

Community Concerts Collection, 1931-2000

Collection Summary:

Title: Community Concerts Collection

Summary: A collection of correspondence, administrative records, photographs, and newspaper clippings relating to the Nashville Community Concerts

Association, ranging from 1931-2000. Bulk dates: 1936-1991.

Physical Description: 13 Hollinger boxes; 5.42 linear feet.

Language: English

Stack Location: Archives II

Repository: Metropolitan Government Archives of Nashville-Davidson County,

615 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37219

Historical/Biographical Note:

Nashville Community Concerts Association was first established in 1931, and was a not-for-profit organization dedicated to bringing musical entertainment to the city at affordable prices. The organization was formed under the umbrella of Community Concerts, Inc., which was established in Chicago in 1920, and later moved to New York City, backed by Columbia Artist Management, Inc. and National Artist Service. The concert membership movement rapidly expanded throughout the United States in spite of the effects of the Great Depression and World War II, and concert associations continued to form rapidly in key cities in the United States, including Nashville.

The Nashville Community Concerts Association, first led by president Marion Crouch, operated in the city for 60 years before closing its operations in 1991 due to lack of memberships and as more opportunities for musical entertainment became available. Over those 60 years, Nashville Community Concerts presented well-known orchestras including Philadelphia, Boston Pops, Pittsburgh, Chicago, and Minneapolis. In addition, the organization hosted a number of international performances, including Boris Goldovsky's Grand Opera Theater, the Royal Flanders Ballet, and the Slovenian Philharmonic. Most events were held at War

Memorial Auditorium; however, some were also held at Belmont's Massey Auditorium, TPAC, and the Grand Ole Opry.

Scope and Contents of the Collection:

This collection contains administrative records, photographs, ephemera, and newspaper clippings relating to the Nashville Community Concerts Association. Dates range from 1931-2000, with bulk dates between 1936 and 1991. The collection documents the activities and events of what was the longest-running concert association in Nashville, and gives special insight into the history of performing arts in Nashville.

Index Terms:

Subjects:

Arts & culture

Community Concerts, Inc.

Nonprofit organizations.

Performing Arts.

Performing arts--Tennessee--Nashville--History--20th century.

Arrangement:

This collection is arranged alphabetically into four series: *administrative records, clippings, ephemera,* and *photographs*.

The *administrative records* series contains materials relating to administrative matters with the Nashville Community Concerts Association, including agreements and contracts for use of concert venues, correspondence, financial records, reports, and organizational materials. This series also contains publicity and press materials for individual performers, which are arranged chronologically by concert season.

The *clippings* series contains newspaper clippings from the *Nashville Tennessean* and the *Nashville Banner* relating to the Nashville Community Concerts Association and various performances hosted by the organization. Dates range from 1936-2000, and are arranged chronologically.

Ephemera includes pamphlets, posters, scrapbooks, and programs for individual performances given by Nashville Community Concerts from 1933-1991. Programs are arranged chronologically by concert season.

The *photographs* series contains official press photographs for various performers for Community Concerts, Inc. Photographs include the Royal Ballet of Flanders, the Budapest Symphony Orchestra, and the Obernkirchen Children's Choir. Photographs may be subject to copyright.

Contents Listing:

Box 1:

- Fol. 1: Administrative Records--Agreements, Grand Ole Opry (1974)
- Fol. 2: Administrative Records--Agreements, TPAC (1982-1984)
- Fol. 3: Administrative Records--Agreements, War Memorial Auditorium (1965-1977)
- Fol. 4: Administrative Records--Belmont University (1978-1988)
- Fol. 5: Administrative Records--Board Minutes (1969-1979)
- Fol. 6: Administrative Records--Building a Worker Organization (n.d.)
- Fol. 7: Administrative Records--Contracts--1978-1979 Season
- Fol. 8: Administrative Records--Contracts--1981-1982 Season
- Fol. 9: Administrative Records--Contracts--1983-1984 Season
- Fol. 10: Administrative Records--Contracts--1985-1986 Season
- Fol. 11: Administrative Records--Contracts--1987-1988 Season
- Fol. 12: Administrative Records--Contracts--1988-1989 Season
- Fol. 13: Administrative Records--Contracts--1990-1991 Season
- Fol. 14: Administrative Records--Contributions Book (n.d.)
- Fol. 15: Administrative Records--Contributions Book (1980-1985)
- Fol. 16: Administrative Records--Correspondence (n.d.)
- Fol. 17: Administrative Records--Correspondence (1967-1972)
- Fol. 18: Administrative Records--Correspondence (1973)
- Fol. 19: Administrative Records--Correspondence (1974)
- Fol. 20: Administrative Records--Correspondence (1975)

Box 2:

- Fol. 1: Administrative Records--Correspondence (1976)
- Fol. 2: Administrative Records--Correspondence (1977)
- Fol. 3: Administrative Records--Correspondence (1978)
- Fol. 4: Administrative Records--Correspondence (1979)
- Fol. 5: Administrative Records--Correspondence (1980)
- Fol. 6: Administrative Records--Correspondence (1981)
- Fol. 7: Administrative Records--Correspondence (1982)
- Fol. 8: Administrative Records--Correspondence (1983)
- Fol. 9: Administrative Records--Correspondence (1984)
- Fol. 10: Administrative Records--Correspondence (1985)
- Fol. 11: Administrative Records--Correspondence (1986)
- Fol. 12: Administrative Records--Correspondence (1987)
- Fol. 13: Administrative Records--Correspondence (1988)
- Fol. 14: Administrative Records--Correspondence (1989)
- Fol. 15: Administrative Records--Correspondence (1990)
- Fol. 16: Administrative Records--Correspondence (1991)
- Fol. 17: Administrative Records--Facility Request (1985)
- Fol. 18: Administrative Records--Fiftieth Anniversary (1980)

- Fol. 19: Administrative Records--Financial--Account Book (1979-1981)
- Fol. 20: Administrative Records--Financial--Invoices (1988-1989)

Box 3:

- Fol. 1: Administrative Records--Financial--Patrons' Fund (1981-1991)
- Fol. 2: Administrative Records--Financial--Permanent Recapitulation (1975-1986)
- Fol. 3: Administrative Records--Financial--Reports (n.d.)
- Fol. 4: Administrative Records--Financial--Reports (1978-1979)
- Fol. 5: Administrative Records--Financial--Reports (1979-1980)
- Fol. 6: Administrative Records--Financial--Reports (1981-1982)
- Fol. 7: Administrative Records--Financial--Reports (1982-1983)
- Fol. 8: Administrative Records--Financial--Reports (1983-1984)
- Fol. 9: Administrative Records--Financial--Reports (1984-1985)
- Fol. 10: Administrative Records--Financial--Reports (1986-1987)
- Fol. 11: Administrative Records--Financial--Reports (1988-1989)
- Fol. 12: Administrative Records--Financial--Statements (1982-1983)
- Fol. 13: Administrative Records--Grant Proposal (1988)
- Fol. 14: Administrative Records--HCA (n.d.)
- Fol. 15: Administrative Records--Historical Materials (1943-1960)
- Fol. 16: Administrative Records--Historical Materials (1965-1977)
- Fol. 17: Administrative Records--Historical Sketch (c.1986)
- Fol. 18: Administrative Records--Hold Agreements (1979-1988)
- Fol. 19: Administrative Records--Insurance (1981-1989)
- Fol. 20: Administrative Records--Lists of Concerts (1980-1991)
- Fol. 21: Administrative Records--Metro Grant Money (1989)
- Fol. 22: Administrative Records--Music Consortium of Nashville (1977-1978)
- Fol. 23: Administrative Records--New York Office (1980-1986)

Box 4:

- Fol. 1: Administrative Records--Newspaper Publicity (1971-1976)
- Fol. 2: Administrative Records--Nicholas Dinner (1990)
- Fol. 3: Administrative Records--Organization--By-Laws (n.d.)
- Fol. 4: Administrative Records--Organization--Campaign Materials (1961-1968)
- Fol. 5: Administrative Records--Organization--Campaign Materials (1970-1974)
- Fol. 6: Administrative Records--Organization--Charitable Organization Registration (1983-1989)
- Fol. 7: Administrative Records--Organization--Charitable Solicitation Permit (1980-1990)
- Fol. 8: Administrative Records--Organization--Charter (1972)
- Fol. 9: Administrative Records--Organization--Constitution (n.d.)

Box 5:

- Fol. 1: Administrative Records--Organization--Duties (n.d.)
- Fol. 2: Administrative Records--Organization--Lease Agreement (1979-1980)
- Fol. 3: Administrative Records--Organization--Membership Cards (1937--1991)
- Fol. 4: Administrative Records--Organization--Officers (1967-1991)

- Fol. 5: Administrative Records--Organization--Patrons (1984-1985)
- Fol. 6: Administrative Records--Organization--Plan of Organization (c.1987)
- Fol. 7: Administrative Records--Organization--Profile (1987)
- Fol. 8: Administrative Records--Organization--Supporters (1984-1989)
- Fol. 9: Administrative Records--Organization--Tax Exemption (1972-1986)
- Fol. 10: Administrative Records--Publicity--1965-1966 Season
- Fol. 11: Administrative Records--Publicity--1975-1976 Season
- Fol. 12: Administrative Records--Publicity--1976-1977 Season
- Fol. 13: Administrative Records--Publicity--1977-1978 Season
- Fol. 14: Administrative Records--Publicity--1980-1981 Season

Box 6:

- Fol. 1: Administrative Records--Publicity--1981-1982 Season
- Fol. 2: Administrative Records--Publicity--1982-1983 Season
- Fol. 3: Administrative Records--Publicity--1983-1984 Season
- Fol. 4: Administrative Records--Publicity--1984-1985 Season
- Fol. 5: Administrative Records--Publicity--1985-1986 Season
- Fol. 6: Administrative Records--Publicity--1986-1987 Season
- Fol. 7: Administrative Records--Publicity--1987-1988 Season

Box 7:

- Fol. 1: Administrative Records--Publicity--Press Handbooks (n.d.)
- Fol. 2: Administrative Records--Rental Contracts (1975-1985)
- Fol. 3: Administrative Records--Reports--Arts in Dallas (n.d.)
- Fol. 4: Administrative Records--Reports--Campaign Reports (1978-1990)
- Fol. 5: Administrative Records--Reports--Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce (1977)
- Fol. 6: Administrative Records--Reports--Nominating Committee (1979-1980
- Fol. 7: Administrative Records--Reports--Patron Plan (n.d.)
- Fol. 8: Administrative Records--Reports--Preparatory Reports (1980-1989)
- Fol. 9: Administrative Records--Reports--Proposal (1981)
- Fol. 10: Administrative Records--Requisition and Liability Waiver (1981-1989)
- Fol. 11: Administrative Records--Tips for Workers (n.d.)
- Fol. 12: Administrative Records--Volunteer's Envelope (1990)
- Fol. 13: Administrative Records--War Memorial Auditorium (1974-1983)
- Fol. 14: Administrative Records--Workers' Instruction Sheets (1981-1985)
- Fol. 15: Administrative Records--Workers' Record Sheets (c.1990-1991)
- Fol. 16: Clippings--Community Concerts (n.d.)
- Fol. 17: Clippings--Community Concerts (1936)
- Fol. 18: Clippings--Community Concerts (1937)
- Fol. 19: Clippings--Community Concerts (1938)
- Fol. 20: Clippings--Community Concerts (1939)
- Fol. 21: Clippings--Community Concerts (1940)
- Fol. 22: Clippings--Community Concerts (1941)
- Fol. 23: Clippings--Community Concerts (1942)

```
Fol. 24: Clippings--Community Concerts (1943)
```

- Fol. 25: Clippings--Community Concerts (1944)
- Fol. 26: Clippings--Community Concerts (1945)
- Fol. 27: Clippings--Community Concerts (1946)
- Fol. 28: Clippings--Community Concerts (1947)
- Fol. 29: Clippings--Community Concerts (1948)
- Fol. 30: Clippings--Community Concerts (1949)
- Fol. 31: Clippings--Community Concerts (1950)
- Fol. 32: Clippings--Community Concerts (1951)
- Fol. 33: Clippings--Community Concerts (1952)
- Fol. 34: Clippings--Community Concerts (1953)
- Fol. 35: Clippings--Community Concerts (1954)
- Fol. 36: Clippings--Community Concerts (1955)
- Fol. 37: Clippings--Community Concerts (1956)
- Fol. 38: Clippings--Community Concerts (1957)
- Fol. 39: Clippings--Community Concerts (1958)
- Fol. 40: Clippings--Community Concerts (1960)
- Fol. 41: Clippings--Community Concerts (1961)
- Fol. 42: Clippings--Community Concerts (1962)
- Fol. 43: Clippings—Community Concerts (1967)
- Est 44. Climinas Community Consents (1970)
- Fol. 44: Clippings--Community Concerts (1970)
- Fol. 45: Clippings--Community Concerts (1971)

Box 8:

- Fol. 1: Clippings--Community Concerts (1972)
- Fol. 2: Clippings--Community Concerts (1973)
- Fol. 3: Clippings--Community Concerts (1974)
- Fol. 4: Clippings--Community Concerts (1975)
- Fol. 5: Clippings--Community Concerts (1976)
- Fol. 6: Clippings--Community Concerts (1977)
- Fol. 7: Clippings--Community Concerts (1978)
- Fol. 8: Clippings--Community Concerts (1979)
- Fol. 9: Clippings--Community Concerts (1980)
- Fol. 10: Clippings--Community Concerts (1981)
- Fol. 11: Clippings--Community Concerts (1982)
- Fol. 12: Clippings--Community Concerts (1983)
- Fol. 13: Clippings--Community Concerts (1984)
- Fol. 14: Clippings--Community Concerts (1985)
- Fol. 15: Clippings--Community Concerts (1986)
- Fol. 16: Clippings--Community Concerts (1987)
- Fol. 17: Clippings--Community Concerts (1988)
- Fol. 18: Clippings--Community Concerts (1989)
- Fol. 19: Clippings--Community Concerts (1990)

Box 9:

```
Fol. 1: Clippings--Community Concerts (1991)
```

- Fol. 2: Clippings--Miscellaneous (2000)
- Fol. 3: Clippings--Nicholas, Louis (1995)
- Fol. 4: Ephemera--Bumper Stickers (n.d.)
- Fol. 5: Ephemera--Invitations (c.1980-1991)
- Fol. 6: Ephemera--Memorial Services (1977-1991)
- Fol. 7: Ephemera--Pamphlets (c.1970s-1990)
- Fol. 8: Ephemera--Programs (n.d.)
- Fol. 9: Ephemera--Programs (1933-1934)
- Fol. 10: Ephemera--Programs (1936-1937)
- Fol. 11: Ephemera--Programs (1937-1938)
- Fol. 12: Ephemera--Programs (1938-1939)
- Fol. 13: Ephemera--Programs (1939-1940)
- Fol. 14: Ephemera--Programs (1940-1941)
- Fol. 15: Ephemera--Programs (1941-1942)
- Fol. 16: Ephemera--Programs (1942-1943)
- Fol. 17: Ephemera--Programs (1943-1944)
- Fol. 18: Ephemera--Programs (1944-1945)
- Fol. 19: Ephemera--Programs (1945-1946)
- Fol. 20: Ephemera--Programs (1946-1947)
- F 1 21 F 1 (10.47.10.40)
- Fol. 21: Ephemera--Programs (1947-1948)
- Fol. 22: Ephemera--Programs (1948-1949)
- Fol. 23: Ephemera--Programs (1949-1950)
- Fol. 24: Ephemera--Programs (1950-1951)
- Fol. 25: Ephemera--Programs (1951-1952)
- Fol. 26: Ephemera--Programs (1952-1953)
- Fol. 27: Ephemera--Programs (1953-1954)
- Fol. 28: Ephemera--Programs (1954-1955)
- Fol. 29: Ephemera--Programs (1955-1956)
- Fol. 30: Ephemera--Programs (1956-1957)
- Fol. 31: Ephemera--Programs (1957-1958)
- Fol. 32: Ephemera--Programs (1958-1959)
- Fol. 33: Ephemera--Programs (1959-1960)
- Fol. 34: Ephemera--Programs (1960-1961)
- Fol. 35: Ephemera--Programs (1962-1963)
- Fol. 36: Ephemera--Programs (1963-1964)
- Fol. 37: Ephemera--Programs (1964-1965)

Box 10:

- Fol. 1: Ephemera--Programs (1965-1966)
- Fol. 2: Ephemera--Programs (1966-1967)
- Fol. 3: Ephemera--Programs (1967-1968)
- Fol. 4: Ephemera--Programs (1968-1969)
- Fol. 5: Ephemera--Programs (1969-1970)

- Fol. 6: Ephemera--Programs (1970-1971)
- Fol. 7: Ephemera--Programs (1971-1972)
- Fol. 8: Ephemera--Programs (1972-1973)
- Fol. 9: Ephemera--Programs (1973-1974)
- Fol. 10: Ephemera--Programs (1974-1975)
- Fol. 11: Ephemera--Programs (1975-1976)
- Fol. 12: Ephemera--Programs (1976-1977)
- Fol. 13: Ephemera--Programs (1977-1978)
- Fol. 14: Ephemera--Programs (1978-1979)
- Fol. 15: Ephemera--Programs (1979-1980)
- Fol. 16: Ephemera--Programs (1980-1981)
- Fol. 17: Ephemera--Programs (1981-1982)
- Fol. 18: Ephemera--Programs (1982-1983)
- Fol. 19: Ephemera--Programs (1983-1984)
- Fol. 20: Ephemera--Programs (1984-1985)

Box 11:

- Fol. 1: Ephemera--Programs (1985-1986)
- Fol. 2: Ephemera--Programs (1986-1987)
- Fol. 3: Ephemera--Programs (1987-1988)
- Fol. 4: Ephemera--Programs (1988-1989)
- Fol. 5: Ephemera--Programs (1989-1990)
- Fol. 6: Ephemera--Programs (1990-1991)
- Fol. 7: Ephemera--Publications--Bravo (1963-1971)
- Fol. 8: Ephemera--Publications--Center of Attention (1981)
- Fol. 9: Ephemera--Publications--Center Stage (1988, 1992)
- Fol. 10: Ephemera--Publications--Nashville Symphony (1989, 1996)
- Fol. 11: Ephemera--Publications--Premiere Magazine (1980-1987)
- Fol. 12: Ephemera--Publications--This Week at Peabody (1979)
- Fol. 13: Ephemera--Scrapbook (1938-1940)
- Fol. 14: Ephemera--Scrapbook (1940-1941)

Box 12:

- Fol. 1: Ephemera--Scrapbook (1941-1944)
- Fol. 2: Ephemera--Scrapbook (1968-1971)
- Fol. 3: Ephemera--Scrapbook (1971-1974)
- Fol. 4: Ephemera--WPLN Program Guides (1983-1987)

Box 13:

- Fol. 1: Photographs--Bamberg Symphony Orchestra (c.1972)
- Fol. 2: Photographs--Bohemian Folk Ballet (c.1979)
- Fol. 3: Photographs--Budapest Symphony Orchestra (c.1978)
- Fol. 4: Photographs--Camelot (c.1981)
- Fol. 5: Photographs--Fodor, Eugene (c.1977)
- Fol. 6: Photographs--Fulton, Richard (c.1980s)
- Fol. 7: Photographs--Goldovsky Grand Opera Theater (n.d.)

- Fol. 8: Photographs--Hollander, Lorin (c.1975)
- Fol. 9: Photographs--Kreger, James (c.1978)
- Fol. 10: Photographs--Menuhin, Jeremy (c.1988)
- Fol. 11: Photographs--Miscellaneous (n.d.)
- Fol. 12: Photographs--Obernkirchen Children's Choir (n.d.)
- Fol. 13: Photographs--P.D.Q. Bach (c.1979)
- Fol. 14: Photographs--Peskanov, Mark (c.1980-1981)
- Fol. 15: Photographs--Peters, Roberta (c.1976)
- Fol. 16: Photographs--Richard Thomas Theatre Ballet (c.1976)
- Fol. 17: Photographs--Robinson, Gail (c.1978)
- Fol. 18: Photographs--Romanian Folk Festival (c.1981)
- Fol. 19: Photographs--Royal Ballet of Flanders (c.1980)
- Fol. 20: Photographs--Ruth Page's International Ballet (c.1968)
- Fol. 21: Photographs--Schiff, Andras (c.1978)
- Fol. 22: Photographs--Serkin, Rudolph (c.1970)
- Fol. 23: Photographs--Slovenian Philharmonic (c.1977)
- Fol. 24: Photographs--Sofia Philharmonic (c.1981)
- Fol. 25: Photographs--Strickland, William (c.1946)
- Fol. 26: Photographs--Strasbourg Philharmonic (n.d.)
- Fol. 27: Photographs--Texas Opera Theater (c.1980)
- Fol. 28: Photographs--Unidentified (n.d.)
- Fol. 29: Photographs--Waring, Fred (1977)

Oversize Box

Ephemera--Posters (n.d.)

Ephemera--Scrapbook (1982-1983)

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Administrative Information:

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Processing Information: Processed by Kelley Sirko, April 2019

Accruals: No further accruals expected.