

*From the President
Prof. Gabriele Rossi Rognoni*

The Mayor and Aldermen of Amsterdam
Municipality of Amsterdam
Amsterdam, Netherlands

London, 10 January 2018

It has come to the attention of the International Council of Museum's International Committee for Collections of Musical Instruments and Music (ICOM–CIMCIM) that the Municipality of Amsterdam has decided to start the procedure for selling on the free market the building of the premises of the Geelvinck Pianola Museum. If such sale is realised, this undoubtedly would ultimately lead to the discontinuation of the Geelvinck Pianola Museum.

ICOM–CIMCIM recognises that the collection of the Geelvinck Pianola Museum houses one of the largest collections of player piano rolls (over 30.000) and over one hundred original period player pianos, constituting important material artefacts and documentation. Importantly, it is the only specialised museum for the player piano in the Netherlands and one of the few worldwide. The collection of the Geelvinck Pianola Museum is a significant part of our musical world heritage and as such it should be open to the public and presented in a manner that reflects its cultural significance and social value. The Museum is active in professional networking at the national and international levels, and additionally offers invaluable benefits and services to the local community and opportunities for public engagement, the impact of which we would ask to be taken into account.

While CIMCIM does not mean to interfere with the administrative decisions of the city, we express our full support for the effort of the Geelvinck Music Museums to continue the Geelvinck Pianola Museum at its current premises at the Westerstraat 106 in Amsterdam, and respectfully ask the Municipality of Amsterdam to reconsider its decision to sell this building on the free market in consideration of the international relevance reached by this institution and its relevance to the museum community and the city of Amsterdam. As a second instance, we hope that further discussion with the Museum can be held for realising a proper long-term solution to ensure the museum's future as a public institution at its premises in Amsterdam.

Most sincerely,

Prof. Gabriele Rossi Rognoni

