

Collection increase policy – Museu de la Música

The Museu de la Música's mission is to conserve, study, and disseminate musical heritage, and is thus committed to searching for and acquiring new objects and collections.

Throughout its history the Museu has received important donations that have enriched both its instrument collection and biographical and sound archives, and has also acquired objects and collections through the Institut de Cultura de Barcelona.

New acquisitions may come from individual parties, organisations or institutions, and be made by:

- Donations
- Assignments (ownership is transferred for a specified period of time)
- Commodates (ownership is not transferred but use is allowed)
- Deposits (study and selection only, use is not allowed)
- Purchases

The Museu's collection increase policy is mainly based on donations, as a generosity and public contribution gesture towards conserving and disseminating cultural heritage. Purchases only take place in case of unique and highly valuable works or collections. Ajuntament de Barcelona, Generalitat de Catalunya, or other institutions will in those cases act as intermediary, at the request of the director of the Museu.

Donors need to know that when a museum accepts a work or object, several commitments and obligations, both operational and budgetary, are taken on (registry, preventive conservation, documentation, transfers, restorations, communication, etc.). The Museu shall therefore analyse and choose from the offers received and determine their interest and suitability to be added to the collection. The persons in charge of making this decision are Head of Collections, Curators/Conservators, and Director. The Museu will **not** in any case commit to exhibiting the object or document, restore it, or utilise it.

The suitability assessment shall be governed by the following criteria:

General

1. Possibility of complementing the Museu's current collections.
2. Organological/documentary value.
3. Adaptation to the key topics laid down in the Museu's mid-long term strategy.
4. Link with a relevant musical fact or event, former owner, maker/manufacturer or performer.
5. Uniqueness of the object.
6. Presence in other European museums.
7. Age of the instrument, object or document.
8. Possibility of use for musical purposes (concerts or research/education).
9. Available storage space (non-determining but needs to be taken into consideration).

Specific

1. Instrument collection: instruments made or manufactured in Catalonia/Spain/Europe/world (in that order), and having had little presence in other European or international museums, will be prioritised.
2. Sound archive: as a general rule, only commercial sound recordings by Catalan performers or composers which are not already in the Museu's collection, nor in the Biblioteca de Catalunya's collection, will be accepted.
3. Library: books on organology and instruments, prioritising those which can't be found in other libraries.

Acceptance or refusal of the donation and the motivations for such decision shall be notified to the donor, preferably by email. If the offer is accepted, the Museu shall contact the donor in order to formalise the donation and handle transportation of the objects. The Museu shall take on the transfer of the accepted objects from the donor's address to the Museu's premises.

Deposits may become donations after the deposited objects have been examined. In case we refuse them, the donor will be notified so that he or she can collect it. If the object has not been collected after six months, we will destroy it. The Museu also accepts donations for research or education purposes (not considered as part of the Museu's collection; conservation and maintenance standards don't apply).

This policy will be reviewed regularly (at least every 5 years).