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**MISCHA LEVITZKI**  
PAPERS, 1898 – 1957 (bulk 1898-1941)

3.34 Linear feet (5 boxes)

Call No.: JPB 04-18

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## **Abstract**

Mischa Levitzki was one of the most popular American pianists of his era. The collection contains materials related to his work; including scores (published and manuscript), a scrapbook (photocopy), a leaflet, a poster, a program, a music journal, and some photographs.

## **Administrative Information:**

Source:	Gift of Boris Lorwin, October 1996.
Access:	Collection is open to the public.
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## **Biography**

Mischa Levitzki (*b* Kremenchug, Ukraine, 25 May 1898; *d* Avon-by-the-Sea, NJ, 2 Jan. 1941) was an American pianist and composer. Born to naturalized American parents (Jacob Levine-Levitzki and Anna Levine-Levitzki) during a return to their native Ukraine, Levitzki began violin studies at the age of three. Developing an interest in the piano at six, he worked with Aleksander Michalowski in Warsaw (1905-1906). He made his concert debut in Antwerp in 1906 before going to New York with his parents. Shortly thereafter his father brought him to the attention of Walter Damrosch, who obtained a scholarship for him at the Institute of Musical Art as a pupil of Zygmunt Stojowski (1907-1911). In 1913 Levitzki entered the Berlin Hochschule für Musik, where he became the youngest student of Ernő Dohnányi and was awarded the Mendelssohn Prize in 1915. He made his American debut on 17 October 1916 at Aeolian Hall, New York; later he toured frequently in the USA, Australia, New Zealand and Asia. Levitzki is best known for his virtuosi performances of the Romantic repertory. His own piano compositions figured prominently in his program. Levitzki's recordings from 1927 to 1933 reveal an exceptional clarity and delicacy of articulation.

Mischa Levitzki was a sibling of Marks Levine (director, National Concert and Artists Corporation), Lewis L(evitzki). Lorwin (famed economist persecuted by Joseph McCarthy) Bertha Levitzki (pianist and harpist, later self-named Sandra Levitzki) and Joseph Levine. He published a number of piano pieces (*Valse in A*, *Arabesque valsant*, *Valse tzigane*, *Gavote*, *The Enchanted Nymph* and *Cadenza* for Beethoven's Piano Concerto no.3) prior to his sudden death from a heart attack at age 42.

## **Sources:**

- *New York Times* Obituaries:
  - “Jacob Levine-Levitzki.” *Proquest Historical Newspapers The New York Times* (1857-Current file): Feb. 13, 1932, p. 13.
  - “Marks Levine Dies Here at 80; Manager for Noted Musicians.” *Proquest Historical Newspapers The New York Times* (1857-Current file): May 29, 1971, p. 26.
  - “Mischa Levitzki, Noted Pianist, Dies.” *Proquest Historical Newspapers The New York Times* (1857-Current file): Jan. 3, 1941, p. 19.
  - “Rosalind Lorwin, 66, Psychology Professor.” *Proquest Historical Newspapers The New York Times* (1857-Current file): Dec. 31, 1992, p. B6.
- “Levitzki, Mischa [Levitsky, Misha].” Retrieved from <http://www.grovemusic.com> on August 9, 2004.
- “Mischa Levitzki Complete Recordings Vol. 1” review. Retrieved from <http://www.classicstoday.com/review.asp?ReviewNum=6077> on August 16, 2004.
- Slonimsky, Nicolas. *Baker's Biographical Dictionary of Musicians*. 7th ed. New York: Schirmer Books, 1984.
- Wier, Albert, E. *The Macmillan Encyclopedia of Music and Musicians*. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1938.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The papers of Mischa Levitzki document his professional life from 1898 until 1941. His manuscripts and published scores make up the bulk of the collection. The two published scores of Marks Levine, Mischa's brother, that postdate this collection are obviously gifts to Mischa's other sibling Lewis Lorwin (Box 3, Folder 15) and his niece Rosalind (Box 3, Folder 14).

Mischa Levitzki's papers contain few personal items; the exception would be the photographs of him with his family members (Box 1, Folder 4-5). As such, there is no correspondence or writings within this collection.

Please note the following: the scrapbook found within the collection was filled with newspaper clippings that were fragile and brittle, making it necessary to photocopy it (and reduce the size of the pages to 85 percent). The cover of the scrapbook was separated from the original and placed with the photocopy.

## **Separated Materials:**

### **Music Research Division:**

**Dance Magazine (foreign)**—*La Danse: Masques*; revue internationale d'art dramatique, 1948

**Published Scores by Mischa Levitzki (1 item each, unless specified otherwise)**

*Ah Thou Beloved One*, 1929 (2 copies)

*Arabesque Valsante*, 1934 (2 copies)

*Cadenza*, 1924

*Dance of the Doll*, 1937 (2 copies)

*Do You Remember?*, 1940 (5 copies—2 for low voice and 3 for high voice)

*The Enchanted Nymph*, 1928

*Gavotte*, 1923

*Valse*, 1921 (6 copies)

*Valse de Concert*, 1924

*Valse Tzigane* (Gypsy Waltz), 1935 and 1937 (2 copies each: piano solo, transcription for two pianos, and violin and piano versions)

**Published Scores by Other Artists**

Gallico, Paolo (ed.)—*Mendelssohn* Selected compositions for piano for the famous composer, 1932

Schnabel, Artur—Arrangement of Beethoven's Opus 53 titled *Klaviersonate Nr. 21/ C-Dur*, 1927

Seifert, Hans T. (ed.)—Schumann, Robert's *Op. 68 Album for the Young together with Op. 15 Scenes from Childhood*

Tourbié, Rich (ed.)—*Schonheiten der Klassischen Musik*, undated  
2 Scores with Russian text, 1935 (one is a voice and piano score and the other is a piano score only)

### **Rogers & Hammerstein Archives**

Mischa Levitzki, *His Rarest Recordings (1923-1929)* (International Piano Archives IPA 114), vinyl recording

**Box 1**

- F.1 Leaflet and program—"A" to "Z", 1931 and 1941  
Music Journal
- f.2 Part 1 of 2, undated (French, German and Russian? Language text for songs or notes found within) (cover detached / handle carefully)
- f.3 Part 2 of 2, undated (loose sheets)
- Photographs
- Levitzki family
- f.4 Mother, 1911 and undated
- f.5 Sister, undated (Her birth name is Bertha. Sandra is name she assumed in adult years, according to nephew Boris Lorwin.) (Bertha handwritten on back of one photograph—writer's identity unknown; Mischa in majority of these photographs)
- Levitzki, Mischa
- General
- f.6 Part 1 of 2, 1898-1931
- f.7 Part 2 of 2, undated (Mostly individual photographs of Mischa—2 group shots of Mischa with unidentified individuals)
- F.8 Hall's Studio, undated
- f.9 NBC Artists Service, undated
- Scores
- Manuscripts
- Mischa Levitzki

**Box 2**

- f.1 *Ah Thou Beloved One* (Opus 4), 1929 (voice and piano; text by Bertha Galland)
- America Beloved Land*
- f.2 Conductors score, undated (full orchestra)
- f.3 Parts, n.d
- f.4 Voice and piano score, undated
- f.5 *Arabesque Valsant*, 1933 (printer's proof with corrections)
- f.6 *Cadenza to Concerto No. 3 C minor Opus 37* (1<sup>st</sup> movement) by Beethoven, 1920 June 12 (piano score; July '24 crossed out on cover; other dates on cover are Dec. '24 and Sept. 27, 1924)
- f.7 *Dance of the Doll*, 1938 (for pianoforte with bazoooka obbligato)
- F.8 *The Enchanted Nymph*, 1927 June 28 (crossed out title on cover: *The Enchanted Grove*)
- f.9 *Fuge*, undated (piano score)
- f.10 *Gavotte* (Opus 3), ca. 1923 (piano score)
- F.11 *Princess' Lullaby*, undated (voice and piano score; referring to Terunomiya Shigeko)
- f.12 *Sonate*, undated (piano score)
- f.13 *Valse de Concert* in G Sharp Minor (Opus 1), 1916 Nov. (piano score)
- f.14 *Valse Tzigane* (Gypsy Waltz)—Opus 7, 1937 (2 pianos)
- Other Artists
- f.15 Leginska, Ethel—*The Dance of the Gargoyles*, undated (piano)
- Velt, Jacob M.—*Enchanted Nymph: a poem for piano* (orchestra transcription)
- f.16 Conductors score, undated
- f.17 Parts, undated
- F.18 Zucca, Mana—*Poème Heroique pour piano*, undated (Inscribed to Levitzki)
- Unidentified
- f.19 Piano, undated (Untitled fragments of works)

F.20 Voice and piano, undated (Phil Cook printed in pencil on one sheet—identity of writer unknown) (fragile)

Published

**Box 3**

- f.1 Bach, Johann Sebastian—*Album* for piano, 1898  
f.2 Brahms, Johannes—*Waltzes* (Opus 39), undated (piano)  
f.3 Chopin, Frédéric François—*Pianoforte Werke*, undated (Edition Peters)  
f.4 Debussy, Claude—*Children's Corner*, 1908 (piano score; Rosalind M. Lorrin <sp?> signature on title page)  
f.5 Fomeen, Basil—*Songs of Inspiration*, 1940 (voice and piano)  
f.6 Ganz, Rudolph—*Two Capriccios* (Opus 26), 1917 (for piano; inscribed by Rudolph Ganz to Mischa Levitzki)  
f.7 Gershwin, George—*Rhapsody in Blue*, 1925 (for piano)  
F.8 Gilbert and Sullivan—*Patience*, 1911 (vocal score)  
f.9 Gusikoff, Michel and Benjamin Machan—*American Concerto*, 1932 June (violin and piano; inscribed on inside cover)  
f.10 Heller, Stephen—*30 Fortschreitende Etüden* (Opus 46), undated (Edition Peters; piano scores)  
Levitzki, Mischa  
F.11 *Cadenza* to Concerto No. 3 in C Minor Opus 37 (1<sup>st</sup> Movement) by Beethoven, 1924 (piano score)  
f.12 *The Enchanted Nymph*, 1931 July 2 (piano score; inscribed to Miss Gene Doryn)  
f.13 *Valse* for pianoforte (Opus 2), 1922  
f.14 Luboshutz, Pierre—*We Love and Dream*, 1947 (voice and piano score; text: Marks Levine; inscribed on cover: "To Rosalind with love from her uncle Marks Levine")  
f.15 McArthur, Edwin—*I Looked at a Tulip*, 1957 (voice and piano; text: Marks Levine; inscribed on cover: "To Louie and Rose with love Mark")  
f.16 Saint-Saens, Camille—*Gavotte* in B Minor (J.S. Bach. Arrangement), 1912  
f.17 Schumann, Robert—*Sonaten* (Opus 105), undated (violin and piano)  
F.18 Weston, Annie T. (ed.)—*Educational Series of Russian Music*, 1917 (piano scores)  
Zucca, Mana  
f.19 *Fugato-Humoresque* for the pianoforte on the theme of Dixie (Opus 21), 1917 (inscribed)  
F.20 *Scène De Ballet* (Opus 5): A Graceful Dance for pianoforte, 1915 (inscribed) (fragile / handle carefully)  
f.21 Unidentified—loose pages, undated (piano)

Oversized

**Box 4**

- f.1 Poster, undated (NBC Artists Service promotional)

**Box 5**

Scrapbook (Clippings on Levitzki's performances: dates and reviews; tours around world highlighted in clippings; few clippings with personal quotes / stories of Mischa Levitzki)

- f.1 Part 1 of 3, 1921 Feb. 13 – 1923 March 1  
f.2 Part 2 of 3, 1923 March 4 – 1926 Feb. 15  
f.3 Part 3 of 3, 1926 March 22 – 1930 Feb. 21