

# Houston L. Maples Family Collection on Russian Theatre, Opera, and Ballet



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

Finding aid encoded by Emily Baumgart and Alicia Patterson, 2021 September

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Houston L. Maples Family Collection on Russian Theater, Opera, and Ballet

**Inclusive Dates:** 1940-2004

**Bulk Dates:** 1944-1947

**Call No.:** ML31.M2137

**Creator:** Maples, Houston L., 1927-2007; Maples, Houston L.

**Extent:** approximately 180 items

**Extent:** 4 containers

**Extent:** 2 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in Russian, English, and French. Russian items include English translations prepared by Library staff.

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/2013572141>

**Summary:** Houston L. Maples was a United States naval attaché to Moscow. His son, Houston Maples Jr., worked in the State Department's Moscow Office of Information and Culture. The collection includes photographs, programs, and writings pertaining to dance and opera, particularly in the immediate post-World War II period in the Soviet Union. The Bolshoi Theatre and Kirov Ballet (now known as Mariinsky Ballet) are well-represented.

## Acquisition Information

Gift, Mary Lee Maples, 2008.

## Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

## Processing History

Elizabeth Aldrich processed the collection in 2010, with Russian translations and transliterations provided by Maria Cook. It was renamed the Houston L. Maples Family Collection on Russian Theatre, Opera, and Ballet in 2020. Emily Baumgart and Alicia Patterson coded the finding aid in 2021.

## Transfers

Video recordings of Russian performances included in the Houston L. Maples Family Collection on Russian Theatre, Opera, and Ballet have been transferred to the Library of Congress Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound (MBRS) Division. An inventory of this material is available in the Music Division's collection file.

## Copyright Status

Materials from the Houston L. Maples Family Collection on Russian Theatre, Opera, and Ballet 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 Houston L. Maples Family Collection on Russian Theatre, Opera, and Ballet 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], Houston L. Maples Family Collection on Russian Theatre, Opera, and Ballet, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Notes

### Houston L. Maples

Houston Ledbetter Maples was born on March 4, 1896, in Scottsboro, Alabama, to William Caswell Maples (1859-1919) and Sephronia Starkey (1867-1965). He graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1917 and was ordered to duty in Rhode Island with the Atlantic Fleet in World War I. He married Marjorie Ann Brewer on July 9, 1924. They had two children, Houston L. Maples Jr., and Anne Louise Maples. He became a rear admiral in the United States Navy and the naval attaché to Moscow from April 1945 to June 1947. He retired from the military in 1948 and died in Scottsboro on February 15, 1980.

### Houston L. Maples Jr.

Houston L. Maples Jr. was born in Annapolis, Maryland, on December 7, 1927. He traveled often because of his father's career and later worked in the State Department's Moscow Office of Information and Culture. He earned his bachelor's degree from George Washington University in 1950 and a master's degree in library science from Catholic University of America in 1951. He married Mary Lee Palmer on January 14, 1959; they had two children, Alan W. Maples and Arthur B. Maples. Houston L. Maples Jr. had a 38-year career in the D.C. public library system, including serving as director of automated services. Additionally, he was a music collector and wrote on post-war Soviet ballet and opera. He died in Chevy Chase, Maryland, on December 11, 2007.

## Scope and Content Note

The Houston Maples Family Collection contains materials related to performances of opera, theater, and ballet in Moscow. This includes programs, photographs, books, and videotapes related to dance productions at the Bolshoi Theatre that were gathered by the Mapleses between 1945 and 1983. The bulk of these items date from 1946 and 1947. The photographs and programs include traditional Bolshoi productions of Marius Petipa's choreographies, such as *Don Quixote*, *Raymonda*, *The Nutcracker*, and *Swan Lake*, as well as the pioneering Soviet ballet classics *Flames of Paris* (Vainonen) and *The Fountain of Bakhchisarai* (Zakharov). The book series represents material on ballet schools, theaters, opera ballet, analysis of different productions, ballerinas, and dance theory. This includes titles such as *Ballets de Moscou* by the Ballet Company of Stanislavski and Nemirovich-Danchenko Moscow Academic Music Theatre, as well as *The Bolshoi Theatre Ballet*. Other ballets represented in the collection include Serge Prokofiev's *Cinderella* (Zakharov) and *Romeo and Juliet* (Lavrovsky).

## Organization of the Houston L. Maples Family Collection on Russian Theatre, Opera, and Ballet

The collection is arranged in four series:

- [Photographs, 1940-1947](#)
- [Programs and Promotional Material, 1945-2004](#)
- [Writings, 1944-1999](#)
- [Books, 1952-1985](#)

## 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**

Chabukiani, Vakhtang Mikhaïlovich, 1910-1992.  
Dudinskai`a`, Natal'i`a` Mikhaïlovna, 1912-2003.  
Lepeshinskai`a`, Ol'ga Vasil'evna, 1916-2008.  
Maples, Houston L.  
Maples, Houston L., 1927-2007.  
Vaïnonen, V.  
Zakharov, Rostislav.

**Organizations**

Bol'shoï teatr SSSR. Balet.  
Leningradskii gosudarstvennyi akademicheskii teatr opery i baleta imeni S.M. Kirova.

**Subjects**

Ballet--Production and direction.  
Ballet--Soviet Union--History--20th century.  
Choreography--History--20th century.  
Opera--Production and direction.  
Opera--Soviet Union--20th century.

**Titles**

*Houston Maples Bolshoi Theatre Opera and Ballet materials*

**Form/Genre**

Books.  
Concert programs.  
Dance programs.  
Photographs.  
Theater programs.  
Writings (Documents)

## Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1	<p><b><u>Photographs, 1940-1947</u></b></p> <p>Photographs of performances and performers of Soviet ballet and opera. Arranged alphabetically, first by production title and then by performer.</p>
BOX 2	<p><b><u>Programs and Promotional Material, 1945-2004</u></b></p> <p>Performance programs from various venues and promotional materials including libretti and calendars, collected by Houston L. Maples and Houston L. Maples Jr. Arranged alphabetically by venue and then chronologically therein.</p>
BOX 2	<p><b><u>Writings, 1944-1999</u></b></p> <p>Writings by Houston L. Maples Jr., and others on topics pertaining to the Bolshoi Theatre and Soviet ballet. Arranged alphabetically by author.</p>
BOX 3-4	<p><b><u>Books, 1952-1985</u></b></p> <p>Books on various dance-related topics owned by Maples. Arranged alphabetically by author.</p>

# Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	<b>Photographs, 1940-1947</b> Photographs of performances and performers of Soviet ballet and opera. Arranged alphabetically, first by production title and then by performer.  Productions  BOX-FOLDER 1/1 <i>Boris Godunov</i> , 1947 April 18 BOX-FOLDER 1/2 <i>Cinderella</i> , 1945 November and undated BOX-FOLDER 1/3 <i>Don Quixote</i> , 1942 July and undated BOX-FOLDER 1/4 <i>Eugene Onegin</i> , circa 1945-1947 BOX-FOLDER 1/5 <i>Flames of Paris</i> , 1947 April 18 BOX-FOLDER 1/6 <i>The Fountain of Bakhchisarai</i> , circa 1945-1947 BOX-FOLDER 1/7 <i>Giselle</i> , circa 1945-1947 BOX-FOLDER 1/8 <i>The Great Tsar</i> , circa 1945-1947 BOX-FOLDER 1/9 <i>Ivan Grozny</i> , circa 1945-1947 BOX-FOLDER 1/10 <i>Ivan Susanin</i> , circa 1945-1947 BOX-FOLDER 1/11 <i>Mistress into Maid</i> , circa 1945-1947 BOX-FOLDER 1/12 <i>Nutcracker</i> , 1946 June-1947 April BOX-FOLDER 1/13 <i>Prince Igor</i> , circa 1945-1947 BOX-FOLDER 1/14 <i>Queen of Spades</i> , circa 1945-1947 BOX-FOLDER 1/15 <i>Raymonda</i> , 1946 July 31 and undated BOX-FOLDER 1/16 <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> , 1940 May BOX-FOLDER 1/17 <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> , 1947 January and undated BOX-FOLDER 1/18 <i>Scarlet Sails</i> , 1945 November 15 BOX-FOLDER 1/19 <i>Swan Lake</i> , 1947 July and undated BOX-FOLDER 1/20 <i>Taras Bulba</i> , circa 1945-1947 BOX-FOLDER 1/21 <i>Three Sisters</i> , circa 1945-1947 BOX-FOLDER 1/22 <i>The Tsar's Bride</i> , 1946 February 16 BOX-FOLDER 1/23 Unidentified ballets, circa 1945-1947  Performers  BOX-FOLDER 1/24 Chabukiani, Vakhtang, circa 1945-1947 BOX-FOLDER 1/25 Chabukiani, Vakhtang and Natalia Dudinskaya, circa 1945-1947 BOX-FOLDER 1/26 Dudinskaya, Natalia, circa 1945-1947 BOX-FOLDER 1/27 Konyus, Natalia, 1947 BOX-FOLDER 1/28 Lepeshinskaya, Olga, 1947 March 10 and undated BOX-FOLDER 1/29 Lepeshinskaya, Olga and Asaf Messerer, circa 1945-1947 BOX-FOLDER 1/30 Messerer, Asaf, circa 1945-1947 BOX-FOLDER 1/31 Messerer, Sulamif, circa 1945-1947 BOX-FOLDER 1/36 Opera singers, 1941 March and undated BOX-FOLDER 1/32 Plisetskaya, Maya, circa 1945-1947 BOX-FOLDER 1/33 Semenova, Marina, circa 1945-1947 BOX-FOLDER 1/34 Sergeev, Konstantin, circa 1945-1947

## Photographs, 1940-1947

Container	Contents
BOX-FOLDER 1/35	Ulanova, Galina, circa 1945-1947
BOX 2	<b>Programs and Promotional Material, 1945-2004</b> Performance programs from various venues and promotional materials including libretti and calendars, collected by Houston L. Maples and Houston L. Maples Jr. Arranged alphabetically by venue and then chronologically therein.
BOX-FOLDER 2/1	Bolshoi Theatre: <i>Ivan Susanin</i> , 1945
BOX-FOLDER 2/2	Bolshoi Theatre: <i>Abesalom da Eterie</i> , 1946
BOX-FOLDER 2/3	Bolshoi Theatre: Balanchine series, 2004
BOX-FOLDER 2/4	House of the Unions, Pillar Hall: USSR Radio Committee Great Symphony Orchestra, 1946 April 13
BOX-FOLDER 2/5	House of the Unions, Pillar Hall: Concert performance of <i>Samson et Delilah</i> , Bolshoi Theatre production, 1946 April 22
BOX-FOLDER 2/6	House of the Unions, Pillar Hall: Concert performance of <i>Khovanshchina</i> , Bolshoi Theatre production, 1946 September 30
BOX-FOLDER 2/7	House of the Unions, Pillar Hall: Concert performance of <i>Faust</i> , Bolshoi Theatre production, 1947 March 31
BOX-FOLDER 2/8	Kirov State Academic Theatre of Opera and Ballet: <i>Tatyana</i> , 1947 June 29
BOX-FOLDER 2/9	Kirov State Academic Theatre of Opera and Ballet: <i>Tatyana</i> , 1947
BOX-FOLDER 2/10	Kirov State Academic Theatre of Opera and Ballet: <i>Giselle</i> , 1991 June 23
BOX-FOLDER 2/11	Moscow State Conservatory: Opera studio, 1945-1946
BOX-FOLDER 2/12	Moscow State Conservatory, Great Hall: USSR State Symphony Orchestra and State Jazz Band recital, 1946 July 5
BOX-FOLDER 2/13	Moscow State Conservatory, Great Hall: A. P. Ivanov solo recital; Fourth Evening of Organ Music, 1946 December 15, 23
BOX-FOLDER 2/14	Moscow State Conservatory, Great Hall: David Oistrakh, Development of Violin Concerto recitals, 1946-1947
BOX-FOLDER 2/15	Moscow State Conservatory, Great Hall: USSR State Symphony Orchestra, two recitals, 1947 January 7-11
BOX-FOLDER 2/16	Moscow State Conservatory, Great Hall: USSR State Symphony Orchestra concerts, 1947 January 13, 16
BOX-FOLDER 2/17	Moscow State Conservatory, Great Hall: USSR State Symphony Orchestra recital, 1947 January 31
BOX-FOLDER 2/18	Moscow State Conservatory, Great Hall: USSR State Symphony Orchestra, 1947 February 28
BOX-FOLDER 2/19-20	Stanislavski and Nemirovich-Danchenko Moscow Academic Music Theatre: <i>The Merry Wives of Windsor</i> , 1946
BOX-FOLDER 2/21	Stanislavski and Nemirovich-Danchenko Moscow Academic Music Theatre: <i>Scheherazade</i> , 1946
BOX-FOLDER 2/22	Stanislavski and Nemirovich-Danchenko Moscow Academic Music Theatre: <i>Francesca da Rimini</i> , 1947?
BOX-FOLDER 2/23	Tchaikovsky Concert Hall: Ewa Bandrowska-Turska recital, 1946 June 27
BOX-FOLDER 2/24	Tchaikovsky Concert Hall: Ballet performance, Kirov Ballet, 1947 March 17-18
BOX-FOLDER 2/25	Tchaikovsky Concert Hall: Kirov soloists recital, 1947 May 10-11 Unidentified venues
BOX-FOLDER 2/26	Calendar of Moscow theaters, 1947 May 21-31
BOX-FOLDER 2/27	Performance Repertory Leningrad Theaters, 1947 June 21-30
BOX-FOLDER 2/28	Synopsis of <i>The Fountain of Bakhchisarai</i> , undated

## Programs and Promotional Material, 1945-2004

Container	Contents
BOX-FOLDER 2/29	Libretto for <i>Mistress into Maid</i> , undated
BOX 2	<b>Writings, 1944-1999</b> Writings by Houston L. Maples Jr., and others on topics pertaining to the Bolshoi Theatre and Soviet ballet. Arranged alphabetically by author.
BOX-FOLDER 2/30	Borodinsky, V. <i>Cinderella</i> at the Bolshoi, undated
BOX-FOLDER 2/31	Maples, Houston, Jr. "Opera on Soviet Discs," <i>The Saturday Review</i> , 1949 September 24
BOX-FOLDER 2/31	Maples, Houston, Jr. Miscellaneous writings, 1998 August 26, 1999 February 7 <i>Note:</i> Writings posted by Maples to the Opera Listserv
BOX-FOLDER 2/32	Unidentified author. <i>Giselle: 1844-1944</i> , 1944
BOX-FOLDER 2/33	Unidentified author. Shakespeare without Words: Romeo and Juliet in Moscow, undated
BOX 3-4	<b>Books, 1952-1985</b> Books on various dance-related topics owned by Maples. Arranged alphabetically by author.
BOX-FOLDER 3/1	Bonnat, Yves. <i>Ballets de Moscou: Par la Troupe du Théâtre Lyrique National Stanislavski et Nemirovitch-Dantchenko</i> , Paris, 1956
BOX-FOLDER 4/1	Demidov, Aleksandr. <i>Lebedinoe Ozero</i> , Moscow, 1985
BOX-FOLDER 3/2	Gabovitch, Mikhail. <i>Mikhail Gabovich</i> , Moscow, 1977
BOX-FOLDER 3/3	Lido, Serge. <i>Ballet 2</i> , Paris, 1952
BOX-FOLDER 3/4	Messerer, Asaf. <i>Tanet s' , mysl' , vremi a' ,</i> Moscow, 1979
BOX-FOLDER 3/5	Slonimsky, Yury. <i>The Bolshoi Theatre Ballet: Notes</i> , Moscow, 1956
BOX-FOLDER 3/6	Solodovnikov, Aleksandr. <i>Olga Lepeshinskaya</i> , Moscow, 1983
BOX-FOLDER 3/7	Zhdanov, Leonid. <i>Shkola Bol'shogo Baleta</i> , Moscow, 1974