

Grace and Gustave Schirmer Correspondence and Other Papers



**Music Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2020**

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Prepared by the Music Division of the Library of Congress

Finding aid encoded by Mónica Hurd, 2020

Collection Summary

Title: Grace and Gustave Schirmer Correspondence and Other Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1845-1949

Bulk Dates: (1900-1938)

Call No.: ML94.S32

Collector: Fay, Gertrude H. Schirmer, 1888-1992

Creator: Schirmer, Gustave, 1864-1907

Creator: Schirmer, Grace, 1856-1943

Extent: 227 items

Extent: 1 container

Extent: .5 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English, with French and German

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2017570077>

Summary: Gustave Schirmer (1864-1907) was the son of famed German-born music publisher Gustav Schirmer (1829-1893). Gustave is known for establishing Boston Music Co. in 1885 and for filling leadership roles in his father's business, G. Schirmer Inc., from the early 1880s until his death in 1907. He and his wife Grace were very active within the music community and maintained relationships with prominent composers, musicians, and artists worldwide. This collection chiefly consists of their correspondence with these individuals, but also contains clippings, programs, biographical materials, and more.

Provenance

Gift, Gertrude H. Schirmer Fay, 1943

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Processing History

Mónica Hurd processed the Grace and Gustave Schirmer Correspondence and Other Papers and coded the finding aid in 2020.

Related Material

The [Harold Bauer Collection](#) and the [Marian MacDowell Papers](#) contain a small quantity of correspondence with Gustave Schirmer.

The [Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge Foundation Collection](#) contains a small quantity of correspondence with Grace Schirmer.

Copyright Status

Materials from the Grace and Gustave Schirmer Correspondence and Other 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 Grace and Gustave Schirmer Correspondence and Other Papers 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], Grace and Gustave Schirmer Correspondence and Other Papers, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Gustave Schirmer was born in 1864 in New York, New York. He was the second son of famed German-born music publisher Gustav Schirmer (1829-1893). In 1885, Gustave Schirmer organized the Boston Music Co. which gained notoriety after publishing the works of Ethelbert Nevin. Schirmer served as a partner in the firm founded by his father, G. Schirmer Inc., and after his father's death in 1893, managed the business jointly with his elder brother, Rudolph Edward Schirmer (1859-1919). Gustave Schirmer died suddenly of appendicitis in 1907 in Boston, Massachusetts.

Grace Schirmer was born in 1856 in Boston, Massachusetts, to Samuel (d. 1899) and Helen G. Reed Tilton (d. 1901) and was the wife of Gustave Schirmer. The two married in 1885 in Boston and had two children, Gustave Schirmer (1890-1965) and Gertrude H. Schirmer Fay (1888-1992). Grace Schirmer was the author of many critical essays published in various music publications. She died in 1943 in New York, New York.

Scope and Content Note

The Grace and Gustave Schirmer Correspondence and Other Papers span the years 1845-1949, the bulk of which date from 1900 to 1938. The materials primarily consist of [Correspondence](#) received by the couple. The Schirmers maintained the close relationships established in the music community by Schirmer's father, Gustav Schirmer. Notable correspondents include Lawrence Gillman, Vincent d'Indy, and Charles Martin Loeffler. The [Clippings](#) highlight the lives of these prominent composers, authors, and artists, while the [Programs](#) feature specific performances of theirs attended by Mr. and Mrs. Schirmer or other events related to the individuals' activities. The majority of the correspondence is in English, excluding the letters from d'Indy (French) and Hélène Loeffler (German). The [Biographical Materials](#) consist of personal items, including a passport and diary transcripts belonging to both Gustave Schirmer and his father. The [Miscellany](#) series includes two scores, a photograph, and items related to Richard Wagner.

Organization of the Grace and Gustave Schirmer Correspondence and Other Papers

The collection is arranged in five series:

- [Correspondence, 1903-1939](#)
- [Clippings, 1908-1949 \(bulk 1920-1939\)](#)
- [Programs, 1879-1936 \(bulk 1903-1936\)](#)
- [Biographical Materials, 1872-1905](#)
- [Miscellany, 1845-1923](#)

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

Fay, Gertrude H. Schirmer, 1888-1992.

Gilman, Lawrence, 1878-1939--Correspondence.

Gilman, Lawrence, 1878-1939.

Indy, Vincent d', 1851-1931--Correspondence.
Indy, Vincent d', 1851-1931.
Loeffler, Charles Martin, 1861-1935--Correspondence.
Loeffler, Charles Martin, 1861-1935.
Paderewski, Ignace Jan, 1860-1941.
Schirmer, Grace, 1856-1943--Correspondence.
Schirmer, Grace, 1856-1943.
Schirmer, Gustave, 1864-1907--Correspondence.
Schirmer, Gustave, 1864-1907.
Schirmer, Gustave, 1864-1907.
Wagner, Richard, 1813-1869.

Subjects

Composers--Biography.
Music publishers--United States--Biography.
Music publishers--United States--Correspondence.
Music--Instruction and study--United States--History.

Titles

Fay collection
Gustave Schirmer-Fay collection

Form/Genre

Autographs (Manuscripts)
Biographies.
Business correspondence.
Personal correspondence.
Scores.

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1	<p><u>Correspondence, 1903-1939</u></p> <p>Letters to Grace and Gustave Schirmer from notable composers, authors, and artists. Includes communications between Grace Schirmer and Lawrence Gillman and Charles Martin Loeffler until their respective deaths in 1939 and 1935. A small poem is also included from Harriet Spelman Longfellow, the wife of Ernest Wadsworth Longfellow.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by correspondent</p>
BOX 1	<p><u>Clippings, 1908-1949 (bulk 1920-1939)</u></p> <p>Clippings documenting the lives and careers of Charles M. Loeffler and Richard Wagner, in addition to Ignace Jan Paderewski's role in Polish politics.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by subject</p>
BOX 1	<p><u>Programs, 1879-1936 (bulk 1903-1936)</u></p> <p>Programs from events attended by Mr. and Mrs. Schirmer.</p> <p>Arranged chronologically</p>
BOX 1	<p><u>Biographical Materials, 1872-1905</u></p> <p>A passport issued to Gustav Schirmer in 1872 and a transcript from Gustave Schirmer's diary recording his opinion of Loeffler's work.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically.</p>
BOX 1	<p><u>Miscellany, 1845-1923</u></p> <p>Includes published scores for <i>Music for String Instruments</i> and <i>The Mystic Hour</i> by Loeffler. Among the materials related to Richard Wagner is the original opening poster for his opera <i>Tannhäuser</i>, as well as certificates documenting donations made by Gustav Schirmer to support Wagner's Bayreuth Festival.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by name or subject</p>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1903-1939 Letters to Grace and Gustave Schirmer from notable composers, authors, and artists. Includes communications between Grace Schirmer and Lawrence Gillman and Charles Martin Loeffler until their respective deaths in 1939 and 1935. A small poem is also included from Harriet Spelman Longfellow, the wife of Ernest Wadsworth Longfellow. Arranged alphabetically by correspondent
BOX-FOLDER 1/1-3	Gillman, Lawrence, 1910-1939
BOX-FOLDER 1/4	Gillman, Mrs. Lawrence, 1939
BOX-FOLDER 1/5	Hale, Philip, 1922
BOX-FOLDER 1/6	Hayes, Roland, 1924
BOX-FOLDER 1/7	Indy, Vincent d', 1907-1921 Language: French
BOX-FOLDER 1/8-11	Loeffler, Charles Martin to Grace Schirmer, 1903-1932
BOX-FOLDER 1/12-13	Loeffler, Charles Martin to Gustave Schirmer, 1904-1907
BOX-FOLDER 1/14	Loeffler, Hélène, 1936 Language: German
BOX-FOLDER 1/15	Longfellow, Harriet Spelman, 1907 Poem and card with pressed flowers
BOX-FOLDER 1/16	Ravez, Maurice, 1913
BOX-FOLDER 1/17	Sonneck, Oscar George Theodore, 1919-1925
BOX 1	Clippings, 1908-1949 (bulk 1920-1939) Clippings documenting the lives and careers of Charles M. Loeffler and Richard Wagner, in addition to Ignace Jan Paderewski's role in Polish politics. Arranged alphabetically by subject
BOX-FOLDER 1/18	Loeffler, Charles M., 1920s-1930s
BOX-FOLDER 1/21	Miscellaneous, 1930-1940s and undated
BOX-FOLDER 1/19	Paderewski, Ignace Jan, 1941
BOX-FOLDER 1/20	Wagner, Richard, 1908, 1918, 1930-1932, and undated
BOX 1	Programs, 1879-1936 (bulk 1903-1936) Programs from events attended by Mr. and Mrs. Schirmer. Arranged chronologically
BOX-FOLDER 1/22	1879-1889, 1903-1908, 1918-1920
BOX-FOLDER 1/23	1933-1936 and undated
BOX 1	Biographical Materials, 1872-1905 A passport issued to Gustav Schirmer in 1872 and a transcript from Gustave Schirmer's diary recording his opinion of Loeffler's work. Arranged alphabetically.

Biographical Materials, 1872-1905

Container	Contents
BOX-FOLDER 1/24	Gustav Schirmer passport, 1872
BOX-FOLDER 1/25	Transcriptions from Gustave Shirmer's diary, 1901-1905
BOX 1	Miscellany, 1845-1923 Includes published scores for <i>Music for String Instruments</i> and <i>The Mystic Hour</i> by Loeffler. Among the materials related to Richard Wagner is the original opening poster for his opera <i>Tannhäuser</i> , as well as certificates documenting donations made by Gustav Schirmer to support Wagner's Bayreuth Festival. Arranged alphabetically by name or subject
BOX-FOLDER 1/26	Gow, George Coleman, 1889 Holograph score of fugue composed as a student
BOX-FOLDER 1/27	Loeffler, Charles M., undated Photograph
BOX-FOLDER 1/28	Loeffler, Charles M., 1922-1923 and undated Printed scores for <i>The Mystic Hour</i> and Music for Four Stringed Instruments
BOX-FOLDER 1/29	Patronat-Scheine for Bayreuth Festival, 1872-1873 Signed by Richard Wagner
BOX-FOLDER 1/30	<i>Tannhäuser</i> , 1845 Poster for premiere