

David Oppenheim Papers



**Music Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2022**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/2016570648>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.music/eadmus.mu022017>

Prepared by the Music Division of the Library of Congress

Finding aid encoded by Shantel Lambert and Melissa Capozio Jones, 2022 June

Collection Summary

Title: David Oppenheim Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1910-2004

Bulk Dates: 1920-1998

Call No.: ML31.O66

Creator: Oppenheim, David

Extent: approximately 910 items

Extent: 7 containers

Extent: 4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2016570648>

Summary: David Oppenheim (1922-2007) was a clarinetist, educator, and producer. He served as the director of the Masterworks Division at Columbia Records, as a producer of music documentaries at CBS, and as the Dean of the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University (NYU). This collection contains correspondence, photographs, programs, music, and miscellaneous documents related to Oppenheim's work as an arts administrator, record and television producer, and performer.

Acquisition Information

Gift, Patricia Jaffe Oppenheim, 2013

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Processing History

Shantel Lambert and Melissa Capozio Jones processed the David Oppenheim Papers and coded the finding aid in 2022. Mark Horowitz contributed biographical material on Oppenheim to the finding aid.

Other Repositories

The New York University Archives holds the Records of the Office of the Dean of the Tisch School of the Arts, 1956-1981, which includes correspondence with Oppenheim.

Related Material

The [Leonard Bernstein Collection](#) contains photographs and correspondence with David Oppenheim. The [David Diamond Papers](#) contain a small amount of correspondence from David Oppenheim.

Copyright Status

Materials from the David Oppenheim 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 David Oppenheim Papers are 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], David Oppenheim Papers, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1922 April 13	Born David Jerome Oppenheim in Detroit, Michigan
circa 1929	Attended Juilliard for one year Studied with Arthur Christmann
1936-1939	Studied with Gusatve Langenus at Interlochen Arts Camp
1942	Began studies at the Tanglewood Music Festival for several summers Met and befriended Leonard Bernstein Bernstein dedicated his Clarinet Sonata to Oppenheim
1943	Performed under several conductors, including Toscanini, Stokowski, Stravinsky, and Bernstein
circa 1944	Graduated from Eastman School of Music, where he studied with Rufus Mont Arey
1947	Served as an anti-tank gunner during World War Two Recorded Schubert's <i>Der hirt auf dem Felsen</i> with soprano Dorothy Maynor and pianist George Schick on the Victor Red Seal label
1948-1957	Was married to Judy Holliday
late 1940s	Principal clarinetist with the New York Symphony Orchestra
circa 1950	Performed on album <i>Erna Berger Sings Mozart and Schubert</i> for RCA Victor
1950-1959	Director of the Masterworks division at Columbia Records
1952	Premiered David Diamond's Quintet for clarinet, two violas, and two cellos
1952 November 10	Son Jonathan Louis Oppenheim was born
1953	Recorded Douglas Moore's Quintet for Clarinet and Strings with the New Music String Quartet for Columbia Masterworks Recorded Aaron Copland's Sextet with pianist Leonid Hambro, violist Ferenc Molnar, and the Juilliard String Quartet for Columbia Masterworks
1954	Recorded Alec Wilder's <i>Antoniette the Clarinet</i> for Golden Records
1955	Recorded Igor Stravinsky's <i>L'histoire du soldat</i> and Octet for Wind Instruments for Columbia Masterworks
1955 August	Performed Brahms' Clarinet Quintet in B minor, op. 114 with the Budapest String Quartet at the Library of Congress
1956	Recorded the Brahms Clarinet Quintet with the Budapest Quartet for Columbia Masterworks
1957-1978	Married to Ellen Adler
1958 February 7	Daughter Sara Elizabeth Oppenheim was born
1958	Recorded Mozart's Clarinet Quintet in A major, K. 581 with the Budapest Quartet
1959 January	Performed the Mozart Clarinet Quintet with the Budapest String Quartet at the Library of Congress
1959 June 4	Son Thomas Oppenheim was born
1959	Recorded Stravinsky's Octet for Wind Instruments for Columbia Masterworks Served as music consultant for two episodes of Leonard Bernstein's <i>Young People's Concerts</i>

1961	Recorded on <i>Igor Stravinsky Conducts</i> for Columbia
1962-1967	Writer and producer at CBS
1963-1964	Executive producer for twelve episodes of the television series <i>Here's Edie</i>
1964	Wrote, produced, and directed the television program <i>Casals at 88</i> , which won the Prix Italia
1966	Wrote and produced the episode "Stravinsky: Portrait of a Great Composer" for the television series <i>Sunday Night</i>
1967	Co-wrote and produced the television documentary <i>Inside Pop: The Rock Revolution</i>
1969 February 1	Became the second dean of the New York University (NYU) School of the Arts
1982-1985	As dean, solicited and secured a \$7.5 million donation from brothers Laurence A. and Preston Robert Tisch NYU School of the Arts renamed the Tisch School of the Arts Curriculum was vastly expanded, and activities were centralized in a new building at 721 Broadway
1983-1987	Tony Awards nominating committee member
1987-2007	Married to Patricia Jaffe
1991	Retired as dean of Tisch School of the Arts
2007 November 14	Died in New York City

Scope and Content Note

The David Oppenheim Papers span from 1910 to 2004, with the bulk of the materials dating from 1920 to 1998. The collection chiefly contains correspondence, photographs, programs, music, and other documents related to Oppenheim's professional career as the director of the Masterworks Division of Columbia Records and as the Dean of the Tisch School of the Arts at NYU. The collection also contains a significant amount of family materials, including correspondence, photographs, and genealogical research materials.

The [Correspondence](#) series contains professional and personal letters and includes notable names in music as well as prominent political figures of the mid-twentieth century. The professional correspondence focuses solely on Oppenheim's work at Columbia Records, CBS, and Tisch School of the Arts. Extensive correspondence between Oppenheim and his extended family can also be found in this series, the majority of which dates from his military service during World War Two, 1943-1945.

The [Photographs](#) series consists primarily of images of Oppenheim alone and with others. Included are photographs of performances and recording sessions at CBS and Columbia Records and photographs from Tisch School of the Arts events. Family photographs include Oppenheim's immediate and extended family.

The [Programs](#) series includes programs for concerts and events from 1944 to 1999 in which Oppenheim was a performer.

The [Music](#) series contains printed musical scores from Oppenheim's time at Columbia Records and one handwritten excerpt in the hand of Serge Koussevitzky. The Columbia Records scores contain recording session annotations.

The [Miscellany](#) series contains materials from both Oppenheim's professional career and personal life. Items include newspaper clippings, Oppenheim family genealogical research, speeches, and other assorted documents.

Organization of the David Oppenheim Papers

The collection is arranged in five series:

- [Correspondence, 1921-2004](#)
- [Photographs, 1920-2001](#)
- [Programs, 1944-1999](#)
- [Music, 1910-1987](#)
- [Miscellany, 1929-1998](#)

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

Oppenheim, David, 1922-2007--Archives.
Oppenheim, David, 1922-2007--Correspondence.
Oppenheim, David, 1922-2007.

Organizations

Columbia Records, Inc.--History.
Tisch School of the Arts--History.

Subjects

Clarinetists--United States--Correspondence.
Sound recording executives and producers--United States--Correspondence.
Sound recording industry--United States--History--20th century.
Television and music--United States--History--20th century.
Television producers and directors--United States--Correspondence.

Form/Genre

Annotations.
Art music.
Business correspondence.
Chamber music.
Clippings (Information artifacts)
Concert programs.
Personal correspondence.
Photographs.
Rhapsodies (Music)
Scores.
Speeches.
Symphonies.

Description of Series

Container

Series

BOX 1-2

Correspondence, 1921-2004

This series consists mainly of professional correspondence from Oppenheim's career with Columbia Records as well as his time as the Dean of the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University. Personal correspondence between Oppenheim and his family and friends, primarily from his years of military service during World War Two, can also be found in this series. Of note is correspondence between Oppenheim and a number of prominent conductors, composers, and musicians, including Sir Thomas Beecham, Leonard Bernstein, Pablo Casals, Alexander Schneider, and Igor Stravinsky. Other notable names include President Richard Nixon and former New York City mayor Ed Koch. The miscellaneous correspondence includes a small amount of newspaper clippings that colleagues sent to Oppenheim. Select correspondence in this series contains Nazi symbols and paraphernalia. Arranged alphabetically by name or subject.

BOX 3-4, 7

Photographs, 1920-2001

This series consists primarily of photographs of Oppenheim alone, his work, and his family. Included are photographs of performances and recording sessions at CBS and Columbia Records and photographs from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts events. Notable figures in the series include Lauren Bacall, Pablo Casals, Serge Koussevitzky, President Richard Nixon, and Barbara Walters. Family photographs include Oppenheim's immediate and extended family as well as images of him in childhood through adulthood. The family photographs supplement the family correspondence and genealogical materials in other series.

Arranged alphabetically by subject.

BOX 4

Programs, 1944-1999

This series contains programs for performances in which Oppenheim participated. Included is a concert program for a performance at the Library of Congress by the Budapest Quartet with Oppenheim accompanying, as well as a number of concerts performed under the direction of Pablo Casals.

Arranged chronologically.

BOX 5

Music, 1910-1987

This series contains scores from Oppenheim's time at Columbia Records and a small amount of miscellaneous music. The Columbia Records scores were used for recorded performances and include recording session annotations. One notable item is a clarinet excerpt from the second movement of Dmitri Shostakovich's Symphony no. 7 notated by Serge Koussevitzky at Tanglewood for Oppenheim.

Arranged alphabetically by composer and title therein.

BOX 6 MAPCASE
FOLDER 1

Miscellany, 1929-1998

Assorted materials from both Oppenheim's professional career and personal life comprise this series. Materials include newspaper clippings, Oppenheim family genealogical documents, speeches and notes from Oppenheim's time as Dean of the Tisch School of the Arts, and photocopied notes from Igor Stravinsky and Oppenheim written during the filming of *Stravinsky*.

Arranged alphabetically by subject.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-2	Correspondence, 1921-2004 This series consists mainly of professional correspondence from Oppenheim's career with Columbia Records as well as his time as the Dean of the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University. Personal correspondence between Oppenheim and his family and friends, primarily from his years of military service during World War Two, can also be found in this series. Of note is correspondence between Oppenheim and a number of prominent conductors, composers, and musicians, including Sir Thomas Beecham, Leonard Bernstein, Pablo Casals, Alexander Schneider, and Igor Stravinsky. Other notable names include President Richard Nixon and former New York City mayor Ed Koch. The miscellaneous correspondence includes a small amount of newspaper clippings that colleagues sent to Oppenheim. Select correspondence in this series contains Nazi symbols and paraphernalia. Arranged alphabetically by name or subject.
BOX-FOLDER 1/1	Adler, Ellie, 2002 and undated
BOX-FOLDER 1/2	Albee, Edward, 1962
BOX-FOLDER 1/3	Beecham, Sir Thomas, circa 1950's
BOX-FOLDER 1/4-7	Bernstein, Leonard, 1942-1949, 1983-1989, and undated
BOX-FOLDER 1/8	Casals, Pablo, 1955
BOX-FOLDER 1/9	Craft, Bob, 1959
BOX-FOLDER 1/10	<i>Family of Man</i> film, 1959-1963 <i>Note:</i> Between Igor Stravinsky and Galine Starodubrovsky
BOX-FOLDER 1/11	Farrand, Noel, 1989
BOX-FOLDER 1/12	Hammerstein II, Oscar, 1942 <i>Note:</i> To Ira Gershwin
BOX-FOLDER 1/13	Hofmann, Josef, 1955
BOX-FOLDER 1/14	Koch, Edward, 1985
BOX-FOLDER 1/15	Langenus, Gustave, 1938
BOX-FOLDER 1/16	Lear, Frances, 1985
BOX-FOLDER 1/17-20	Miscellaneous, 1941-1947, 1954-1962, 1981-1991, 1996
BOX-FOLDER 1/22	New York University, 1988-1991
BOX-FOLDER 1/23	New York University. White House invitations, 1982-1991
BOX-FOLDER 1/21	Nixon, Richard, 1961-1962
BOX-FOLDER 2/1	Oppenheim, David. World War Two, 1943-1945 <i>Note:</i> This folder contains Nazi symbols and paraphernalia
BOX-FOLDER 2/2	Oppenheim family, 1921-1926, 1941-1945, 1962-1966, 1992
BOX-FOLDER 2/3-4	Oppenheim family. World War Two, 1943-1945
BOX-FOLDER 2/5	Ormandy, Eugene, 1961
BOX-FOLDER 2/6-7	Professional correspondence, 1990-1997
BOX-FOLDER 2/8	Rivers, Larry, 1962
BOX-FOLDER 2/9	Rodgers, Richard, 1935 <i>Note:</i> To George Gershwin
BOX-FOLDER 2/10	Sacks, Oliver, 1988
BOX-FOLDER 2/11	Schneider, Alexander, 1983-1986

Correspondence, 1921-2004

Container	Contents
BOX-FOLDER 2/12	Serkin, Rudolf, 1975-1978, 1991
BOX-FOLDER 2/13	Stokowski, Leopold, 1947
BOX-FOLDER 2/14	Stravinsky, Igor, 1958-1962
BOX-FOLDER 2/15	Walter, Bruno, 1959-1961
BOX-FOLDER 2/16	Westphal, Fred, 1937, 1998, 2004
BOX 3-4, 7	Photographs, 1920-2001 This series consists primarily of photographs of Oppenheim alone, his work, and his family. Included are photographs of performances and recording sessions at CBS and Columbia Records and photographs from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts events. Notable figures in the series include Lauren Bacall, Pablo Casals, Serge Koussevitzky, President Richard Nixon, and Barbara Walters. Family photographs include Oppenheim's immediate and extended family as well as images of him in childhood through adulthood. The family photographs supplement the family correspondence and genealogical materials in other series. Arranged alphabetically by subject.
BOX-FOLDER 4/5	Adler, Stella and Harold Clurman, 2001
BOX-FOLDER 3/1-2, 7/1	CBS, Columbia Records, and performances, circa 1950s and undated
BOX-FOLDER 7/2	Hofmann, Josef, 1930-1937 and undated
BOX-FOLDER 4/6-7	Japan and Russia trip, 1966
BOX-FOLDER 3/3, 7/3	Miscellaneous, 1942, circa 1950s-1970s, and undated <i>Includes:</i> Shirley Booth; Pablo Casals; Betty Comden; Serge Koussevitzky; President Richard Nixon; Lewis Strauss
BOX-FOLDER 3/4-6, 7/4	New York University, circa 1980's-1990 and undated <i>Includes:</i> Lauren Bacall; Betty Comden; Adolph Green; Jerry Orbach
BOX-FOLDER 3/7-10, 4/1	New York University. Tisch School 20th anniversary, 1985 <i>Includes:</i> Roone Arledge; Carol Channing; Betty Comden; Adolph Green; Jerry Herman; Mary Beth Hurt; Anne Jackson; Ed Koch; Walter Matthau; Leontyne Price; Oliver Smith; Barbara Walters
BOX-FOLDER 4/2	New York University. Tisch School graduation, 1984
BOX-FOLDER 4/3	Oppenheim family, circa 1920s, 1938-1945 <i>Includes:</i> Julia Nurko Oppenheim; Louis Oppenheim; Stanley Oppenheim
BOX-FOLDER 4/4	Retirement, 1990-1991
BOX 4	Programs, 1944-1999 This series contains programs for performances in which Oppenheim participated. Included is a concert program for a performance at the Library of Congress by the Budapest Quartet with Oppenheim accompanying, as well as a number of concerts performed under the direction of Pablo Casals. Arranged chronologically.
BOX-FOLDER 4/8	1944, 1954-1957
BOX-FOLDER 4/9	1959-1960, 1978
BOX-FOLDER 4/10	1995-1999
BOX 5	Music, 1910-1987 This series contains scores from Oppenheim's time at Columbia Records and a small amount of miscellaneous music. The Columbia Records scores were used for recorded performances and include recording session annotations. One notable item is a clarinet excerpt from

Music, 1910-1987

Container

Contents

the second movement of Dmitri Shostakovich's Symphony no. 7 notated by Serge Koussevitzky at Tanglewood for Oppenheim.
Arranged alphabetically by composer and title therein.

- BOX-FOLDER 5/1 Berlioz, Hector
Symphonie fantastique, 1948
- BOX-FOLDER 5/2 Brahms, Johannes
Symphony no. 1, undated
- BOX-FOLDER 5/3 Symphony no. 4, 1929
- BOX-FOLDER 5/4 Debussy, Claude
Dances, 1910
- BOX-FOLDER 5/5 Diamond, David
Quintet, 1957
Laid in: Correspondence from David Diamond
- BOX-FOLDER 5/6 Enesco, Georges
Rumanian Rhapsody no. 1, undated
- BOX-FOLDER 5/7 Haydn, Joseph
Symphony no. 94, undated
- BOX-FOLDER 5/8 Mahler, Gustav
Symphony no. 2, 1942
- BOX-FOLDER 5/9 Mendelssohn, Felix
A Midsummer Night's Dream, undated
- BOX-FOLDER 5/10 Shostakovich, Dmitri
Symphony no. 7 (excerpt), 1942
Note: Notated by Serge Koussevitzky
- BOX-FOLDER 5/11 Stravinsky, Igor
Berceuses du chat, 1917
- BOX-FOLDER 5/12 *L'histoire du soldat*, 1987
- BOX-FOLDER 5/13 Octet, 1952
- BOX-FOLDER 5/14 Pulcinella Suite, 1949
- BOX-FOLDER 5/15 Rag-Time, 1924

BOX 6 MAPCASE FOLDER 1

Miscellany, 1929-1998

Assorted materials from both Oppenheim's professional career and personal life comprise this series. Materials include newspaper clippings, Oppenheim family genealogical documents, speeches and notes from Oppenheim's time as Dean of the Tisch School of the Arts, and photocopied notes from Igor Stravinsky and Oppenheim written during the filming of *Stravinsky*.

Arranged alphabetically by subject.

- BOX-FOLDER 6/1 CBS / Columbia Records, 1959-1969
- BOX-FOLDER 6/2-3 Clippings, 1944-1969, 1991, and undated
- BOX-FOLDER 6/4 Eastman transcript, 1943
- BOX-FOLDER 6/5 Family genealogy, 1929, 1942, 1980, and undated
- MAPCASE FOLDER 1 Family tree, undated
- BOX-FOLDER 6/6 Langenus, Gustave. Research, 1997
Note: For David Ross

Miscellany, 1929-1998

Container	Contents
BOX-FOLDER 6/7	Speeches, 1978-1991
BOX-FOLDER 6/8-9	Speech notes, 1976-1983, 1995-1998, and undated
BOX-FOLDER 6/10	<i>Stravinsky</i> film, undated
BOX-FOLDER 6/11	Retirement, 1990
