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Guide to San José State University Music Department Collection

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San José State University Music Department Collection

Silke Higgins

SJSU Library Special Collections & Archives

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library

San José State University

One Washington Square

San José, CA 95192-0028

Phone: (408) 808-2062

Fax: (408) 808-2063

Email: special.collections@sjsu.edu

URL: http://www.sjlibrary.org/research/special/special_coll/

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Collection number: MSS-2010-02-01



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UNIVERSITY

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Descriptive Summary

Title: San José State University Music Department Collection

Dates: 1925-1989

Bulk Dates: 1940-1970

Collection number: MSS-2010-02-01

Creator: San José State University

Collection Size: 2 boxes, 2.17 linear feet

Repository: San José State University. Library.

San José, California 95192-0028

Abstract: The San José State University Music Department Collection, 1925-1989 (bulk 1940-1970) documents musical performances produced by the Music Department from 1925 to 1989. The records consist of print materials, loose-leaf programs, flyers, and brochures. This collection is arranged into one series: Series I. Music Department Programs, 1925-1989 (bulk 1940-1970).

Physical location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access

The collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

San José State University Music Department Collection, MSS-2010-02-01, San José State University Library Special Collections & Archives.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Silke Higgins. Finding aid EAD encoded by Silke Higgins. Reviewed by Danelle Moon and Erin Louthen.

Project Information

This finding aid was created as part of the Survey and Cataloging Project, a two-year San José State University Library grant project funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The project began in 2008. The Project Director is Danelle Moon. The Project Archivist is Erin Louthen.

Organizational History

In 1857 the San Francisco Board of Education established Minns' Evening Normal School for current and prospective teachers in the city. Named after its principal, George W. Minns, the institution was formally established as the first California State Normal School by the State Legislature in 1862. A decade later, the Legislature voted to move the Normal School to San José, and the school relocated to its new home on Washington Square prior to the fall term of 1872. After a fire destroyed the Normal School building in 1880, the Legislature authorized \$200,000 to construct a new building on the same site. Completed in 1881, the building was commonly referred to as the Second State Normal School. After several names and curriculum changes, Minns' Normal School is now San José State University, offering more than 134 bachelor's and master's degrees with 110 concentrations, and is recognized as one of the top public universities granting such degrees in the West.

The San José State Normal School conducted its first musical session in 1871. In 1884, the music program evolved into a four-year course of study. In 1915, the music program was departmentalized and seventeen courses were offered. In 1922, violin and "other orchestral instruments" were added to instrumental instruction. In 1926, the marching band was formed. In 1947-48, the Music Department began offering Graduate course work. In 1948, four B. A. degrees in Professional Music were added: Theory and Composition, History and Musicology, Performance, and Conducting. In 1949-50, the Music Department created a training band for the Symphonic Band called the Varsity Band. In 1951, there were 10 separate musical ensembles at San José State University, which included the Varsity Band, Marching Band, Choral Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Symphony Orchestra, A Cappella Choir, Piano Ensemble, Brass Choir, String Ensemble, and Woodwind Ensemble.

Since the 1950s, the School of Music has prepared professional performers, composers, and music educators for careers in music and the arts. Today, San José State University's applied studio faculty includes some of the nation's most gifted artists, ranging from Metropolitan Opera stars to some of the leading musicians in major Bay Area symphonies. The Jazz Studies program hosts some of Northern California's leading jazz musicians. An award-winning Composition program is led by some of today's most respected composers, and many award-winning SJSU performing ensembles are directed by some of California's preeminent conductors.

Bibliography

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Scope and Content of Collection

The San José State University Music Department Collection, 1925-1989 (bulk 1940-1970) documents musical performances produced by the Music Department from 1925 to 1989. The records consist of print materials, loose-leaf programs, flyers, and brochures.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into one series: Series I. Music Department Programs, 1925-1989 (bulk 1940-1970).

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

San José State University -- Music Dept. -- History.

San José State Teachers College -- History.

San José State College -- History.

California State University, San José -- History.

San José State University -- History.
Education, Higher -- California -- San José.
Music -- 20th century.
Music -- California.
Concert programs -- California -- San José.

Series I: **Music Department Programs 1925-1989 (bulk 1940-1970)**

Series Scope and Content Summary

The materials in this series document musical performances produced by San José State University's Music Department between the years 1925 and 1989. Noteworthy performances include *Elijah* by Felix Mendelson-Bartholdy in 1951, *Messiah* by Georg Friedrich Handel in 1962, and *The Mikado* by Gilbert and Sullivan in 1974.

Arrangement

This series is arranged chronologically by date.

Box: 1

Music Department Programs and Flyers 1925-1979

Box: 2

Music Department Programs and Brochures 1930-1989
