performance in historical narrative.
Piano rolls: an instrument

Push up pianola

Upright pianola
Piano rolls: copying process

Up to 16 rolls
(QRS Buffalo factory)
Piano rolls: scanning

scanning speed using the Ethernet microcontroller interface is about 250 scan lines/sec
Piano rolls: scanning

Editing „master roll“
Collection: Lithuanian piano rolls
Collection: Lithuanian piano rolls

Contains 70 piano rolls with Lithuanian music

Collected between 2009-2015 by Darius Kučinskas

Newly recorded in Buffalo, NY, in 2010-2014

Catalogued and published in December, 2014

Collection obtained by Library in Autumn, 2015

Published on-line in Spring, 2016
Collection: general overview

Published in US between 1916 and 1932

Published mainly by 3 companies:
Connorized Song Words
US Word Roll
QRS
Collection: general overview

342 rolls (384 tracks) fixed in the Complete Calatogue

Only 173 rolls were discovered, described *de facto* and recorded onto 7 CDs added to a Catalogue
Collection: structure

Over 60% contain Lithuanian folk music and arrangements.

Up to 40% contain professionally composed music.
Collection: thematic structure

- Love songs
- Nature of Lithuania
- Patriotic songs
- Religious songs
- Revolution songs
Collection: composers and publishers

Jonas ŽEMAITIS (1868-1932)
Collection: composers and publishers

Vincentas NICKUS (1886-1938)

ŽIRGELIS. No. 1.

Mūs Stanukas, tai vyrus;
Gražiai akys, kaip rataus;
Jodinėja ant žirgelio;
Mūsų taktą ant bugnelio.

Kai užsėdo ant žirgelio,
Tuoj jį išjungo už miestelio;
Jojo gretai per girėlę,
Šimtą mylių pas mergėlę.

Muzika

Kad prijojo beržynėlė,
Pasižiūrė žirgėlį;
Rūkė žirgą prie berželio
Šaltą kėlio, ant kalnelio.

Cia atėjo mergužėlė,
Graži, jauna mišionkėlė,
Tarė: sveikas, bernužėl;
Ką darysi beržynėly?

Muzika

Ją Stanukas tuoj pažino,
Pas berželį pavadino:
Atsīskėdo prie saulutę,
Susiglūdė su Onute.

Užkakavo mergužėlę,
Tuoj pašlė mergužėlę;
Pakibo bernužėlį,
Padaibino vainikį.

Muzika

Kad atėjo vakaželis,
Sužiūrėju pažvelsi;
Nekakuoja mergužėlė,
Nenurimta mergužėlė.
Collection: composers and publishers

Stasys ŠIMKUS (1887-1943)
Collection: composers and publishers

Stasys ŠIMKUS (1887-1943)

Call sign of Voice of America 1942-2004
Collection: other music

International repertoire published as “Lithuanian”
Collection: other music

International repertoire published as “Lithuanian”

US 10450
Dedukas Polka
(=Clarinet polka, Polka Dziadek)
The same roll: QRS F8466 (Senelio polka)

Call sign of Lato z Radiem at Polskie Radio since 1971
Collection: arranged and played by...

Arranged and played(?) by Sam Perry (Samuel Perelstein)

1884-1936
Collection: arranged and played by...

Unknown musician

[Samuel Perelstein (?)]
Collection: newly recorded by...
Collection: newly recorded by...
International Vilnius Book Fair, 2011
Collection: presentations

Stanford University, 2015
Collection: presentations

Lithuanian Theatre, Music and Cinema Museum, 2015
Collection: presentations
Collection: presentations

Online presentation, 2016
Thank you!