

Since 1984 IRTEM has collected audio, audiovisual, and bibliographic documents: the **Sound Archive for Contemporary Music** (Archivio Sonoro della Musica Contemporanea – ASMC) is a collection of 20th- and 21st-century recorded sound documents (approximately 10.000 CDs, LPs, audiocassettes and DAT tapes); the **Opera and Ballet Videoarchive** (Videoarchivio dell'Opera e del Balletto – VAOB) is constituted by approximately 2400 audiovisual documents (VHS, Laserdisc, DVD). The Institute owes its international renown to scrupulous cataloguing, timing, reconstruction of original performers, completion of missing data, and comparison of different editions of the same work. All archives can be consulted online at www.irtem.it, where databases regarding musical scores, concert booklets, and private 20th-century archives are also available. In the past years IRTEM has undertaken the digitization of its database and of its audio and video media (following the international guidelines established by IASA – International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives).

The digitization of documentaries made in the Sixties and Seventies – a result of the cooperation between famous film directors and important composers – was undertaken in 1994. Copies were obtained from the directors' private archives and were, in most cases, in very poor conditions. Firstly, they were cleaned and transferred from tape and Betacam tape to Sony digital Videodisc. Technological innovations, as well as sudden changes in formats fit for preservation have made it necessary to transfer films using the RAID system. Preservation of documents on hard disc will allow for consultation copies to be made on DVD.

Besides their undisputable historical value, these documents attest an artistic endeavour aimed at creating new solutions and languages which result in a novel relationship between images and music. These soundtracks bear samples of different techniques used in contemporary music (atonality, serialism, use of concrete materials, early experiments in electronic music), which are almost completely absent in coeval feature films.

The digitization of sound documents concerns private archives belonging to Nuova Consonanza, Gruppo di Ricerca e Sperimentazione Musicale, and composer Domenico Guaccero (1927-1984). They are unique and heretofore unpublished, and thus constitute the most all-comprehensive token of contemporary music in Rome in the Seventies and Eighties. Recordings were initially transferred from magnetic tape to compact disc, and are currently undergoing a subsequent transfer using the RAID system.

ODE – Opera Discography Encyclopaedia includes all recorded editions of theatrical music published since 1906: opera, melodrama, musical drama, operetta, musical, musical comedy, Singpiel, zarzuela, cantata or dramatic scene, etc.). Its contents were collected and elaborated in over fifty years' work by discologist Carlo Marinelli; ODE constitutes the most exhaustive source of information on the subject. IRTEM has currently undertaken the digitization of the paper originals, and their publication on-line. ODE can be consulted at www.carlomarinelli.it