



Project eBRASS

e-Braille Score Service

The eBRASS project aims at making music scores more easily and quickly accessible to blind and partially sighted people (being them music students, professional or amateur musicians) as well as to music teachers and schools who deal with visually impaired students, who can read braille.

In both primary and secondary schools it is difficult to find music texts for blind students to learn in regular classes. In addition, many of the Braille music texts are rather old and obsolete and have a Braille music syntax which might considerably differ from that used today. Since many Braille music scores have been produced according to national rules, blind musicians might also find difficulties in interpreting texts produced in other countries. Lastly, but as importantly, obtaining already existing Braille music pieces is a long procedure, which becomes even longer and more expensive when the music requested has not yet been transcribed.

The eBRASS project will set up an internet-based trans-European service which sees the presence of an on-line library hosting Braille electronic music texts to be downloaded and used by non-sighted musicians thanks to an appositely created software (Braille Music Editor), also downloadable from the net.

The existing on-line Braille music catalogue prototype (available at www.dodiesis.com) will be broaden and enriched with a variety of European music scores selected on the basis of Portuguese, Spanish and Italian end users requests and preferences. Thanks to the use of the BME software, visually impaired musicians and music students from different European countries will be in the position to exchange titles, modify already existing files and create their own music to be circulated on the web according to the New International Braille Music Notation Manual. Braille music will become easier to access and share, cheaper and quicker to obtain in electronic format and subsequently onto paper.

The service will be developed by the joint efforts of 5 partners: 3 national associations of the Blind, in Italy (UIC - Unione Italiana Ciechi ONLUS, the coordinator), Spain (ONCE - Organizaci3n Nacional de Ciegos Espa1oles) and Portugal (ACAPO - Associa13o dos Cegos e Ambliopes de Portugal), one Library for the Blind (BIC - Biblioteca Nazionale per Ciechi "Regina Margherita", Italy) and the KFKI Research Centre of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Hungary).

Start date: 1st January 2006
Duration of the project: 18 months
Budget: €1.410.000
EU contribution: €705.000

Further information will soon be available at:

<http://www.ebrass.org>