A Music Historian’s Work Processes in Archives, Libraries, and Museums

Seija Lappalainen 27.5.2016
Something on me

- Made two huge research files: Finnish compositions (20,000), literature (books, articles in periodicals, newspaper articles), sat several years in the cellars of the National Library
- Lecturer on Finnish Music History and its Sources at the University of Helsinki, Musicology since 1985
- Published biographical books (Fredrik Pacius 2009, Suomalaisia säveltäjiä [Finnish Composers] 1994 and articles (composers of the 18th, 19th centuries, performing artists), composition catalogues (Madetoja, Byström, Lithander brothers etc.)
Fredrik Pacius (1809–1891)

- composer
- conductor
- violinist
- organisator

painted by J. E. Lindh 1848
A Good Start

Trying to find primary sources

Focusing on

- Biographies (parish registers, census lists/population registers, merit lists, diplomas, diaries, calendars, letters, documents of family/relatives, documents of associations and institutions, newspaper articles [Historiallinen sanomalehtikirjasto 1771-1910], photographs, maps)

- Compositions (manuscripts, published music [scores, sheets], recordings)

- Instrument possessions (museums, estate inventory deeds)

- Institutions (person registers, minutes)
A Good Start


- After doing that work you can try to find material in archives, libraries, museums, and home archives
A Good Start

- Membership of IAML, annual conferences abroad, international contacts with the experts help studying files
- Reading relevant literature, articles, and references
- Catalogues are important, inspiring, get ideas (manuscripts: compositions, letter collections etc)
A Good Start

- By making the most perfect and correct catalogues you librarians can help us researchers a lot

- eg. dedications of composition, text writers, song books with all contents, incipits), timing (dates, paper, water stamps, ink, publishing number catalogues: often music sheets have no printing years, publishing time can probably be found in newspapers or periodicals, also first performances give us last possible date of composing, choir works performances in choirs’ history books

- In old times manual catalogues caused travelling costs in homeland and abroad

- Nowadays online-catalogues and digitalisation help a lot

- Studying all resources is a great task (FINNA, HELKA, ARTO …)
A Good Start

- E-books and e-articles (FINNA)

- International genealogists’ research in internet (biography), My Heritage, Suomen Sukuhistoriallinen yhdistys ry (Finnish Genealogical Society, digital parish books etc)

- Indexing the contents of letters (in internet!) would be great, helps a lot (Sweden, Linköpings stiftsbibliotek, bishop Jacob Lindblom -> Carl L. Lithander)

- But still working in archives and libraries is the best, have to see the original materials, primary sources
Find archives, libraries...

- National Library, Helsinki (most important: manuscripts of 400 composers, letters, diaries, concert programmes in “Pienpainatekokoelma” no catalogues! History of performers; sheets, collections of institutions eg. publishing house Fazer, Teosto, Kalevala Society; recordings 1981–). General catalogues in internet, special catalogues in the library, quite a good quality nowadays

- Sibelius Museum (Turku, manuscripts, photos, published sheets, Turku Musical Society 1790–, Helsinki Musical Society 1827–)

- Sibelius Academy (1882, manuscripts of Wegelius, Melartin, Pacius, Ingelius, von Schantz, the Manor House Simananniemi; student registers, letters, printed sheets and books; ARSCA)

- Finnish Broadcasting Company (Yleisradio, 1927), manuscripts, ordered compositions
Find archives, libraries...

- Finnish National Opera (1911) scores, librettos, photos
- Theatre Archives
- National Archive (1816, Sibelius Family, Jalmari Finne, Ester Ståhlberg, Archive of Senate, parish registers, census lists/ population registers; ASTIA internet service, orders)
- University libraries (HU, Åbo Akademi, Tampere, Jyväskylä)
- Provincial Archives (Maakunta-arkistot)
Find archives, libraries...

- Museum of the University of Helsinki (Pacius’ things: silver baton, silver laurel)
- Choir Archives (AS, YL, difficult, manuscripts)
- Archives of the Orchestras (Helsinki Philharmonia, Radio Symphony Orchestra, municipal orchestras)
- Svenska Litteratursällskapet (Swedish Literature Society, 1885/1935), Suomalaisen kirjallisuuden seura (Finnish Literature Society, 1833)
- Military Archive (Sota-arkisto)
- Home archives (most difficult), detective work
Ex. Lithander (1773–1843)

- Lithander Brothers and Sisters (the parish of Noarootsi, birthdays, godfathers - connections)
- Eesti Ajaloo Arhiiv, Tarto; SAAGA digital church books, kirikuraamatud
- ArkivDigital (Svenska kyrkböcker online; www.arkidigital.se colour pictures; commercial)
- Krigsarkivet (Swedish Royal Military Archive, merit lists)
- Manuscripts and music sheets at the Musik- och teaterbiblioteket, Kungliga biblioteket (C. Lithander).
Ex. Lithander

- National Library (Nacional’naya Biblioteka in St. Petersburg; Fredrik Lithander, Russian language is needed for reading the catalogues) – real adventures!

- British Library, London (Carl L. Lithander); copyright registers of the Stationer’s Hall for dating the sheets (Music Entries at Stationers’ Hall, 1710-1818: from lists prepared for William Hawes, D. W. Krummel and Alan Tyson and from other sources... compiled by Michael Kassler, e-book Ashgate 2004)

- Archive of the Finnish Literature Society (Waltz in B, David Lithander; found accidentally, the content of the music book was)

- Minutes (protocolls) of the Royal Music Academy (Kungl. Musikaliska Akademi)

Ex. Music History of Helsinki

- Sibelius Museum (Turku): Archive of the Musical Society of Helsinki (Musikaliska Sällskapet i Helsingfors, 1827–1853). Commerserådet Henrik Borgström’s and protocol secretary Johan Fredrik Gadelli’s estates, two board members of the society. The firm H. Borgström Jr Tobaksfabrik Ab was bought by the tobacco firm Ab Ph. U. Strengberg & Co from Pietarsaari, with the minutes of Mus. Sällskapet i Helsingfors. Manuscripts were given to composer Bengt Carlson, who gave them to the professor Otto Andersson at the Åbo Akademi, Sibelius-museum. Interesting member lists, order catalogues of the concerts -> can one find out concert public of the 19th century in Helsinki

- Helsinki City Museum: estate inventory deeds: musical instrument owners, values [prices]
Ex. Music History of Helsinki/ Pacius

37 MUSICIANS IN THE ORCHESTRA of the Kung Karls jakt, 1852

- 4 professional musicians (Dettloff, Ganszaug, Lindberg, Gehrman)
- 19 military musicians (professional)
  - Guard of Finland (Suomen Kaarti, SK) 8 musicians
  - Navy Equipage (Suomen Meriekipaasi, SM) 11 musicians
- 11 students (amateurs)
- 3 amateur musicians
- Total: 23 professional, 15 amateur
- Conductor F. Pacius
Ex. Music History of Helsinki/ Pacius

Sources:

Concert programmes

Mathias Weckström, Anteckningar rörande teatern i Finland, Helsingfors 1864. Mentions surnames, sometimes first names with one letter too.

Military registers ”Katselmusluettelot”

Student registers of the University of Helsinki

Hiski-register of the Finnish Genealogical Society

Parish books of Ev.-Luth. Parishes in Finland
Ex. Music History of Helsinki/ Pacius

Henrik Dettloff, young Swedish violinist, composer, had concerts in Turku, 11.2.1852 from Turku to Helsinki, gave violin and piano lessons.

Carl Gottlob Ganszauge (Zwickau 1820 – Helsinki 1868), German violinist, conductor, composer, organist, moved 1842 from St Petersburg, lived in Helsinki, conducted restaurant orchestras, Director of the Symfoniföreningen and its Music school 1851–53; organist in Vanha kirkko (Old Church) 1853–68. (32)
Ex. Music History of Helsinki/ Pacius

Julius HARFF (Wismar 1816 – Helsinki 1871), VIOLIN, commission merchant in Finland and Sweden 1839–1853, business man in Helsinki 1853–, Finnish citizen 1857, consul of Lübeck 1863–68, consul of Belgium 1864–, consul of the union of North Germany 1868–, the Finnish honorary title of kauppaneuvos (kommerserådet) 1869. (36)

Nils Edvard SANDMAN (1829–1890), student, lawyer. (23)
Ex. Music History of Helsinki/ Pacius

SECOND VIOLIN

SECOND VIOLIN (4)

- Karl Henrik KAHELIN (1832–1905), student, teacher on mathematics, rector in Jyväskylä. (20)
- Lorenz LANDELL (1824–1855), student, medical doctor. (28)

Ex. Music History of Helsinki/ Pacius

VIOLA (4)

- Johan August LINDELÖF (1824–1897), student, theologian, priest, conductor of Akademiska Sangföreningen choir 1846–1850. (28)

- Johan Fredrik STENROOS (10.3.1835–) (SK), Symfoniföreningen 1849. (17)

- Karl Leonard WICHMANN (1827–1862), student, lawyer. (25)

Ex. Music History of Helsinki/ Pacius

VIOLONCELLO (4)

- Andreas GEHRMAN (Copenhagen 1806 – Stockholm 1876), German-Swedish violoncello virtuoso, K. Hovkapellet 1827–38, 1849–51; in Norway 1838–49, founded Det philharmoniske Selskab in Kristiania (Oslo); lived in Helsinki and Turku in 1850’s; 1867 back to Stockholm, professor. Pacius knew Gehrman well, because they had given concerts together in Stockholm. (46)

- Rudolf LAGI (Kuopio 1823 – Helsinki 1868), teacher of German and singing, violoncellist, organist, composer. (29)

- Etc.
Ex. Music History of Helsinki

Printed poster November 1860
The singers (soloists)
The choir
The orchestra
Seldom first names
Players of the orchestra in alphabetical order
No instruments mentioned
Ex. Music History of Helsinki/ Pacius

PRINSESSAN AV CYPERN

- Conductor Fredrik Pacius, 1860


- Etc.