



## The New York Public Library Music Division

Guide to the

### **Letters received**

1960-1963

JPB 91-89

### **Summary**

**Creator:** Blitzstein, Marc

**Title:** Letters received

**Date:** 1960-1963

**Size:** [68] leaves

**Source:** Gift, Lawrence, Jeffrey, 1991

**Abstract:** Marc Blitzstein was an American composer of theater works and oratorios. Shortly before his death in 1964, the Ford Foundation commissioned him to write an opera on the subject of Sacco and Vanzetti for production by the Metropolitan Opera, but the work was not finished. 19 letters relating to the commissioning and projected performance of the opera, Sacco and Vanzetti ; Blitzstein's notes on the contract ; and related clippings. Correspondents include representatives of the Ford Foundation and the Metropolitan Opera as well as persons contributing material about the case. A copy of Vanzetti's 1927 letter from prison is included.

**Location of Originals:** Originals in the Wisconsin State Historical Society, Madison, Wisconsin

**Preferred citation:** Letters received, Music Division, The New York Public Library

### **Creator History**

Marc Blitzstein was an American composer of theater works and oratorios. Shortly before his death in 1964, the Ford Foundation commissioned him to write an opera on the subject of Sacco and Vanzetti for production by the Metropolitan Opera, but the work was not finished.

### **Scope and Content Note**

19 letters relating to the commissioning and projected performance of the opera, Sacco and Vanzetti ; Blitzstein's notes on the contract ; and related clippings. Correspondents include representatives of the Ford Foundation and the Metropolitan Opera as well as persons contributing material about the case. A

copy of Vanzetti's 1927 letter from prison is included.

## **Key Terms**

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Clippings

Letters

### **Occupations**

Composers

### **Subjects**

Opera -- Production and direction

Sacco-Vanzetti Trial, Dedham, Mass., 1921 -- Drama

### **Names**

Blitzstein, Marc

Vanzetti, Bartolomeo, 1888-1927

American Music Collection

Ford Foundation

Metropolitan Opera (New York, N.Y.)