

# Max Rudolf Papers

Guides to Special Collections in the Music Division of the Library of Congress



Music Division, Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C.  
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Processed by the Music Division of the Library of Congress

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Music Division, 2011  
Revised 2012 January

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Max Rudolf Papers

**Span Dates:** 1922-1993

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1945-1992)

**Call No.:** ML31.R85

**Creator:** Rudolf, Max, 1902-1995

**Extent:** approximately 4,500 items

**Extent:** 22 containers

**Extent:** 11.5 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English and German.

**Location:** Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lcn.loc.gov/2011570506>

**Summary:** Max Rudolf was a German-born American conductor and music educator. He is best known for his work with the Metropolitan Opera, the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, and the Curtis Institute of Music. The collection contains Rudolf's extensive correspondence with prominent 20th century musical figures, Metropolitan Opera annual files documenting his years with that organization, and a few photographs.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

### People

Barber, Samuel, 1910-1981--Correspondence.  
Bing, Rudolf, 1902-1997--Correspondence.  
Dallapiccola, Luigi, 1904-1975--Correspondence.  
Dello Joio, Norman, 1913-2008--Correspondence.  
Diamond, David, 1915-2005--Correspondence.  
Dorati, Antal--Correspondence.  
Gould, Glenn--Correspondence.  
Leinsdorf, Erich, 1912-1993--Correspondence.  
Levin, Ira, 1958--Correspondence.  
Levine, James, 1943-2021--Correspondence.  
Menotti, Gian Carlo, 1911-2007--Correspondence.  
Ormandy, Eugene, 1899-1985--Correspondence.  
Rudolf, Max, 1902-1995--Archives.  
Rudolf, Max, 1902-1995--Correspondence.  
Rudolf, Max, 1902-1995--Photographs.  
Rudolf, Max, 1902-1995.  
Rudolf, Max, 1902-1995.  
Schuller, Gunther--Correspondence.  
Schuman, William, 1910-1992--Correspondence.  
Serkin, Rudolf, 1903-1991--Correspondence.  
Stern, Isaac, 1920-2001--Correspondence.  
Szell, George, 1897-1970--Correspondence.  
Walter, Bruno, 1876-1962--Correspondence.

### Organizations

American Symphony Orchestra League.  
Curtis Institute of Music.  
Metropolitan Opera (New York, N.Y.)  
Metropolitan Opera (New York, N.Y.)

### Subjects

Conductors (Music)  
Music teachers.  
Music--United States--20th century.  
Opera companies--New York (State)--New York.

#### **Titles**

*Max Rudolf correspondence, 1922-1993*

#### **Form/Genre**

Articles.  
Clippings (Information artifacts)  
Contracts.  
Correspondence.  
Photographic prints.  
Programs (Documents)  
Promotional materials.  
Scripts (Documents).

## **Provenance**

Purchase, Music Division, 2009.

## **Accruals**

No further accruals are expected.

## **Processing History**

The Max Rudolf Papers were processed by George Kipper, Patrick Domico, and Christopher Hartten in 2011. Christopher Hartten coded the finding aid for EAD format in August 2011. George Kipper expanded and revised the finding aid in November 2011 to include additional materials.

## **Related Material**

The [Serge Koussevitzky Archive \(ML31.K66\)](#) contains correspondence between Koussevitzky and Rudolf. The [Nicolas Slonimsky Collection \(ML31.S6\)](#) contains a variety of biographical research materials on the conductor.

## **Copyright Status**

Materials from the Max Rudolf Papers are governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.) and other applicable international copyright laws.

## **Access and Restrictions**

The Max Rudolf Papers are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Music Division prior to visiting in order to determine whether the desired materials will be available at that time.

Certain restrictions to use or copying of materials may apply.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [item, date, container number], Max Rudolf Papers, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

Max Rudolf (1902-1995) was born in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, on June 15, 1902. He began musical studies at age seven, learning piano, organ, cello, and trumpet. He began to compose at age eleven, and at thirteen, commenced professional musical studies with Bernard Sekles, remaining with this teacher for the next six years. Rudolf attended Frankfurt University and the Hochschule für Musik from 1921-1922, making his conducting debut in March 1923 at Freiburg in a production of Johann Strauss's opera *Die Fledermaus*. During the following years 1924-1929, he familiarized himself with standard operatic repertory while holding down posts at the Städtisches Theater (Freiburg) and at Darmstadt. Rudolf then became principal conductor of the German theater in Prague from 1929-1935, where he became acquainted with George Szell. He also appeared as guest conductor with the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra (1929-1930). From 1935-1940, Rudolf resided in Göteborg, Sweden, while holding positions as choral director for the Orchestral Society and the Swedish Broadcasting Company.

He left Europe in October 1940, travelling east across Russia, Japan, and the Hawaiian Islands, finally arriving in San Francisco. He initially secured a position teaching conducting and score reading at the Music Department of the Y.M.C.A. College in Chicago, later moving to New York in December 1943, where he was eventually engaged by the New Opera Company for a production of Offenbach's operetta *La Vie Parisienne*. Rudolf became a naturalized American citizen in 1945. In the fall of 1945, Rudolf was hired as an assistant conductor with the Metropolitan Opera, his debut being the Gala Program Annual Benefit Concert on January 13, 1946. He served as both a conductor for the organization from 1946 to 1958 and as its assistant manager from 1950-1958. He held the post of music director of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra from 1958-1970 and signed on as musical director for the Cincinnati May Festival from 1963-1970.

Rudolf joined the faculty of the Curtis Institute of Music in 1970, serving as head of the conducting and opera departments until 1973, after which time he returned to the Metropolitan Opera for an additional two seasons (1973-1975). Earlier, Rudolf had also returned to New York to participate in two historically significant Metropolitan Opera events: the Old Metropolitan Opera House Gala Farewell (April 16, 1966) and Rudolf Bing's Gala Farewell (April 22, 1972).

Throughout the 1970s, he served as artistic advisor to the Dallas, Detroit, and New Jersey Symphony Orchestras, and continued to make regular guest appearances with several major American orchestras and opera houses well into his eighties. He rejoined the faculty of the Curtis Institute in 1983 and continued as an emeritus member until his death on February 28, 1995. In addition to his work as conductor and pedagogue, Rudolf recorded extensively and authored the conducting textbook *The Grammar of Conducting* (1950) that received further revisions in 1969, 1981, and 1995.

## Scope and Content Note

The Max Rudolf Papers span the period 1922-1993, with the majority of materials dating from his professional period in the United States, 1945-1992. The collection is arranged in three series: Correspondence, 1922-1993; Photographs, 1952 and undated; and Metropolitan Opera Annual Files, 1946-1975.

Rudolf corresponded with many pre-eminent 20th century composers, conductors, vocalists, instrumentalists, musicologists, music critics, individuals responsible for the management of American orchestras and operatic companies, and many other well-known individuals in non-musical fields. Topics of correspondence include much discussion on the art of conducting, matters of musical interpretation, contemporary composers and their compositions, performers, programming, and other musical matters.

The collection contains extensive correspondence with conductors Antal Dorati (15 letters), Rafael Kubelik (7 letters), Erich Leinsdorf (14 letters), Eugene Ormandy (86 letters), George Szell (over 200 letters), Fritz Reiner, Leopold Stokowski, William Steinberg, Bruno Walter, and many others. Rudolf corresponded with prominent composers, including Samuel Barber, Luigi Dallapiccola, David Diamond, Norman Dello Joio, Percy Grainger, Hans Werner Henze, Paul Hindemith, Gian Carlo Menotti, Gunther Schuller, and William Schuman. He also exchanged communications with major performers

such as Roberta Peters, Risë Stevens, Richard Tucker, Isaac Stern, Glenn Gould, Byron Janis, Igor Kipnis, Leonard Rose, and Rudolf Serkin. Additional letters with various directors, producers, and administrators of opera companies and orchestras are present as well, highlighted by substantial communications with Metropolitan Opera management, especially Rudolf Bing (39 letters). Rudolf corresponded with musicologists H.C. Robbins Landon and Paul Henry Lang as well. Rudolf's tenure at the Curtis Institute of Music and his affiliation with the American Symphony Orchestra League are also well documented. Many letters are accompanied by carbon copies of Rudolf's replies. Clippings, reviews, and other inserts are often found among the letters, as are occasional photographs enclosed by the correspondent.

Rudolf's Metropolitan Opera annual files represent the years he was active with that organization: 1946-1958 and 1973-1975, as well as individual appearances made in 1966 (Gala Metropolitan Opera House Farewell) and 1972 (Rudolf Bing's Gala Farewell). Each annual file includes operatic programs (often annotated by Rudolf), Metropolitan Opera annual publications, contracts, correspondence, itineraries, travel-related expense bills, articles, clippings, radio broadcast scripts, press releases, rehearsal schedules, and other miscellaneous documents. Preservation photocopies of Metropolitan Opera broadside programs (1949-1958 seasons) and original broadsides (1973-1974 season) are filed separately due to format considerations. The Photographs series contains a handful of photographs of Rudolf alone and with other musicians.

## Organization of the Max Rudolf Papers

The Max Rudolf Papers are organized in three series:

- [Correspondence, 1922-1993](#)
- [Photographs, 1952 and undated](#)
- [Metropolitan Opera Annual Files, 1946-1975](#)

## Description of Series

### Container

### Series

BOX 1-14

#### Correspondence, 1922-1993

Correspondence with prominent 20th century composers, conductors, performers, musicologists, music critics, managers of major American orchestras and opera companies, and others. Reviews, clippings, photographs, or other material may accompany correspondence.

Arranged alphabetically by name of individual, organization, or subject, and chronologically therein.

BOX 14

#### Photographs, 1952 and undated

Miscellaneous images of Rudolf alone or with other people.

Arranged by subject.

BOX 15-22

#### Metropolitan Opera Annual Files, 1946-1975

Metropolitan Opera publications (i.e. brochures, booklets, annual statements of operations, other business reports), articles, clippings, correspondence, miscellaneous documents (contracts, official papers, invitations, etc.), photographs, programs (regular season performances and annual spring tour, often annotated by Rudolf), radio broadcast scripts, press releases, rehearsal schedules, itineraries, and travel-related expense bills. Preservation photocopies of broadside programs covering seasons 1949-1958 and original broadsides for the 1973-1974 season are housed separately in Box 22.

Arranged chronologically, and alphabetically by type of material or subject therein.

# Container List

<b>Container</b>	<b>Contents</b>
<b>BOX 1-14</b>	<b>Correspondence, 1922-1993</b> Correspondence with prominent 20th century composers, conductors, performers, musicologists, music critics, managers of major American orchestras and opera companies, and others. Reviews, clippings, photographs, or other material may accompany correspondence. Arranged alphabetically by name of individual, organization, or subject, and chronologically therein.
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/1-2</b>	American Symphony Orchestra League, 1960-1972 Chiefly correspondence with Helen Thompson, ASOL executive secretary and treasurer
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/3-4</b>	Barber, Elinore, 1970-1980, 1988-1992
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/5</b>	Barber, Samuel, 1945-1946, 1955-1958
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/6-9</b>	Bing, Rudolf, 1953-1972, 1982-1983
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/10</b>	Böhm, Karl, 1930-1934
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/11</b>	Bräm, Thüring, 1971-1992
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/12</b>	Britten, Benjamin, 1966
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/13</b>	Brubeck, Dave, 1969
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/14-17</b>	Charry, Michael, 1972-1982
<b>BOX-FOLDER 2/1-3</b>	Charry, Michael, 1983-1992
<b>BOX-FOLDER 2/4</b>	Copland, Aaron, 1966
<b>BOX-FOLDER 2/5-10</b>	Curtis Institute of Music, 1968-1973
<b>BOX-FOLDER 2/11</b>	Dallapiccola, Luigi, 1971, 1973-1974
<b>BOX-FOLDER 2/12</b>	Dello Joio, Norman, 1956, 1958-1988
<b>BOX-FOLDER 2/13</b>	Diamond, David, 1960-1964, 1967
<b>BOX-FOLDER 2/14</b>	Dorati, Antal, 1946-1981
<b>BOX-FOLDER 2/15</b>	Etler, Alvin, 1970
<b>BOX-FOLDER 2/16-19</b>	Fagan, Arthur, 1974-1989
<b>BOX-FOLDER 2/20</b>	Frommel, Gerhard, 1928
<b>BOX-FOLDER 2/21</b>	Goldovsky, Boris, 1948-1949, 1959-1978
<b>BOX-FOLDER 2/22</b>	Goldschmidt, Berthold, 1931
<b>BOX-FOLDER 2/23</b>	Gould, Glenn, 1961-1964, 1971
<b>BOX-FOLDER 3/1</b>	Graffman, Gary, 1976-1977, 1986-1992
<b>BOX-FOLDER 3/2</b>	Grainger, Percy, 1959
<b>BOX-FOLDER 3/3</b>	Hanson, Howard, 1956, 1962
<b>BOX-FOLDER 3/4</b>	Henze, Hans Werner, 1967
<b>BOX-FOLDER 3/5</b>	Hindemith, Paul, 1944
<b>BOX-FOLDER 3/6-9</b>	Horszowski, Mieczyslaw, 1972-1991
<b>BOX-FOLDER 3/10</b>	Husa, Karel, 1967-1968, 1977
<b>BOX-FOLDER 3/11</b>	Jacobi, Frederick, 1941, 1945
<b>BOX-FOLDER 3/12-13</b>	Järvi, Paavo, 1986-1992
<b>BOX-FOLDER 3/14</b>	Josephs, Wilfred, 1967-1971, 1979-1986
<b>BOX-FOLDER 3/15-17</b>	Kalam, Tonu, 1972-1990

## Correspondence, 1922-1993

Container	Contents
BOX-FOLDER 3/18	Klein, Lothar, 1970, 1976
BOX-FOLDER 3/19	Klemperer, Otto, 1928, 1935
BOX-FOLDER 3/20	Korn, Michael, 1985-1986
BOX-FOLDER 3/21	Kowalski, Max, 1948, 1950-1951
BOX-FOLDER 3/22	Kraft, Leo, 1945-1950, 1959-1972
BOX-FOLDER 3/23	Kunzel, Erich, 1962, 1971-1990
BOX-FOLDER 3/24	La Violette, Wesley, 1949
BOX-FOLDER 3/25	Labunski, Felix, 1973
BOX-FOLDER 3/26	Lees, Benjamin, 1970, 1973-1974
BOX-FOLDER 3/27	Leinsdorf, Erich, 1961-1990
BOX-FOLDER 3/28-30	Levin, Ira, 1984-1990
BOX-FOLDER 4/1	Levine, James, 1958-1971
BOX-FOLDER 4/2-6	Loebel, David, 1978-1992
BOX-FOLDER 4/7	Lustgarten, Egon, 1958
BOX-FOLDER 4/8	Maciejewski, Roman, 1961
BOX-FOLDER 4/9	Martino, Donald, 1975-1976
BOX-FOLDER 4/10	Massarani, Renzo, 1928
BOX-FOLDER 4/11	Mennin, Peter, 1969-1977, 1980-1983
BOX-FOLDER 4/12	Menotti, Gian Carlo, 1960-1963
BOX-FOLDER 4/13	Metropolitan Opera Management/Board/Guild, "A", 1961-1962
BOX-FOLDER 4/14	Metropolitan Opera Management/Board/Guild, "B", 1945-1978, 1983
BOX-FOLDER 4/15	Metropolitan Opera Management/Board/Guild, "C-F", 1948-1954, 1972-1976
BOX-FOLDER 4/16	Metropolitan Opera Management/Board/Guild, "G", 1953-1972, 1979-1981
BOX-FOLDER 4/17	Metropolitan Opera Management/Board/Guild, "H", 1958-1971
BOX-FOLDER 4/18	Metropolitan Opera Management/Board/Guild, "I-L", 1948-1949, 1956-1964
BOX-FOLDER 4/19	Metropolitan Opera Management/Board/Guild, "M-P", 1946-1951, 1962-1972
BOX-FOLDER 4/20	Metropolitan Opera Management/Board/Guild, "R", 1952-1978
BOX-FOLDER 4/21	Metropolitan Opera Management/Board/Guild, "S", 1941, 1952-1974
BOX-FOLDER 4/22	Metropolitan Opera Management/Board/Guild, "T-Z", 1950-1958, 1971-1974
BOX-FOLDER 5/1	Metropolitan Opera singers, "A", 1949-1972, 1990
BOX-FOLDER 5/2	Metropolitan Opera singers, "B", 1946-1965
BOX-FOLDER 5/3	Metropolitan Opera singers, "C", 1961-1963, 1971-1973
BOX-FOLDER 5/4	Metropolitan Opera singers, "D", 1943-1958, undated
BOX-FOLDER 5/5	Metropolitan Opera singers, "E-F", 1956-1966, 1974
BOX-FOLDER 5/6	Metropolitan Opera singers, "G", 1950-1952, 1958-1963
BOX-FOLDER 5/7	Metropolitan Opera singers, "H-J", 1927-1965, 1970-1991
BOX-FOLDER 5/8	Metropolitan Opera singers, "K-L", 1944-1952, 1960-1989
BOX-FOLDER 5/9	Metropolitan Opera singers, "M-O", 1947-1949, 1960-1975
BOX-FOLDER 5/10	Metropolitan Opera singers, "P", 1950-1972, 1981-1983
BOX-FOLDER 5/11	Metropolitan Opera singers, "R", 1947-1952, 1961
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BOX-FOLDER 5/13	Metropolitan Opera singers, "T", 1938-1957, 1968-1975
BOX-FOLDER 5/14	Metropolitan Opera singers, "U-V", 1949-1957, 1973-1975
BOX-FOLDER 5/15	Metropolitan Opera singers, "W-Z", 1950, 1958
BOX-FOLDER 5/16	Mills, Charles, 1973
BOX-FOLDER 5/17-18	Miscellaneous conductors, "A", 1948-1965, 1970-1988



## Correspondence, 1922-1993

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BOX-FOLDER 6/2-3	Miscellaneous conductors, "D", 1930-1992
BOX-FOLDER 6/4	Miscellaneous conductors, "E", 1956-1985
BOX-FOLDER 6/5	Miscellaneous conductors, "F", 1947-1983
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BOX-FOLDER 6/8	Miscellaneous conductors, "J", 1982-1989
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BOX-FOLDER 8/19	Miscellaneous performers, "W", 1988-1991
BOX-FOLDER 9/1	Music personalities, "A-B", 1936, 1950-1975, 1990
BOX-FOLDER 9/2	Music personalities, "C-E", 1936-1950, 1962-1966, 1971-1985

## Correspondence, 1922-1993

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BOX-FOLDER 10/12	Muti, Riccardo, 1988
BOX-FOLDER 10/13	Nelhybel, Vaclav, 1964
BOX-FOLDER 10/14	Oltman, Dwight, 1967-1981
BOX-FOLDER 11/1-10	Ormandy, Eugene, 1950-1983
BOX-FOLDER 11/11-24	Peinemann, Edith, 1962-1992 <a href="#">see also Box 14, Photographs</a>
BOX-FOLDER 11/25	Powers, Maxwell, 1942-1946
BOX-FOLDER 11/26	Proto, Frank, 1977-1992
BOX-FOLDER 11/27	Rathaus, Karol, 1954
BOX-FOLDER 11/28	Reiner, Fritz, 1949-1953, 1962-1963, 1971-1972 <a href="#">see also Box 14, Photographs</a>
BOX-FOLDER 12/1-2	Richman, James, 1972-1989
BOX-FOLDER 12/3	Rogers, Bernard, 1946-1968
BOX-FOLDER 12/4	Rostropovich, Mstislav, 1983
BOX-FOLDER 12/5	Rubinstein, Artur, 1966, 1980
BOX-FOLDER 12/6	Schippers, Thomas, 1949-1977
BOX-FOLDER 12/7-8	Schuller, Gunther, 1959-1989
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BOX-FOLDER 12/10	Sekles, Bernhard, 1922-1934
BOX-FOLDER 12/11-18	Serkin, Rudolf, 1960-1991
BOX-FOLDER 12/19-21	Simmons, Calvin, 1970-1982
BOX-FOLDER 12/22-25	Smith, Mark, 1985-1992
BOX-FOLDER 13/1-2	Stern, Isaac, 1959-1992
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BOX-FOLDER 13/7	Stokowski, Leopold, 1960-1968

## Correspondence, 1922-1993

Container	Contents
BOX-FOLDER 13/8	Stravinsky, Igor, 1965 <a href="#">see also Box 14, Photographs</a> One notecard.
BOX-FOLDER 13/9	Suderburg, Robert, 1977
BOX-FOLDER 13/10	Surinach, Carlos, 1968-1973
BOX-FOLDER 13/11-18	Szell, Georg, 1929-1974, 1991
BOX-FOLDER 13/19-24	Takács, Jenő, 1954-1992
BOX-FOLDER 14/1	Thorpe, Francis, 1976
BOX-FOLDER 14/2	Velazco, Emil, 1966
BOX-FOLDER 14/3-10	Voois, Jacques C., 1976-1992
BOX-FOLDER 14/11	Walter, Bruno, 1938-1956
BOX-FOLDER 14/12	Watkins, Sara, 1983, 1992
BOX-FOLDER 14/13	Waxman, Franz, 1948
BOX-FOLDER 14/14	Wojeik, Raymond, 1973
BOX-FOLDER 14/15-16	Yahr, Barbara, 1986-1992
BOX 14	<b>Photographs, 1952 and undated</b> Miscellaneous images of Rudolf alone or with other people. Arranged by subject.
BOX-FOLDER 14/17	Max Rudolf, alone, undated Two photographs.
BOX-FOLDER 14/18	Max Rudolf, with Edith Peinemann, undated Two inscribed photographs.
BOX-FOLDER 14/19	Max Rudolf, with Fritz Reiner, Igor Stravinsky and George Balanchine, December 26, 1952 Two photographs.
BOX 15-22	<b>Metropolitan Opera Annual Files, 1946-1975</b> Metropolitan Opera publications (i.e. brochures, booklets, annual statements of operations, other business reports), articles, clippings, correspondence, miscellaneous documents (contracts, official papers, invitations, etc.), photographs, programs (regular season performances and annual spring tour, often annotated by Rudolf), radio broadcast scripts, press releases, rehearsal schedules, itineraries, and travel-related expense bills. Preservation photocopies of broadside programs covering seasons 1949-1958 and original broadsides for the 1973-1974 season are housed separately in Box 22. Arranged chronologically, and alphabetically by type of material or subject therein.  Annual file, 1945-1946
BOX-FOLDER 15/1	Annual publications and brochures, 1945-1946 Prospectus for the 61st season and the Annual Statement on Operations.
BOX-FOLDER 15/2	Articles, 1945-1946
BOX-FOLDER 15/3	Clippings, 1945-1946
BOX-FOLDER 15/4	Correspondence, 1945-1946
BOX-FOLDER 15/5	Miscellaneous documents, 1945-1946
BOX-FOLDER 15/6	Photographs, 1945-1946
BOX-FOLDER 15/7	Programs (regular season), 1945-1946
BOX-FOLDER 15/8	Spring Tour. Itineraries, Spring 1946
BOX-FOLDER 15/9	Spring Tour. Programs, Spring 1946 Annual file, 1946-1947

## Metropolitan Opera Annual Files, 1946-1975

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