



CITÉ DE LA MUSIQUE PRESS RELEASE

TUESDAY 3 MARCH 2009

REOPENING MUSÉE DE LA MUSIQUE

- New area dedicated to the 20th century;
- Twice as much space for displays on world music;
- An entirely new approach to describing and presenting collections;
- New instruments on display;
- 40 documentary films available (with Simha Arom, Daniel Barenboim, Pierre Boulez, William Christie, Pascal Dusapin and more)
- More sound samples to accompany displays, mostly recorded on instruments from the collections;
- Better access for disabled visitors;
- Greater comfort for visitors, with more seats, better lighting and more information panels.





20th century display

A new vision for the Musée

In accordance with the drive for innovation pursued by the Musée de la Musique since its creation, and drawing on the findings of the review of its first ten years, the museum team has completely revised the presentation of its permanent collections to expand the idea of what a museum of music can be. The resulting works to change the layout of the museum, headed by Adeline Rispal (Repérages), are now finished and offer:

- a New **DISPLAY SPACE** for 20th century instruments
- a large New **DISPLAY SPACE** for non-European instruments
- recent acquisitions
- a display dedicated to the popular and amplified music of the 20th century, as a foretaste of the planned new area entirely devoted to this music.

40 documentary films

The museum has commissioned 40 short films (around 3 minutes each) on historical, anthropological, aesthetic and organological subjects. These will be shown on screens within the display areas, setting the collections in the wider context of the history of music and the social movements that have contributed to shape it. Each space is introduced by key figures of the cultural world.

17th century: Vincent Dumestre, Claude Mignot, Catherine Massip and René Jacobs
• 18th century: William Christie, Catherine Kintzler and Tzvetan Todorov
• 19th century: Henri Loyrette, Daniel Barenboim and Robert Carsen
• 20th century: Pascal Dusapin, Ange Leccia, Jean Nouvel, Pierre

Boulez and Jean-François Sirinelli
• World music: Simha Arom and Bernard Lortat-Jacob.

Music at the Musée

Over the years, the Musée de la Musique has placed increasing importance on sound – a trend now followed by most other museums of its kind. Each day, musicians perform in the museum's spaces. Due to our dynamic cultural policy and association with the Cité de la Musique, instruments from our collections in playable condition have been heard and recorded many times. The museum has now incorporated these concerts and recordings into the display areas to transform visitors' experience.

Focus on visitors

In 2002, a new law on French museums placed visitors at the core of the role and functioning of museums.

The improvements we have made to enhance visitor comfort include:

- new lighting,
 - clearer signage,
 - more seating,
 - an additional podium for musicians
- Greater access for disabled visitors is another of the museum's major improvements.

A new system of audio guides

Our new system of audio guides offer two different sound-based tours for adults and children, in either French or English, the third audio itinerary is adapted to visually handicapped persons. Our new musical

content incorporates developments in musicology concerning the performance of early music and presents a greater number of instruments from the collection.

Research at the Musée

From our policy on temporary exhibitions (increasingly arranged in the context of partnerships with foreign institutions) to the establishment of a proper scientific research programme in the museum's Laboratory or the quest for better synergy between the museum's cultural and educational policies and all the other activities of the Cité de la Musique (concerts, musicianship, resources centre), every aspect of the museum's policy is informed by a quest for relevance and development – which does not of course exclude the pleasures of seeing and hearing.

Le Musée on the international stage

The importance of the international dimension of the museum's work is growing all the time. We provide travelling exhibitions, share skills and knowledge with our foreign counterparts and provide consultation on the establishment of new museums. We act as leader and guide for a network of museums with instrument collections, both in France and elsewhere.

1,000 instruments, models, art objects
2,000 m² of exhibition space



The *pipaht mon* Thai orchestra • Music of the world display



19th century display



Children's sound-based



Harpsichord Ruckers (Anvers, 1612) • 17th century display

Major dates in the history of the Musée

1795 France's ruling Convention establishes the Conservatoire National de Musique and decrees that this institution should also have a collection "of ancient and foreign instruments, and those used by ourselves which may, in their perfection, serve as models". In 1796 some 316 instruments, including very valuable pieces, are handed over to the Conservatoire.

1864 the Musée Instrumental at last opens to the public, following the purchase, in 1861, of the collection of the composer Louis Clapisson, who becomes its first curator. He dies shortly afterwards, to be succeeded by Hector Berlioz, who is in turn succeeded by Gustave Chouquet. Under Chouquet's stewardship the collection rapidly expands through new acquisitions while cataloguing also proceeds apace.

From the Conservatoire to the Cité de la musique

After moments of growth followed by stagnation, the museum enjoyed several good years under Geneviève de Chambure (Curator 1961–1973), who laid the foundations of the future Musée de la Musique, even planning to move it to a residence in the Marais

1978 the collections of the Conservatoire National are transferred to the state when the project for the Cité de la Musique is established.

1997 opening of the Musée de la Musique

2009 reopening of the redesigned Musée de la Musique

Major donations

1864 Clapisson donation (88 instruments, primarily Western)

1872 Victor Schoelcher donation (41 instruments from around the world)

1873 Purchase of the Julien Fau collection (123 instruments, primarily Western)

1879 Rajah Sourindo Tagore donation (87 Indian instruments)

1934 Paul Cesbron donation

(422 instruments, primarily Western)

1979 Donation of a part of the Chambure collection (72 instruments used in Western serious music)

1980 Purchase of the Chambure collection (730 instruments, primarily used in Western serious music)

1981 Nadia Boulanger donation and gift of the workshop and archives of luthier Émile Français

THE MUSEUM'S PATH

17th century *Birth of opera*

18th century *Music of the Enlightenment*

19th century *Romantic Europe*

20th century *History on the move – NEW DISPLAY AREA*

Music of the world – NEW DISPLAY AREA

Urban music and Popular music of the 20th century

In anticipation of the future exhibition space dedicated to popular music of the 20th century (jazz, songs, rock), a few iconic pieces from the collection are presented in a temporary display.

PRATICAL INFORMATIONS

Opening Hours

Tuesday – Saturday: 12:00pm – 6:00pm

Sunday: 10:00am – 6:00pm

Admission

General admission: €8 • Free admission for under 25

How do I get to the Cité de la Musique

by underground: line 5 Porte de Pantin,

by bus: lines 75, 151, PC2 and PC3 - Noctilien N13 - N41

by car: underground parking available at Cité de la Musique

Musée de la musique

221, avenue Jean-Jaurès 75019 Paris

01 44 84 44 84 • www.citedelamusique.fr

VISITING THE MUSEUM

Visitors can tour the Musée de la Musique as they choose.

Personalized musical and audiovisual tours for **individuals**

Guided tours for individuals: tour diary available via our website and brochures.

Tours for groups without guide

Tours for groups with guide: choose from 40 themed tours

Discovery tours: a general or themed guided tour of the permanent collections or temporary exhibitions.

Musical tours: a guide and a musician present the history of an instrument through developments in its manufacture, playing techniques and musical repertoire, with live performance of musical examples.

Workshop tours: these two-stage visits comprise a tour of the collections or temporary exhibitions followed by a workshop.

Story tours: a story-teller and a guide take children on a fun tour of the musical world through tales linked to the pieces on display.

Inter-museum tours: inter-museum tours enable visitors to explore the same theme at the Musée de la Musique and another museum in the Paris region (Musée d'Orsay, Musée de la Vie Romantique, Château de Versailles and more).

Tours tailored to disabled visitors.



Musée de la musique, view from Parc de la Villette



Musician in the museum

PRESS CONTACT

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