Collection Summary

Title: Etelka Freund Collection on Béla Bartók
Inclusive Dates: 1903-1971
Bulk Dates: 1907-1936
Call No.: ML31.B3
Creator: Freund, Etelka
Creator: Bartók, Béla, 1881-1945
Extent: approximately 120 items
Extent: 2 containers
Extent: 1.5 linear feet
Language: Collection material in Hungarian, German, and English
Location: Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/2006579400
Summary: Béla Bartók was a Hungarian composer, pianist, and ethnomusicologist. The Etelka Freund Collection on Béla Bartók consists chiefly of correspondence between the composer and pianist Etelka Freund (1879-1977), and printed music for his early works, some of which are annotated. Additional materials include photographs, clippings, programs, publicity materials, and journal articles that document Bartók’s professional activities.

Acquisition Information

Purchase, 1990

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Processing History

Wilda Heiss processed the Etelka Freund Collection on Béla Bartók in the 1990s. Rachel McNellis coded the finding aid in 2021.

Related Material

The Music Division holds a variety of materials related to Béla Bartók. Bartok's holograph score for Concerto for Orchestra (1943) is located in the Koussevitzky Music Foundation Collection. The Moldenhauer Archives at the Library of Congress contains an annotated copy of his Violin Concerto no. 2, as well as autograph letters and other items. The Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge Foundation Collection contains a small amount of correspondence that dates between 1934 and 1943.

Copyright Status

Materials from the Etelka Freund Collection on Béla Bartók 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 Etelka Freund Collection on Béla Bartók 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 on using or copying materials may apply.
Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [item, date, container or reel or digital ID number], Etelka Freund Collection on Béla Bartók, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note: Béla Bartók

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1881 March 25</td>
<td>Born in Nagyszentmiklós, Hungary (present-day Sînnicolau Mare, Romania)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>circa 1886</td>
<td>Began studying piano with his mother, Paula Bartók</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1888</td>
<td>Death of his father, Béla Bartók</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1890s</td>
<td>Composed his earliest works, many of which were dances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1892</td>
<td>Performed in his first public concert as a pianist in Nagyszőlős, Ukraine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1894</td>
<td>Settled in Pozsony, Hungary (present-day Bratislava, Slovakia), with his family after several moves across present-day Ukraine, Slovakia, and Romania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>circa 1895</td>
<td>Studied and worked as an organist at the Catholic Gymnasium in Pozsony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1899 September-1903</td>
<td>Studied piano with István Thomán and composition with Hans von Koessler at the Budapest Academy of Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1904 May-November</td>
<td>Stayed in Gerlice Pusza, Hungary (present-day Ratkó, Slovakia), and notated the traditional Hungarian music of singer Lidi Dósa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1905 March 18</td>
<td>Met Zoltán Kodály, a scholar of Hungarian folksong, in Budapest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1906-1934</td>
<td>Worked as a piano professor at the Budapest Academy of Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1907 July-August</td>
<td>Traveled to Csík in Transylvania, recorded traditional folk music on two phonographs, and analyzed its musical characteristics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1908-1910</td>
<td>Composed and published his first collection of Hungarian and Slovak folk song settings, <em>Gyermeknek (For Children)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1909 January 2</td>
<td>Conducted the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra in his only appearance as a conductor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1909 November</td>
<td>Married his student Márta Ziegler (divorced 1923; died December 2, 1957), who worked as his translator and copyist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910 August</td>
<td>Ziegler gave birth to his son Béla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>Composed the one-act opera <em>A Kékszakállú herceg vára (Bluebeard's Castle)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1913</td>
<td>Traveled to collect Romanian folk music in Máramaros, Hungary (present-day Romania and Ukraine)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1913 June</td>
<td>Traveled to collect folk music of the Berber people in Biskra, Algeria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1914</td>
<td>Composed <em>Román nepi táncok (Romanian Folk Dances)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911 May 12</td>
<td>Budapest Opera premiered his one-act ballet <em>A fából faragott királyfi (The Wooden Prince)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>circa 1918</td>
<td>Entered into a publishing contract with Universal Edition in Vienna, Austria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1921-1923</td>
<td>Completed a two-volume analytical study of 1,800 Slovak folk melodies that, along with a third volume from 1928, remained unpublished during his lifetime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1924</td>
<td>Finished orchestrating his pantomime <em>A csodálatos mandarin (The Miraculous Mandarin)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1918-1930</td>
<td>Promoted his own works in more than 300 concerts in Hungary, Germany, France, Britain, Czechoslovakia, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Italy, and other countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1922 August</td>
<td>Performed in a chamber music festival, later known as the International Society for Contemporary Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923 August</td>
<td>Married Ditta Pásztory, also a pianist (died November 21, 1982)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1924 July</td>
<td>Ditta gave birth to his son Péter (died December 7, 2020)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1927-1928</td>
<td>Toured the United States while on sabbatical from the Budapest Academy of Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1929-1930</td>
<td>Composed <em>Húsz magyar népdal (Twenty Hungarian Folksongs)</em> for voice and piano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1931 January 13</td>
<td>Became a member of the Permanent Committee for Literature and the Arts of the League of Nations’ Commission for Intellectual Co-operation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1934 Published his study on Hungarian folk music, *Népzenénk és a szomszéd népek népzenéje*

Left his position at the Budapest Academy of Music and appointed as an ethnomusicologist in the Budapest Academy of Sciences

1934-1940 Collaborated with Kodály and other researchers on a comprehensive collection of Hungarian folk melodies

1936 Composed *Music for Strings, Percussion, and Celesta* for Paul Sacher and the Basel Chamber Orchestra

1938 January 16 Performed with his wife, Ditta, for the first time at the International Society for Contemporary Music

1938 March Sought a publishing contact with Boosey & Hawkes after Germany annexed Austria

1938 April Began transferring his manuscripts to Switzerland, London, and the United States to protect them from Nazi possession

1939 November Published a collection of 153 piano works, *Mikrokosmos*

1940 April-May Embarked on a tour of the United States, which including a concert with violinist Joseph Szigeti at the Library of Congress

1940 October Emigrated to New York with his wife Ditta

1940 November Awarded an honorary doctorate from Columbia University

1941-1942 Studied Milman Perry's collection of Serbo-Croatian field recordings at Columbia University

1941 November 20-21 Performed his last concert as a soloist

1943 January 21-22 Performed with his wife in his final concert appearance, the United States premiere of his *Concerto for Two Pianos, Percussion, and Orchestra* performed by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra conducted by Fritz Reiner

1943 Spring Appointed visiting professor at Harvard University

Hospitalized for tuberculosis only a few weeks into the semester

1944 December 1 Boston Symphony Orchestra premiered his *Concerto for Orchestra*, which the Koussevitzky Foundation had commissioned the year prior

1945 July-August Composed his *Third Piano Concerto*, except for 17 measures that remained incomplete at the time of his death

1945 September 26 Died of leukemia in New York City

1951 Posthumous publication of *A magyar népzene tára* (*Corpus of Hungarian Music*), which Bartók had edited with Kodály

**Biographical Note: Etelka Freund**

**Date** | **Event**
---|---
1879 | Born in Budapest, Hungary
1880s | Studied with her brother Robert Freund, an internationally acclaimed pianist and instructor at the Conservatory of Zürich, Switzerland

Circa 1890-1894 | Studied piano with István Thomán, who also taught Béla Bartók

Circa 1895-1897 | Studied piano with Ignaz Brüll, and music theory with Eusebius von Mandiozewski in Vienna, Austria

| Studied with Johannes Brahms, who also appointed her as a member to the Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde in Vienna

1898 | Participated in master classes with Ferruccio Busoni in Weimar and Berlin, Germany

1901 | Performed with the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra in her first concert as a pianist

Circa 1902-1903 | Began lifelong friendship with Bartók

1902-1907 | Performed as a concert pianist in Budapest, London, Vienna, and Zürich

Circa 1910-1936 | Married, gave birth to two sons, and stopped all public performances

1936 | Resumed performances as a concert pianist in her first European tour

1946 | Emigrated to the United States

1947 July 6 | Debuted as a concert pianist in the United States at the National Gallery in Washington, D.C.
1948-1977  Gave recitals but was unable to establish a steady career as a concert pianist
1951-1957  Performed 20 recitals on WYNC’s radio shows “Keyboard Masters” and "Hands Across the Sea,”
            some of which were recorded
1950s      Recorded two LPs with Remington and Plymouth Records
1977 May 27 Died in Zürich, Switzerland

Scope and Content Note

The Etelka Freund Collection on Béla Bartók contains materials that document the life and works of Béla Bartók. These
items date between 1903 and 1971, with the majority from 1907 to 1936. The Papers series consists of autograph
correspondence between Bartók and pianist Etelka Freund, a signed first edition copy of his Hungarian Folk Music,
photographs, clippings, programs, publicity materials, and journal articles. The Printed Music series chiefly contains scores
music for various Bartók’ compositions, including four rare, annotated publisher proofs of his early works.

Organization of the Etelka Freund Collection on Béla Bartók

The collection is arranged in two series:
•  Papers, 1903-1971
•  Printed Music, 1910-1920

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
Bartók, Béla, 1881-1945--Correspondence.
Bartók, Béla, 1881-1945.
Bartók, Béla, 1881-1945.
Freund, Etelka--Correspondence.
Freund, Etelka.

Subjects
Composers--Hungary--Correspondence.
Pianists--Switzerland--Correspondence.
Piano music (Pianos (2))
Piano music.
Piano with orchestra--Scores.

Titles
Bartók-Freund collection, 1904-1970

Form/Genre
Art music.
Articles.
Autographs (Manuscripts)
Clippings (Information artifacts)
Personal correspondence.
Photographs.
Programs (Publications)
Rhapsodies (Music)
Scores.
Description of Series

Container    | Series                  | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
**BOX 1**    | **Papers, 1903-1971**   | This series consists of diverse materials that document significant moments and relationships in Bartók’s professional and personal life. Correspondence comprises the majority of these items and includes nearly seventy autograph letters and postcards that Bartók and pianist Etelka Freund wrote to each other between 1907 and 1952. Other items with Bartók’s signature include a photograph of himself with Freund and her niece Irma, as well as a first edition copy of his book *Hungarian Folk Music*. The remaining items consist of newspaper clippings with Bartók’s published essays, programs and publicity materials for his performances and other engagements, and journal articles about his music. Arranged alphabetically by material type. |
**BOX 2**    | **Printed Music, 1910-1920** | This series includes fourteen compositions that were published between 1910 and 1920. The only work not by Bartók is Zoltán Kodály’s 10 pièces pour le piano (10 Pieces for Piano). Of note are four publisher proofs dating from 1910-1911 for first editions of Bartók’s early works, which he annotated in red crayon and pencil. These include selections from *Gyermeknek (For Children)*, *Két eléggia (Two Elegies)*, op.8b, *Két román tánc (Two Romanian Dances)*, op. 8a, and *Rhapsodie pour 2 pianos à 4 mains (Rhapsody for 2 Pianos and Four Hands)*. These scores document changes that the composer made to these works during the publishing process, and are significant due to a paucity of primary source material for his compositions from this time period. The rest of this series consists of his piano music, such as *3 Burleszk (3 Burlesques pour le piano)*, op. 8c, and *Gyászinduló (Kossuth)*, as well as his Rhapsodie pour piano et l'orchestre (Rhapsody for Piano and Orchestra). Arranged alphabetically by title. |
## Container List

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| BOX 1     | Papers, 1903-1971  
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Arranged alphabetically by material type. |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/1 | Book. *Hungarian Folk Music.*  
London: Oxford University Press, 1931 |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/2 | Clippings, 1932, 1971  
Correspondence |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/5 | 1903-1942  
Postcards |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/3 | 1907-circa 1908  
Holograph letters, signed |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/6 | 1907-1936  
Postcards, signed |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/4 | 1908-1952 |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/7 | Photographs, 1908 July, 1940 May |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/8 | Printed matter, 1917-1971  
Journal and magazine articles about Bartók |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/9 | Programs, 1927-1957, undated |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/10 | Publicity materials, circa 1940, 1950 |
| BOX 2     | Printed Music, 1910-1920  
This series includes fourteen compositions that were published between 1910 and 1920. The only work not by Bartók is Zoltán Kodály’s 10 pièces pour le piano (10 Pieces for Piano). Of note are four publisher proofs dating from 1910-1911 for first editions of Bartók’s early works, which he annotated in red crayon and pencil. These include selections from *Gyermeknek (For Children)*, *Két elegia* (Two Elegies), op.8b, *Két román tánc* (Two Romanian Dances), op. 8a, and *Rhapsodie pour 2 pianos à 4 mains* (Rhapsody for 2 Pianos and Four Hands). These scores document changes that the composer made to these works during the publishing process, and are significant due to a paucity of primary source material for his compositions from this time period. The rest of this series consists of his piano music, such as *3 Burleszk* (3 Burlesques pour le piano), op. 8c, and *Gyűszinduló (Kossuth)*, as well as his Rhapsodie pour piano et l’orchestre (Rhapsody for Piano and Orchestra).  
Arranged alphabetically by title. |
| Music by Béla Bartók, 1910-1920 |
### Printed Music, 1910-1920

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| BOX-FOLDER 2/1 | 3 Burleszk (3 Burlesques for piano), op. 8c, 1912  
Score for piano |
| BOX-FOLDER 2/2 | Allegro Barbaro, 1918  
Score for piano |
| BOX-FOLDER 2/3 | Etudes pour le piano (Etudes for piano), op. 18, 1920  
Score for piano |
| BOX-FOLDER 2/4 | Gyászinduló (Kossuth), undated  
Score for piano |
| BOX-FOLDER 2/12 | Gyermeknek (For Children), selections, 1911  
Publisher's proofs of score for piano with Bartók's autograph corrections in red crayon and pencil  
Contents:  
Vadviragok (Wildflowers); Változatok (Variations); Játékdal (Play Song); Duhajkodó (Feast Song) |
| BOX-FOLDER 2/5 | Gyermeknek (For Children), parts 1 and 2, undated  
Score for piano |
| BOX-FOLDER 2/13 | Két elégia (Two Elegies), op. 8b, 1910  
Publisher's proofs of score for piano with Bartók's autograph corrections in red crayon and pencil  
Contents:  
Vadviragok (Wildflowers); Változatok (Variations); Játékdal (Play Song); Duhajkodó (Feast Song) |
| BOX-FOLDER 2/9 | Két román tánc (Two Romanian Dances), op. 8a, 1910  
Publisher's proofs of score for piano with Bartók's autograph corrections in red crayon and pencil |
| BOX-FOLDER 2/6 | Rhapsodie pour 2 pianos à 4 mains (Rhapsody for 2 Pianos with Four Hands), 1910  
Publisher's proofs of score for piano duet with Bartók's autograph corrections in red crayon and pencil |
| BOX-FOLDER 2/8 | Rhapsodie pour le piano (Rhapsody for Piano), op. 1, undated  
Score for piano |
| BOX-FOLDER 2/7 | Rhapsodie pour piano et l'orchestre (Rhapsody for Piano and Orchestra), 1910  
Full score |
| BOX-FOLDER 2/10 | Szonatina (Sonata for Piano), 1919  
Score for piano |
| BOX-FOLDER 2/11 | Szvit (Suite), op. 14, 1918  
Score for piano |

**Music by Zoltán Kodály, 1910**

| BOX-FOLDER 2/14 | 10 pièces pour le piano (10 pieces for the piano), 1910  
Score for piano |