

## LEATHER2019 – Visits 5 June 2019

### 5- Music museum – Skin-based collection and laboratory

The Museum of Music gather within the Philharmonie de Paris a collection of over 7000 instruments and art objects. Almost a 1000 are on permanent display, including some national treasures or mythical instruments such as a piano from Chopin or a guitar from Brassens, that tells the story of occidental music from the 16<sup>th</sup> century till today and give a look of the main musical cultures over the world.

The Museum of Music's Conservation and Research Team, part of the Centre de Recherche sur la Conservation (CRC), combines human and physical sciences and applies them to organology, as well as to the preservation and restoration of musical instruments. Its research activities nourish the study of the material and cultural history of instruments, which are unique artifacts in that they are both works of art and technical objects, as well as being a way for musical and artistic expression. The Team's work also helps to further knowledge and ensure protection of the intangible aspect of musical forms of today and yesteryear.



Laboratory space

#### Leather in musical instrument

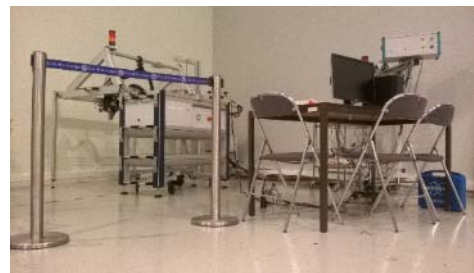


Cornet à bouquin, Italy, XVIe: wooden body covered with painted leather and gilded

Rarely glorified, as can be maple or spruce, both admired on the violins, leather is often present in the instrument. Discreet, it is most often relegated to the role of accessory material. It is used as hinges in the mechanics of pianos, slats of valves in the accordion. He knows how to be a baudruche, a bowcup or a harpsichord beak. As an outer covering, it is used as a protective and waterproof coating, enveloping the body of wind instruments in a simple and resistant set, protecting against mechanical and hygroscopic shocks.

Its rarely described presence is nevertheless indispensable to the very existence of many instruments and its use goes far beyond the secondary status that can be lent to it as a first intention. Thus, through the cultures and times, leather, skin or parchment, became one of the most used materials of the instrumental manufacture as will be shown during the proposed visit within the permanent collection of the Museum of the music.

Beyond a thematic tour of the permanent collection, this half-day will be an opportunity to discover the work of the research and restoration laboratory of the museum and the conservation team. A detailed presentation of the recently acquired X-ray fluorescence scanner will show the range of analytical possibilities of this instrument and will provide an insight into the research projects carried out at the CRC.



Schedule: 14H 30 – 16h30

Maximum number of participants: 10 persons per group (2 groups)