



## The New York Public Library Music Division

Guide to the

### **Metropolitan Opera radio scripts**

1933-1974

JPB 14-11

Compiled by Matthew Snyder, 2014

### **Summary**

**Creator:** Metropolitan Opera (New York, N.Y.)

**Title:** Metropolitan Opera radio scripts

**Date:** 1933-1974

**Size:** .63 linear feet (2 boxes)

**Source:** Unknown, circa 1976.

**Abstract:** The Metropolitan Opera has been one of the world's premiere opera companies for well over a century. Its series of live Saturday matinee radio broadcasts began in 1931, featuring host Milton Cross. The Metropolitan Opera radio scripts date from 1933 to 1974, and hold Milton Cross's writings and correspondence in addition to scripts.

**Conditions Governing Use:** For permission to publish, contact the Chief, Music Division, New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

**Preferred citation:** Metropolitan Opera radio scripts, JPB 14-11. Music Division, The New York Public Library.

**Processing note:** Compiled by Matthew Snyder, 2014

### **Creator History**

The Metropolitan Opera has been one of the world's premiere opera companies for well over a century. Its series of live network radio broadcasts of Saturday matinee performances began in 1931 on NBC, and over time moved to the ABC and CBS networks before the company founded its own Metropolitan Opera Radio Network in 1960. NBC announcer Milton Cross served as host of the program from the beginning of the network broadcasts until his death in 1975.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The Metropolitan Opera radio scripts, dating from 1933 to 1974, contain scripts used in the Met's Saturday matinee broadcasts. They feature host Milton Cross summarizing opera plots and biographical information on Met vocalists, as well as interviewing guest singers, conductors, and opera experts.

Most of the scripts are arranged in folders devoted to a single opera, some with multiple scripts from different dates. A general folder holds scripts devoted to profiles of Bidu Sayão, Risë Stevens, and Enrico Caruso. It also has two intermission scripts, one featuring host Geraldine Farrar interviewing Lucrezia Bori, the other a group discussion of bel canto singing with Norman Dello Joio and Robert Merrill.

Milton Cross's files contain scripts, hand-written notes and script drafts; press releases and publicity packets; and correspondence from artist managers, publicity agents, and radio producers. Also present in the Cross files are notes on the history of the Met broadcasts, press releases or correspondence regarding non-Met performances, and typed essays or speeches on broadcast announcing and opera on the radio.

**Arrangement:** The collection is in three divisions: General, Milton Cross, and scripts arranged by opera title.

## **Key Terms**

### **Occupations**

Announcers  
Musicians  
Opera singers

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Clippings (information artifacts)  
notes  
Press releases  
Radio scripts  
Speeches (documents)

### **Geographic Names**

New York (N.Y.)

### **Subjects**

Opera -- 20th century  
Radio announcing

### **Names**

Bori, Lucrezia, 1887-1960  
Cross, Milton, 1897-1975  
Dello Joio, Norman, 1913-2008  
Farrar, Geraldine, 1882-1967  
Merrill, Bob

## Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 General 1935-1960
- b. 1 f. 2-4 Cross, Milton 1933-1974
  - Operas
  - b. 1 f. 5 *Don Pasquale*
  - b. 1 f. 6 *La Fille du Régiment*
  - b. 1 f. 7 *Hansel and Gretel* 1938
  - b. 1 f. 8 *Lohengrin* 1940
  - b. 1 f. 9 *Lucia di Lammermoor* 1940
  - b. 1 f. 10 *The Magic Flute* 1942
  - b. 1 f. 11 *Manon* 1939
  - b. 2 f. 1 *Rigoletto* 1935-1940
  - b. 2 f. 2 *Der Rosenklavier* 1938
  - b. 2 f. 3 *Tannhauser*
  - b. 2 f. 4 *La Traviata* 1934, 1939
  - b. 2 f. 5 *Tristan und Isolde*
  - b. 2 f. 6 *Il Trovatore* 1939