

Performing Arts Ephemera Subject Files
1898-2006
(bulk 1974-2006)

Collection Summary

Creator: Intentionally assembled by Special Collections Division staff, beginning at an unknown date, probably in the late 1960s, and collected on an ongoing basis. A significant quantity of material was obtained in 2006 as a result of the Nashville Public Library's "Curtain Call" exhibit of performing arts materials from the Special Collections Division.

Title: Performing Arts Ephemera Subject Files

Inclusive Dates: 1898-2006 (bulk 1974-2006)

Summary/Abstract: Includes programs, brochures, flyers, invitations, posters, handbills, and a variety of other materials by and about Nashville area performing arts, including venues and specific performances and performers.

Physical Description/Extent: .4 cu. ft.

Language: In English.

Stack Location: Closed stacks workroom

Repository: Special Collections Division, Nashville Public Library, 615 Church St., Nashville, TN 37219

Scope and Contents of the Collection

Includes programs, brochures, flyers, invitations, posters, handbills, newsletters, and a variety of other materials by and about Nashville area performing arts, including venues and specific performances and performers. The vast majority of materials throughout the collection are programs or promotional flyers. Quantity of materials ranges from a single item to several folders. Some items are photocopies.

The collection covers the three major performing arts of dance, music and theater, with emphasis on Nashville. A general category includes materials which are not limited to just one of the arts, as well as performances in the nature of variety shows or vaudeville. The Tennessee Performing Arts Center (TPAC) can also be found in the general category, since they host a variety of entertainments in all three areas of the arts.

Highlights of the collection include: a program (part of Series I) from the Tabernacle Lyceum with their 1899-1900 schedule, revealing the various types of entertainment options available at the time; a sizable quantity of materials relating to the Nashville Symphony, 1922-2006; a program for Nelson Eddy's concert in 1936 at a fundraiser hosted by the West End Methodist Church's Woman's Division for their building fund; a number of programs from the Orpheum Theatre, 1913-1914; and three items relating to the 1914 Greek Pageant. This spectacle featured a performance of "The Mysteries of Thanatos" by Sidney M. Hirsch (a future member of the Fugitives) and included a chariot race on the Parthenon grounds. The latter is captured in a photograph on a letterhead and envelope from H. Anderson to Miss Elizabeth Walter. It is assumed that the writer is Harry Anderson, business manager for the pageant. Another small grouping of materials

relating to a specific play, "The Perfect 36," about Tennessee's role in women's suffrage, also is included in the collection.

In addition to providing an overview of a wide variety of the performing arts in Nashville, many of the items in this collection are an excellent and often overlooked resource for Nashville business history. Numerous programs include advertisements for area businesses, especially those located near a particular venue, and include clothiers, restaurants, arts-related businesses such as musical instruments dealers, and many others.

Materials relating to performances by or at schools and universities can be found in the Schools Ephemera Subject Files.

Organization/Arrangement of Materials

Organization:

Organized into four series: I. General; II. Dance; III. Music; IV. Theater.

Arrangement:

At the start of each series is a miscellaneous section followed by materials filed alphabetically by name of organization, venue, or title.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access: In library use only. Available by appointment.

Restrictions on Use and Reproduction: Some items may be restricted by copyright law or donor restriction.

Index Terms

Personal Names:

Eddy, Nelson 1901-1967

Corporate Names/Organizations:

Circle Players, Nashville

Community Concerts, Inc.

Concert Chorale of Nashville

Fugitives (Group)

Nashville Academy Theatre

Nashville Ballet

Nashville Children's Theatre

Nashville Community Playhouse

Nashville Opera

Nashville Symphony Orchestra

Orpheum Theatre (Nashville, Tenn.)

Parthenon (Art museum: Nashville, Tenn.)

Tabernacle Lyceum (Nashville, Tenn.)

Tennessee Performing Arts Center
Tennessee Players (Theatrical company)
Tennessee Repertory Theatre
West End United Methodist Church (Nashville, Tenn.)

Subjects:

Acting – Study and teaching – Tennessee – Nashville
Ballet – Tennessee – Nashville
Ballet companies – Tennessee – Nashville
Benefit performances – Tennessee – Nashville
Business enterprises – Tennessee – Nashville
Centers for the performing arts – Tennessee – Nashville
Children’s theater – Tennessee – Nashville
Choral societies – Tennessee – Nashville
Community theater – Tennessee – Nashville
Dance – Tennessee – Nashville
Entertainment events – Tennessee - Nashville
Methodist women – Tennessee – Nashville
Music – Tennessee – Nashville
Music-halls (Variety-theaters, cabarets, etc.) – Tennessee – Nashville
One-person shows (Performing arts) – Tennessee – Nashville
Opera – Tennessee – Nashville
Pageants – Tennessee - Nashville
Performing arts – Tennessee – Nashville
Popular culture – Tennessee - Nashville
Popular music – Tennessee – Nashville
Repertory theater – Tennessee – Nashville
Singers – Tennessee – Nashville
Theater – Tennessee – Nashville
Theater and society – Tennessee – Nashville
Theaters – Tennessee – Nashville
Theatrical companies – Tennessee - Nashville
Traveling theater – Tennessee – Nashville
Vaudeville – Tennessee – Nashville
Vocal music – Tennessee – Nashville

Places:

Nashville (Tenn.) – Buildings, structures, etc.
Nashville (Tenn.) – Commerce
Nashville (Tenn.) – History – Sources
Nashville (Tenn.) – Social life and customs

Genre/Document Types:

Advertisements
Brochures
Handbills
Invitations
Newsletters
Posters

Programs
Theater programs

Occupations:

Actors
Ballet dancers
Dancers
Dramatists
Performers
Singers

Added entries – Persons:

Anderson, Harry, correspondent
Hirsch, Sidney M. (Sidney Mttron)
Walter, Elizabeth, recipient

Added entries – Uncontrolled/Analytic Titles:

The Mysteries of Thanatos
The Perfect 36

Separated Material

Some items may have been separated for storage to an oversize box, drawer, or the Nashville Room Photographs Collection. Separation notices have been used to indicate such removals.

Administrative Information

Copyright: This material may be protected by copyright law (Title 17 U.S. Code)

Preferred Citation: [organization name, folder title, or item description],
Performing Arts Ephemera Subject Files, Ephemera Collections, Nashville Room,
Nashville Public Library.

Processing Information: Weeded by staff members Linda Barnickel and Carol Kaplan, 2003. Rehoused and reprocessed by staff member Linda Barnickel, 2006. All actions part of overall ephemera subject files reprocessing project.

Accruals: Additional accruals are expected.

Detailed Description of the Collection

I. General

Miscellaneous and variety, 1899-1900
Tennessee Performing Arts Center, 1974-1984

II. Dance

Miscellaneous, 1936, 2006
OVERSIZE BOX 1, FOLDER 11:
Centennial Youth Ballet poster, "The Sorcerer's Apprentice, 2006"
Nashville Ballet, 2006

III. Music

Miscellaneous, 1898-1945, 1977-1994 (2 folders)

Community Concert Association, ca. 1937-1979

Concert Chorale of Nashville, 1999-2006

OVERSIZE BOX 1, FOLDER 11:

1. John Rutter's Magnificent, 2004
2. Poster, c. 2006
3. Christmas program, c. 2004

Nashville Opera, 2005-2006

OVERSIZE BOX 1, FOLDER 11:

1. Poster: The Mikado (n.d.)

Nashville Symphony, 1922-2006 (6 folders)

OVERSIZE BOX 1, FOLDER 5:

1. Poster: Hurricane Katrina benefit concert with Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, 2005
2. Poster: Porgy and Bess, 2006
3. Nashville Symphony Notes newsletter, April 1980
4. Poster: Petzushka, 1982-1983
5. Poster: 1st season at Andrew Jackson Concert Hall, TPAC, 1980-1981

OVERSIZE DRAWER BB-1, FOLDER 7:

- Poster: Schermerhorn Symphony Center – Future Home of the Nashville Symphony, 2006

IV. Theater

Miscellaneous, 1901-1983 (2 folders)

OVERSIZE BOX 1, FOLDER 10:

1. Ensemble Theatre Company, poster/flyer for 1978-79 season

Circle Players, 1978-1979

Nashville Children's Theatre, 2005-2006

OVERSIZE BOX 1, FOLDER 10:

1. Seussical 2005-2006
2. Wind in the Willows, 2006

Nashville Community Playhouse, 1937-1949 (2 folders)

"Mysteries of Thanatos" (Greek Pageant), 1914

Orpheum Theatre, 1913-1929

"The Perfect 36," 1990

Tennessee Players, 1999-2005

Tennessee Repertory Theatre, 1999-2006

OVERSIZE BOX 1, FOLDER 9:

1. Repartee newsletter, Fall 1999
2. Poster: The Santaland Diaries, 2005
3. Poster: Oleanna, 2006
4. Poster: Dearly Departed, 2006