

Artur Rubinstein Correspondence

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



Music Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
1992

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.music/perform.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2014571126>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.music/eadmus.mu017005>

Processed by the Music Division of the Library of Congress

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Music Division, 2017
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Collection Summary

Title: Artur Rubinstein Correspondence

Span Dates: 1921-1984

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1939-1982)

Call No.: ML31.R82

Creator: Rubinstein, Artur, 1887-1982

Extent: approximately 12,000 items

Extent: 49 containers

Extent: 24.0 linear feet

Language: Collection material chiefly in English, French, Polish, and Spanish

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2014571126>

Summary: Artur Rubinstein was a Polish-American pianist best-known for his masterful interpretations of the works of Chopin. The collection largely consists of personal and business correspondence between Rubinstein and musical luminaries, publishers, organizations, and appreciative fans.

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

Huberman, Bronislaw--Correspondence.

Kaper, Bronislaw, 1902-1983--Correspondence.

Menuhin, Yehudi, 1916-1999--Correspondence.

Philipp, Isidore, 1863-1958--Correspondence.

Rubinstein, Artur, 1887-1982--Correspondence.

Rubinstein, Artur, 1887-1982.

Rubinstein, Artur, 1887-1982.

Stern, Isaac, 1920-2001--Correspondence.

Subjects

Pianists--Correspondence.

Form/Genre

Clippings (Information artifacts)

Correspondence.

Programs (Documents)

Writings.

Provenance

Bequest, Artur Rubinstein, 1982. The Music Division received these materials in 1991.

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Processing History

The Artur Rubinstein Correspondence was processed by Albert Tucker circa 1992. Christopher Hartten coded the finding aid for EAD format in 2017.

Transfers

One VHS cassette from the Artur Rubinstein Correspondence have been transferred to the Library of Congress Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division, where it is identified as part of the Artur Rubinstein Correspondence (MAVIS collection no. 26572). An inventory of this material is available in the Music Division's collection file.

Other Repositories

The Juilliard School holds the Artur Rubinstein Music Collection, which consists of 71 scores formerly confiscated by the Nazis and returned to the family by the German government in 2006.

Related Material

The following Music Division collections contain Rubinstein correspondence or photographs: [Leonard Bernstein Collection](#) (ML31.B49); [Serge Koussevitzky Archive](#) (ML31.K66); [Serge Rachmaninoff Archive](#) (ML31.R33); [Max Rudolf Papers](#) (ML31.R85); and [Roman Totenberg Papers](#) (ML31.T65).

Copyright Status

Materials from the Artur Rubinstein Correspondence 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 Artur Rubinstein Correspondence is 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], Artur Rubinstein Correspondence, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1887, Jan. 28	Born, Łódź, Poland
1890	Began to study piano
1897	Auditioned for Joseph Joachim Moved to Berlin Studied piano with Heinrich Barth and theory with Max Bruch and Robert Kahn
1900 Dec.	Debut performance with Berlin Philharmonic under Joachim at the Beethoven Saal
1904	Moved to Paris, where he meets Maurice Ravel, Paul Dukas, and Jacques Thibaud
1906	Made cooly-received debut with Philadelphia Orchestra at Carnegie Hall as part of seventy-five performance U.S. tour
1908-1912	Returned to Paris, where he took four-year hiatus from performing and struggled to make a living
1912	Made London debut and became fixture at the musical salon of Paul and Muriel Draper in Edith Grove, Chelsea

1914	Remained in London upon outbreak of war and served as military interpreter; learned eight languages fluently and vowed never again to perform in Germany
1916-1917	Toured Spain, where his passionate and charismatic playing of works by Falla, Albéniz, and Granados was well-received and drew large crowds Toured in South America
circa 1922	Returned to Paris, where he befriended artists Jean Cocteau and Pablo Picasso and settled into the lifestyle of a Parisian socialite
1932	Married Aniela (Nela) Młynarski, daughter of Polish conductor, Emil Młynarski
1932-1937	Dramatically scaled back performing career, focused instead on technical discipline and new repertory
1937	Acclaimed performance at Carnegie Hall during second U.S. tour
1939	Moved to New York upon outbreak of war; family resided in Buckingham Hotel Moved to Brentwood, Los Angeles
1939-1947	Toured almost exclusively throughout North America
1946	Became a U.S. citizen
1954	Moved to Manhattan
1958	Returned to Warsaw for celebrated performance
1973	Published first volume of autobiography, <i>My Young Years</i>
1974	Founding of the Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Master Competition
1976	Awarded Medal of Freedom by President Gerald R. Ford Retired from performing due to partial blindness
1980	Published second volume of autobiography, <i>My Many Years</i>
1982, Dec. 20	Died, Geneva, Switzerland

Scope and Content Note

Letters and other items from the Artur Rubinstein Correspondence span the period 1921-1984, with the bulk of the materials dating from 1939-1982. Despite Rubinstein's extraordinarily lengthy and distinguished career as a performer, the collection largely reflects only those activities following his family's 1939 immigration to the United States to escape the Nazi occupation of France. Coupled with his flight from Poland to London prior to World War I, it is likely that much of Rubinstein's early correspondence and other personal papers were destroyed, seized, or abandoned in the course of these events. The material comprising this collection is mostly personal and business correspondence with musical personalities, publishers, corporations, philanthropic societies, and appreciative fans. Documents include letters, business papers, telegrams, invitations, contracts, personal papers, and other materials. Individuals represented by substantive correspondence are Bronisław Huberman, Bronisław Kaper, Yehudi Menuhin, Isador Philipp, and Isaac Stern. Additionally, the collection contains small amounts of miscellaneous materials, chiefly clippings and writings, that provide insight into Rubinstein's critical reception as a performer and various aspects of his private life.

Organization of the Artur Rubinstein Correspondence

The collection is organized in two series:

- [Correspondence, 1921-1982](#)
- [Miscellany, 1942-1984](#)

Description of Series

Container

BOX 1-45, 48

Series

Correspondence, 1921-1982

Letters, business papers, telegrams, invitations, and other communications to and from Artur Rubinstein.

Arranged alphabetically by subject, corporate name, or last name of individual.

BOX 46-47, 49

Miscellany, 1942-1984

Chiefly clippings and writings by Rubinstein and others. Includes a small amount of programs, interviews, and other materials.

Arranged alphabetically by subject.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-45, 48	Correspondence, 1921-1982 Letters, business papers, telegrams, invitations, and other communications to and from Artur Rubinstein. Arranged alphabetically by subject, corporate name, or last name of individual. Correspondence to Rubinstein
BOX 1	Aaron, Betty - Alsop, Joseph
BOX 2	Amann, Thomas - Ax, Emanuel
BOX 3	Baade, Ursula - Bauër, Gerrard
BOX 4	Bean, Mrs. W. S. - Bertrand, Mercedes Includes: Leonard Bernstein
BOX 5	Bianucci, Michael - Boulanger, Nadia
BOX 6	Brace, Louise - Busoni Society
BOX 7	Cabral, Edward - CBS Includes: Pablo Casals; Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco
BOX 8	Chaba, Abraham - Van Cliburn International Quadrennial Piano Competition
BOX 9	Cobb, Jonathan - Czyz, Henryk
BOX 10	Da Costa, David - Dutilleux, Henri Includes: Walter Damrosch; David Diamond; Marlene Dietrich
BOX 11	Eadon, Nicholas - <i>Etude</i>
BOX 12	Fabbiano, Gino - Fitelberg, Gregor Includes: Douglas Fairbanks
BOX 13	Flack, Frank - Furtwängler, Florian Includes: Leon Fleischer; Lukas Foss
BOX 14	Gabor, Antony - Gimpel, Jakob Includes: James Galway; Rudolf Ganz
BOX 15	Glas, Lucia - Gordon, Ruth Includes: Leopold Godowsky
BOX 16	Grab, Nancy - Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Includes: Cary Grant
BOX 17	Haag, Hubert - Henle, Günter Includes: Jascha Heifetz
BOX 18	Hibbard, Dave - Hutcheson, Ernest Includes: Vladimir Horowitz; Bronisław Huberman
BOX 19	Ichikawa, Asamu - Iwaszkiewicz, Jarosław
BOX 20	Jablonski, Maria - Julliard String Quartet
BOX 21	Kachler, Mrs. Edward [?] - Kloiber, Herbert Includes: Garson Kanin; Bronisław Kaper
BOX 22	Knapp, Robert E. - Kubelik, Raphael Includes: Serge Koussevitzky
BOX 23	Labludovsky, Jacobo - Leventritt, Edgar M.
BOX 24	Liebermann, Alexander - Lympany, Moura

Correspondence, 1921-1982

Container	Contents
BOX 25	Maack, Fritz - Mayer, Sir Robert
BOX 26	Mech, Mark - Mlynarski family Includes: Yehudi Menuhin; Dimitri Mitropoulos
BOX 27	Moberg, Ulla-Karin - Mycielski, Zygmunt
BOX 28	Nadley, Harry - Northwestern University
BOX 29	Ober, Harold - Ozinga, Mr. and Mrs. D. Includes: Eugene Ormandy
BOX 30	Pachl, Kevin - Pilkington, Emma Includes: Gregory Peck; Isador Philipp
BOX 31	<i>The Plain Dealer</i> - Quesada, Ernesto de
BOX 32	Rabassa, Eladio - Riverdale Country School Includes: Basil Rathbone; Sviatoslav Richter
BOX 33	Robb, Dan - Rutgers University Includes: Artur Rodzinski; Richard Rodgers
BOX 34	Sablack, Wally - Scottish National Orchestra
BOX 35	Seawell, Wallace - Sonning Music Foundation
BOX 36	Spahn, Jayme - Szymanowski, Karol Includes: Isaac Stern; Leopold and Olga Samaroff Stokowski; George Szell
BOX 37	Tackbackman, Ethelda - Tuwim, Julian
BOX 38	Übel, Marie-Luise - U.S.S.R
BOX 39	Vacations and Community Services for the Blind - Vučković, Vera
BOX 40	Wabersich, Enid - Weyer, Klaus Peter Includes: Bruno Walter
BOX 41	Wheatcroft, Alfred - Wurlitzer, Rudolf and Marie
BOX 42	Xuclá, Ramón Ma - Zuloaga, Guillermo and Anita Includes: Pinchas Zuckerman
BOX 48	Unidentified Chiefly first names only
Correspondence from Rubinstein	
BOX 43	"A" miscellaneous - Jowitt, Lesley
BOX 44	"K" miscellaneous - Quintanilla, Luis
BOX 45	"R-Z" miscellaneous and unidentified
BOX 46-47, 49	Miscellany, 1942-1984 Chiefly clippings and writings by Rubinstein and others. Includes a small amount of programs, interviews, and other materials. Arranged alphabetically by subject.
BOX-FOLDER 49/1-28	Clippings Arranged by country
BOX-FOLDER 47/1-3	Interviews
BOX-FOLDER 46/1	Itineraries
BOX-FOLDER 46/2	Lists Gifts, cards received, books signed, guests, and others
BOX-FOLDER 46/3	Medical records
BOX-FOLDER 46/4, 47/4	Miscellany

Miscellany, 1942-1984

Container	Contents
BOX-FOLDER 46/5	Programs
BOX-FOLDER 46/6	Writings (by Rubinstein)
BOX-FOLDER 46/7-10, 47/5	Writings (by others) Includes "An artist's wife" by Aniela Rubinstein and "La musique de l'amour, ou l'amour de la musique?", a dossier of Artur Rubinstein compiled by Sonia Urbanski