

Hugo Kortschak Correspondence and Photographs



**Music Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2024**

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Prepared by the Music Division of the Library of Congress

Finding aid encoded by Emily Baumgart, 2024 January

Collection Summary

Title: Hugo Kortschak Correspondence and Photographs

Inclusive Dates: 1904-1950

Call No.: ML31.K645

Creator: Kortschak, Hugo, 1884-1957

Extent: approximately 250 items

Extent: 3 containers

Extent: 1.75 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English, German, and French

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2016570578>

Summary: Hugo Kortschak was an Austrian-born American violinist. He was the founding first violinist of the Berkshire String Quartet and served on the faculty of Yale University. The collection includes correspondence, much of which pertains to the Berkshire Music Festival, as well as photographs.

Acquisition Information

Multiple gifts of Alice Kortschak Koenigsberger, Hugo's wife, in 1979, 1983-1984, and 1993

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Processing History

Emily Baumgart processed the Hugo Kortschak Correspondence and Photographs and created the finding aid in January 2024.

Related Material

The [Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge Foundation Collection](#) contains extensive correspondence with Hugo Kortschak and his wife, Alice.

Copyright Status

Materials from the Hugo Kortschak Correspondence and Photographs 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 Hugo Kortschak Correspondence and Photographs 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 number], Hugo Kortschak Correspondence and Photographs, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Hugo Kortschak was born in Graz, Austria, on February 24, 1884. He studied violin at the Prague Conservatory under Otakar Ševčík, graduating in 1904. After a period in the Berlin Philharmonic, he immigrated to the United States in 1907 and joined the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. He founded the Kortschak Quartet in 1913 with Herman Felber Jr., George Dasch, and Emmeran Stoeber; the ensemble was renamed the Berkshire String Quartet (in reference to the Massachusetts highlands) at the wishes of Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge, who funded the ensemble when it relocated to Pittsfield, Massachusetts. Kortschak was very involved with the founding of Coolidge's Berkshire Music Festival in 1918 and continued his involvement for many years. In 1938, he was awarded the Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge Medal for "eminent services to chamber music." He also taught violin at Yale University for 28 years, retiring in 1952. After his retirement, Kortschak moved to Honolulu, Hawaii, and played in the symphony there. He died in Honolulu on September 20, 1957.

Bibliography

Finn, Robert. "Kortschak, Hugo." *Grove Music Online*. Edited by Deane Root. Accessed January 24, 2024. <http://www.oxfordmusiconline.com>.

Kortschak, Hugo. *Baker's Biographical Dictionary of Musicians*. 5th ed. Edited by Nicolas Slonimsky. New York: G. Schirmer, 1971.

Scope and Content Note

The Hugo Kortschak Correspondence and Photographs span from 1904 to 1950. [Correspondence](#) to Kortschak, much of which concerns his involvement with Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge's Berkshire Music Festival, comprises the bulk of the materials. The collection also includes [Photographs](#), both publicity shots of Kortschak and other musicians, as well as staged and candid photographs taken at the Berkshire Music Festival.

Organization of the Hugo Kortschak Correspondence and Photographs

The collection is arranged in two series:

- [Correspondence, 1904-1950](#)
- [Photographs, 1913-1941](#)

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

Coolidge, Elizabeth Sprague, 1864-1953.

Heermann, Hugo, 1844-1935.

Kortschak, Alice Plaut, 1884-1972.

Kortschak, Hugo, 1884-1957--Correspondence.

Kortschak, Hugo, 1884-1957.

Ševčík, O. (Otakar), 1852-1934.

Organizations

Berkshire Music Festival--History.

Berkshire Quartet--History.

Subjects

Stringed instrument players--United States--Photographs.

Violinists--United States--Correspondence.

Titles

Alice Koenigsberger collection

Alice Kortschak Koenigsberger and Hugo Kortschak papers, 1913-1941.

Form/Genre

Business correspondence.

Personal correspondence.

Photographs.

Description of Series

Container

BOX 1

Series

Correspondence, 1904-1950

Correspondence to Kortschak, and occasionally to his wife Alice. Correspondents include performers, conductors, composers, and patrons, and many of their communications relate to the Berkshire Music Festival. Of note, there is a considerable amount of correspondence from Hugo Heermann and Otakar Ševčík.

Arranged alphabetically by correspondent.

BOX 2-3

Photographs, 1913-1941

Staged and candid photographs of Kortschak and others, many of them taken at the Berkshire Music Festival. Notable individuals are identified where possible.

Arranged alphabetically by subject or name.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1904-1950 Correspondence to Kortschak, and occasionally to his wife Alice. Correspondents include performers, conductors, composers, and patrons, and many of their communications relate to the Berkshire Music Festival. Of note, there is a considerable amount of correspondence from Hugo Heermann and Otakar Ševčík. Arranged alphabetically by correspondent.
BOX-FOLDER 1/1	Auer, Leopold, 1918, 1924-1925
BOX-FOLDER 1/2	Backaus, Wilhelm, 1922
BOX-FOLDER 1/3	Bauer, Harold, 1925-1930, 1941, 1944, and undated
BOX-FOLDER 1/67	Becker, Hugo, 1906 and undated
BOX-FOLDER 1/4	Blanchet, Émile-Robert, 1925
BOX-FOLDER 1/5	Bos, Coenraad V., 1923
BOX-FOLDER 1/6	Bossi, Renzo, undated
BOX-FOLDER 1/7	Brennand, Charles E., 1950
BOX-FOLDER 1/8	Carpenter, John Alden, 1934
BOX-FOLDER 1/9	Casals, Pablo, 1922
BOX-FOLDER 1/10	Clarke, Rebecca?, undated
BOX-FOLDER 1/11	Coolidge, Elizabeth Sprague, 1918, 1929
BOX-FOLDER 1/12	Draper, Ruth, undated
BOX-FOLDER 1/13	Eitler, Paul, 1932
BOX-FOLDER 1/14	Enescu, George, 1939
BOX-FOLDER 1/15	Engel, Carl, undated <i>see also Library of Congress</i>
BOX-FOLDER 1/16	Flesch, Carl, 1925
BOX-FOLDER 1/17	Flonzaly Quartet, undated
BOX-FOLDER 1/18	Friedman, Ignaz, 1926
BOX-FOLDER 1/19	Frischenschlager, Friedrich, 1933
BOX-FOLDER 1/20	Gabrilowitsch, Ossip, 1931, 1933
BOX-FOLDER 1/21	Galafrés, Elsa, 1931
BOX-FOLDER 1/22	Gerhardt, Elena, 1923
BOX-FOLDER 1/23	Grümmer, Paul, 1931
BOX-FOLDER 1/24	Hageman, Richard, 1924
BOX-FOLDER 1/25	Hamlin, George, undated
BOX-FOLDER 1/26	Hausegger, Siegmund von, 1912
BOX-FOLDER 1/27	Heermann, Hugo and Isabel, 1904-1935 and undated
BOX-FOLDER 1/28	Heifetz, Jascha, undated
BOX-FOLDER 1/29	Hess, Myra, 1927, 1931
BOX-FOLDER 1/30	Hewitt, Maurice, 1928
BOX-FOLDER 1/31	Hill, Edward Burlingame, 1924, 1946
BOX-FOLDER 1/32	Hindemith, Paul, 1940
BOX-FOLDER 1/33	Hofmann, Josef, 1927

Correspondence, 1904-1950

Container	Contents
BOX-FOLDER 1/34	Hoya, Amadeo von der, 1906
BOX-FOLDER 1/35	Hubay, Jenö and Roza Cebrian, undated Calling cards
BOX-FOLDER 1/36	Kerntler, Kálmán, Hertha, and Viola, 1910, 1931
BOX-FOLDER 1/37	Kindler, Hans, 1924
BOX-FOLDER 1/38	Knittl, Karel?, 1905
BOX-FOLDER 1/39	Kochanski, Paul, 1929
BOX-FOLDER 1/40	Kross, Emil, 1906
BOX-FOLDER 1/41	Kun, Imre, undated
BOX-FOLDER 1/42	Library of Congress, 1932, 1947
BOX-FOLDER 1/43	Loeffler, Charles, 1922
BOX-FOLDER 1/44	Malipiero, Gian Francesco, 1931
BOX-FOLDER 1/45	Manhattan School, 1940
BOX-FOLDER 1/46	Miscellaneous, 1929-1937 and undated
BOX-FOLDER 1/47	New Haven Symphony (Carroll Hincks), 1945-1946 and undated
BOX-FOLDER 1/48	Noren, Signe Gjertsen and Heinrich Gottlieb, 1914, 1920, and undated
BOX-FOLDER 1/49	Persinger, Louis, undated
BOX-FOLDER 1/50	Phelps, William Lyon, 1927-1928
BOX-FOLDER 1/51	Rémy, Guillaume, 1926
BOX-FOLDER 1/52	Salzedo, Carlos, 1928
BOX-FOLDER 1/53	Samuel, Harold, 1924
BOX-FOLDER 1/54	Seelig, Otto, 1906
BOX-FOLDER 1/55	Serkin, Rudolf, 1942
BOX-FOLDER 1/56	Ševčík, Otakar, 1906-1916, 1923-1933, and undated
BOX-FOLDER 1/57	Sinigaglia, Leone, 1920, 1940
BOX-FOLDER 1/58	Soldat-Roeger, Marie, 1950
BOX-FOLDER 1/59	Sonneck, Oscar, 1921
BOX-FOLDER 1/60	Sowerby, Leo, undated
BOX-FOLDER 1/61	Szigeti, Joseph and Wanda, 1941-1942 and undated
BOX-FOLDER 1/62	Vogt, Augustus Stephen, 1924
BOX-FOLDER 1/63	Weinberger, Jaromir, 1943
BOX-FOLDER 1/64	Weiner, Leo, 1922
BOX-FOLDER 1/65	Wendling, Carl, 1922
BOX-FOLDER 1/66	Yale University / Smith, David S., 1925, 1932, 1941, 1944
BOX 2-3	Photographs, 1913-1941 Staged and candid photographs of Kortschak and others, many of them taken at the Berkshire Music Festival. Notable individuals are identified where possible. Arranged alphabetically by subject or name. Kortschak with Others
BOX-FOLDER 2/1	Berkshire Festival Prize Jury, 1919
BOX-FOLDER 2/3, 3/1	Berkshire Music Festival, 1928, 1940, and undated <i>Includes:</i> Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge; George Enescu; Katherine Frazier; Percy Grainger; Paul Hindemith; Harold Samuel; Leo Sowerby
BOX-FOLDER 2/4	Kortschak Quartet/Berkshire Quartet, 1914-1919

Photographs, 1913-1941

Container	Contents
BOX-FOLDER 2/2	Miscellaneous, undated <i>Includes:</i> Amy Neill; Bruce Simonds; Emmeran Stoeber
BOX-FOLDER 2/5	Voks reception for E. S. Coolidge, 1931 Others
BOX-FOLDER 2/6	Ara, Ugo, 1925, 1928
BOX-FOLDER 2/7	Brockway, Howard, 1927
BOX-FOLDER 2/8	Corder, Paul, undated
BOX-FOLDER 2/9	Craxton, Harold, 1930
BOX-FOLDER 3/2	Hess, Myra, 1941
BOX-FOLDER 2/10	London String Quartet, 1920
BOX-FOLDER 2/11	Noren, Heinrich Gottlieb, 1913
BOX-FOLDER 2/12	Sarasate, Pablo, undated
BOX-FOLDER 2/13	Weiner, Leo, undated