

# Music & Museums in Austria

*Musical instruments bear witness to a specific place and period in time while museums connect the tangible to the intangible. Exceptional Austrian museums allow us to experience and learn about music, not only through vast musical instrument collections, but also in musicians' historic house museums and through new sound and recording techniques. The relationships between music and museums are loud and clear in the European heart of universal music heritage.*

## Interactive House

**Helmut Lenhardt**, Marketing and PR Manager, Haus der Musik

**H**ear sounds perceived by the unborn baby, touch and play gigantic instruments, conduct an orchestra yourself – all without previous experience - and walk through the world of the Vienna Classical era or journey into the future of music research. Haus der Musik, "The Sound Museum", is an interactive discovery museum located in the heart of Vienna's first district providing the public with the opportunity to touch, try out, experiment and experience music with all five senses.

> Installations can be played using visitors' voices and hand movements in a separate futuristic composition room. These installations not only arouse one's curiosity, but give a solid understanding of phenomena as well.

> Awarded the Austrian Museum Prize for its innovative design in the former Palace of the Archduke Charles, the aesthetic and artistic presentation of musicology content and its architecture combines the historical with futuristic design and state-of-the-art technology, linking tradition and innovation. Haus der Musik bridges the gap between Vienna's rich musical heritage and its bright musical future.

<http://www.hausdermusik.at>



Photo: © Haus der Musik

## Audiovisual Collaboration

**Helmut Kowar**, Deputy Director, Phonogrammarchiv  
& **Gerda Lechleitner**, Historian, Phonogrammarchiv

**T**he Vienna Phonogrammarchiv with its audiovisual documentation is a tool for preserving cultural heritage and has also worked in cooperation with the Technisches Museum.

> The Phonogrammarchiv was founded in 1899 as the world's first research sound archive. Its purpose was to collect and thus preserve acoustic documents, mainly languages or music from all around the world. The necessary recording device was invented here: the "Archivphonograph" used Edison's vertical cut technique, but engraved the information on discs from which matrices could be obtained – thus creating an "eternal" medium that survived unchanged for a whole century. Recording activities started in 1901, conducting expeditions to Croatia, Brazil, and the Isle of Lesbos but also included live recording sessions at the Archives.



Recording of Baifa Irikwason, Cap Nelson (Papua, New Guinea), 12 November 1905. Photo: Rudolf Pösch © Phonogrammarchiv, Austrian Academy of Sciences.

> The Phonogrammarchiv's objective is to produce, collect, accession, preserve, and make accessible sound recordings as acoustical sources for all concerned disciplines, without regional restrictions. The Phonogrammarchiv focuses on sound documents originated in the course of scholarly research under controlled and documented conditions. Keeping a collection going back so far in time is, of course, linked to the issues of preservation, restoration and re-recording, the transfer of historical sound carriers.

> The Historical Collections 1899-1950 were included by UNESCO into the world register of the "Memory of the World Programme". UNESCO thereby confirms the universal significance of these early documents of orally transmitted cultures from a time when acculturation pressure imposed by Western civilisation was less intense, yet also from a time when, due to the complicated recordings procedures, phonographic field research work was far less common than in the later days of the magnetic tape technology. In many cases, the historical recordings are the earliest of their kind, documenting cultures (music) which have since been subject to fundamental changes or even vanished.

> In 1980 the Phonogrammarchiv started a new project which had as its aim the making of recordings of mechanical musical instruments at the Technical Museum in Vienna (contact: Peter Donhauser). In a way, this proved to be the starting point of a research project which focuses on the documentation of these kinds of lesser-known musical instruments as a unique source for studies of musical repertoire, authentic performance and musical perception, as well as on research into the history of musical automata. Making and collecting recordings proved to be essential in preserving this part of cultural heritage without which the existence of many automata would have remained unknown. This June, the Phonogrammarchiv of the Austrian Academy of Sciences won the 2007 UNESCO/Jikji Memory of the World Prize.

[http://www.pha.oeaw.ac.at/Mechanical\\_Music/default.htm](http://www.pha.oeaw.ac.at/Mechanical_Music/default.htm)