

Cataloging BAM's Performance History Using Open Source Archival Software

SARAH GENTILE and RYAN EVANS

Abstract: The Brooklyn Academy of Music's Hamm Archives recently embarked on a four year digitization and cataloging grant funded by the Leon Levy Foundation to make the over 150 year performance history of the institution publicly accessible. Articulating BAM's programming history using the web-based, open-sourced cataloging software Collective Access brings its own unique challenges, given that BAM as a presenting institution has showcased the diverse and interdisciplinary performance genres of theater, dance and music. In determining the metadata structure for the database, the individual, time-based performance serves as the anchor for related entities as well as collections, both physical and digital. However, the objective also arose early in the process to connect individual productions together intellectually by relating original works, adapting the FRBR model (Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records).

Also key to this initiative is the development of a content standard to streamline local practice with the potential goal of moving beyond the institutional boundaries by sharing with other archival initiatives, including linked data projects. This content standard draws from other content standards and thesauri including DACS (Describing Archives: A Content Standard), the Library of Congress Thesaurus for Graphic Materials, and the Getty's CCO (Cataloging Cultural Objects: A Guide to Describing Cultural Works and Their Images).

By sharing the current status of our efforts with the SAA community at the beginning of our second grant year, we hope to initiate a dialogue that will guide and inform the the remainder of the project.

About the authors:

Sarah Gentile is Digital Project Archivist for the Brooklyn Academy of Music. She began her work at on the Leon Levy Digital Archive grant in the fall of 2012. Prior to that, she held the role of Associate Archivist in the Digital Collections and Services Department of the Brooklyn Museum, stewarding the growth of the museum's collection on the web. She received her MLIS from CUNY while completing a Certificate of Archives, Records Management, and Preservation. She also holds a BA dual degree in English and Spanish from UMASS, Amherst. Additionally, she has worked on local library and archives projects for the Reanimation Library, Brooklyn Artist Alliance, and Brooklyn Public Library.

Ryan Evans joined the Leon Levy Digital Archive grant project as Archivist fall 2012 in its inaugural year. He holds an MLIS from Pratt Institute with concentrations in Archives and Museum Librarianship, as well as a Masters in Modern Art, Critical and Curatorial Studies from Columbia University. He has spearheaded projects in Archives, Library Special Collections, and Digital Projects at various institutions including the Museum of Modern Art and the Samuel H. Kress Foundation. Ryan has published papers in the journal *Art Documentation*, as well as in the proceedings for the Archivists Round Table Symposium, “Artist Records in the Archives”.