

# Etelka Freund Collection on Béla Bartók



**Music Division, Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C.  
2021**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/2006579400>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.music/eadmus.mu021013>

Prepared by the Music Division of the Library of Congress

Finding aid encoded by Rachel McNellis, 2021

## 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://lcn.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. Bartók'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

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

1934	Published his study on Hungarian folk music, <i>Népzénénk és a szomszéd népek népzénéje</i> 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 <i>Music for Strings, Percussion, and Celesta</i> 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, <i>Mikrokosmos</i>
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 <i>Concerto for Two Pianos, Percussion, and Orchestra</i> 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 <i>Concerto for Orchestra</i> , which the Koussevitzky Foundation had commissioned the year prior
1945 July-August	Composed his <i>Third Piano Concerto</i> , 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 <i>A magyar népzene tára (Corpus of Hungarian Music)</i> , 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.  
 Bartók, Béla, 1881-1945. Works. Selections.  
 Freund, Etelka--Correspondence.  
 Freund, Etelka.  
 Kodály, Zoltán, 1882-1967. Music, piano, op. 3.

### 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

BOX 1

### Series

#### 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 piéces 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 *Gyermekeknek (For Children)*, *Két elégia (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

Container	Contents
<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>Papers, 1903-1971</b> <p>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 <i>Hungarian Folk Music</i>. 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.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by material type.</p>
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/1</b>	Book. <i>Hungarian Folk Music</i> . London: Oxford University Press, 1931
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/2</b>	Clippings, 1932, 1971 Correspondence
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/5</b>	1903-1942 Postcards
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/3</b>	1907-circa 1908 Holograph letters, signed
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/6</b>	1907-1936 Postcards, signed
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/4</b>	1908-1952
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/7</b>	Photographs, 1908 July, 1940 May
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/8</b>	Printed matter, 1917-1971 Journal and magazine articles about Bartók
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/9</b>	Programs, 1927-1957, undated
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/10</b>	Publicity materials, circa 1940, 1950
<b>BOX 2</b>	<b>Printed Music, 1910-1920</b> <p>This series includes fourteen compositions that were published between 1910 and 1920. The only work not by Bartók is Zoltán Kodály's 10 piéces 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 <i>Gyermekeknek (For Children)</i>, <i>Két elégia (Two Elegies)</i>, op.8b, <i>Két román tánc (Two Romanian Dances)</i>, op. 8a, and <i>Rhapsodie pour 2 pianos à 4 mains (Rhapsody for 2 Pianos and Four Hands)</i>. 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 <i>3 Burleszk (3 Burlesques pour le piano)</i>, op. 8c, and <i>Gyászinduló (Kossuth)</i>, as well as his <i>Rhapsodie pour piano et l'orchestre (Rhapsody for Piano and Orchestra)</i>.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by title.</p> <p><b>Music by Béla Bartók, 1910-1920</b></p>



## Printed Music, 1910-1920

Container	Contents
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	<i>Gyászinduló (Kossuth)</i> , undated Score for piano
BOX-FOLDER 2/12	<i>Gyermekeknek (For Children)</i> , selections, 1911 Publisher's proofs of score for piano with Bartók's autograph corrections in red crayon and pencil
BOX-FOLDER 2/5	<i>Gyermekeknek (For Children)</i> , 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 <i>Contents: Vadvirágok (Wildflowers); Változatok (Variations); Játékdal (Play Song); Duhajkodó (Feast Song)</i>
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
<b>Music by Zoltán Kodály, 1910</b>	
BOX-FOLDER 2/14	10 pièces pour le piano (10 pieces for the piano), 1910 Score for piano