Guide to the
Fred Fehl photographs
1940 - 1993
*MGZEB 18-2790

The finding aid for the Fred Fehl photographs collection is a conflation of multiple gift and donation inventories created by Fred Fehl from the early 1990s. Processed by Tara D. Strongosky, 2018.

Summary

Creator: Fehl, Fred
Title: Fred Fehl photographs
Date: 1940 - 1993
Size: 18.14 linear feet (27 boxes)


Abstract: The Fred Fehl photographs collection consists of photographs and published materials related to Fehl's work documenting dance and theater performances, mainly in New York City. The majority of the photographs are black and white 5" x 7" prints. Ballet companies that are well represented are the American Ballet Theatre, the Joffrey Ballet Company, and the New York City Ballet. There are also published materials that feature Fehl's photography as reproduced in newspapers, magazines, programs, and other media.

Access: Some collections held by the Dance, Music, Recorded Sound, and Theatre Divisions at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts are held off-site and must be requested in advance. Please check the collection records in the NYPL's online catalog for detailed location information. For general guidance about requesting offsite materials, please consult: https://www.nypl.org/about/locations/lpa/requesting-archival-materials


Language of the Material: English

Processing note: The finding aid for the Fred Fehl photographs collection is a conflation of multiple gift and donation inventories created by Fred Fehl from the early 1990s. Processed by Tara D. Strongosky, 2018.

Creator History
Photographer Fred Fehl (1906-1995) was born and educated in Vienna and settled in New York in 1939 after fleeing from Nazi occupied territory Austria in 1938. Early in his career he worked as a children's photographer to support himself while he pursued his true passion of documenting theater and stage productions. Since his arrival in the United States, Fehl avidly documented the performing arts and devoted his life to capturing the ephemeral nature of dance and theater. He became known as a pioneer in the taking of candid photographs during performances through the use of existing stage lighting, and has documented many productions from Broadway, the New York City Opera and Ballet, and American Ballet Theater, as well as unique performances which would otherwise have been visually lost. Fehl made his career as a performance photographer, covering theater, dance, opera, and music for more than forty years. He published several books of his photography, including *Stars of the Ballet and Dance in Performance Photographs* (1984) and *At New York City Ballet* (1991).

**Scope and Content Note**

The Fred Fehl photographs collection is arranged by format into two series: photographic prints and published materials. The subseries are then arranged alphabetically.

The collection is predominantly comprised of black and white 5" x 7" to 16" x 20" prints that capture dance performances, mostly in New York City, from 1940-1993. Best represented are the American Ballet Theatre; the Joffrey Ballet Company; the Harkness Ballet; the Bolshoi Ballet; and the New York City Ballet. Numerous other dance companies are also represented, such as the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater; the Ballet Russe de Monte-Carlo; and the Martha Graham Dance Company.

In addition to photographs of performances, there are occasional shots of rehearsals, studio shots, and individual dancer portraits. One subseries is comprised of televised ballet productions from the 1960s. At the end of the New York City Ballet prints, there is one folder of xerox copies of George Balanchine photographs. These copies are numbered and have their own inventory preceding them within the folder. This inventory is available on the archives portal as an additional resource. Additionally there is a small amount of New York City Ballet negatives located at the end of the NYCB print series and are arranged by numbers designated by Fehl.

The second series, Published materials, represents Fehl's dance photography as reproduced in newspapers, magazines and other media. Included are clippings, magazine covers, sound recording covers, and book covers. Some of these publications were on display at an exhibition of Fehl's career in 1976 at the NYPL's Library of the Performing Arts.

**Key Terms**

**Subjects**

Ballet
Modern dance -- New York (State) -- New York
Performing arts
Theater

**Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Negatives (photographs)
Photographic prints
Occupations
Photographers

Names
Balanchine, George
Bruhn, Erik, 1928-1986
Fehl, Fred
Fracci, Carla
Robbins, Jerome
Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
American Ballet Theatre
Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo
Bol_sho_teatr SSSR. Balet
Harkness Ballet
Joffrey Ballet
Martha Graham Dance Company
New York City Ballet
New York City Opera
## Container List

### Series I: Prints 1940 - 1993 (24 boxes 14.63 linear feet)

The majority of the series is made up of 5" x 7" black and white photographs of various performances from national and international dance companies. Fehl was the photographer-in-residence at both the American Ballet Theatre and the New York City Ballet. Therefore there is an emphasis on the two companies. A group of experimental photographs documents Fehl's creative process in which he used ballet photographs to create abstract and expressionistic forms. In addition to live theater performances, there are also photographs of televised productions such as *Coppélia* and *Romeo and Juliet*, which were featured on the Bell Telephone Hour on NBC.

### Subseries A: Companies 1940 - 1993

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<td>b. 1 f. 1</td>
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<td>African Dance Company of Ghana 1969</td>
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<td>Agnes de Mille Dance Theatre 1954</td>
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<td>b. 1 f. 3-7</td>
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<td>Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater 1969 - 1976</td>
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<td>Alwin Nikolais Dance Theater 1969</td>
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<td>Includes a performance of <em>Tensile Involvement.</em></td>
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<td><em>Apollo</em> 1943 - 1974</td>
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<td><em>At Midnight</em> 1967</td>
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<td><em>Aurora's Wedding</em> 1944 - 1949</td>
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<td>Baryshnikov, Mikhail 1977</td>
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<td><em>La Bayadère</em> 1974 - 1975</td>
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<td><em>Bluebeard</em> 1941</td>
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<td><em>Capital of the World</em> 1953</td>
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<td><em>Carmen</em></td>
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<td><em>Concerto (Macmillan)</em> 1967</td>
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<td><em>Concerto (Ross)</em> 1958</td>
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<td><em>Dark Elegies</em> 1969</td>
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<td><em>Dim Lustre</em> 1943 - 1964</td>
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<td><em>Don Quixote Pas de Deux</em> 1958 - 1975</td>
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American Ballet Theatre (cont.)

b. 3 f. 1  Fall River Legend 1955
b. 19 f. 9
b. 3 f. 2  Fancy Free 1944 - 1975
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b. 3 f. 4  Firebird 1945
b. 3 f. 5-6  Flower Festival in Genzano 1961 - 1968
b. 3 f. 7  Fracci, Carla
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b. 4 f. 15  Judgement of Paris 1941 - 1970
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b. 4 f. 18  Miss Julie 1958 - 1971
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b. 5 f. 1  The Moor's Pavane 1970
b. 5 f. 2  Les Noces 1965
b. 5 f. 3  The Nutcracker 1943 - 1955
b. 20 f. 5
b. 5 f. 4  Once More, Frank 1976
b. 5 f. 5  On Stage! 1945
b. 5 f. 6  Other Dances 1976
b. 5 f. 7  Paean 1957
b. 5 f. 8  Paquita 1971
b. 5 f. 9  Pas de Quatre 1941 - 1960
b. 21 f. 1
b. 5 f. 10  Les Patineurs 1967
### American Ballet Theatre (cont.)

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<td><em>Push Comes to Shove</em> 1968 - 1976</td>
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<td>b. 5 f. 18</td>
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<td><em>Rehearsals</em> circa 1940</td>
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#### Subseries A: Companies (cont.)

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<td>Ballet Russe de Monte-Carlo 1940 - 1950</td>
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<td>b. 7 f. 22</td>
<td>Performances include Le Baiser de la Féée, Le Beau Danube, Coppélia, Coq d'Or, Gaîté Parisienne, Giselle, The Nutcracker, Pas de Quatre, Paquita, Rodeo, Raymonda Variations, Rouge et Noir, Scheherazade, Snow Maiden, Swan Lake, The Sleeping Beauty, and Les Sylphides.</td>
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<td>b. 8 f. 6</td>
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<td>b. 9 f. 1</td>
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<td>b. 9 f. 2</td>
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<td>Gala Performance to Save the Dance Collection at the New York Public Library 1972 January</td>
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<td>Glen Tetley 1969</td>
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<td>b. 10 f. 1</td>
<td>Performances include Cakewalk, Elegy, Green Table, Pas des Déesses, Pas de Dix, and Olympics.</td>
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<td>Includes the performance Drums Sound in Hackensack.</td>
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<td>José Limón Dance Company 1964</td>
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<td>Includes the performance A Choreographic Offering.</td>
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Kabuki 1960 - 1969

Lotte Goslar's Pantomime Circus 1966
Includes the performance *Clowns and Other Fools*.

Louis Johnson's Haryou Dancers 1966
Includes the performance *View from the Ghetto*.

Marceau, Marcel 1965 - 1975

Markova-Dolin Company 1947
Includes the performance *Camille*.

Martha Graham Dance Company 1940 - 1969

Mazowsze Polish Folk Song and Dance Ensemble 1965 - 1973

Merce Cunningham Dance Company 1950 - 1970
Includes the performance *Scramble*.

Nala Najan Dance of India 1966

National Ballet (Washington, D.C.) 1967
Performances include *Idylle* and *Les Sylphides*.

National Ballet of Canada 1967 - 1979
Performances include *Coppélia* and *Swan Lake*.

New York City Ballet 1948 - 1993

*Afternoon of a Faun* 1953 - 1988

*Agon* 1950 - 1982

*A La Françaix* 1951

*Allegro Brillante* 1963 - 1985

*Andantino* 1981

*Antique Epigraphs* 1984

*Apollo* 1951 - 1988

*Le Baiser de La Fée* 1950 - 1972

*Ballet Imperial* 1964 - 1969

*Ballo della Regina* 1978

*Bournonville Divertissements* 1978 - 1983

*Bourrée Fantasque* 1949 - 1950

*Brahms/Handel* 1984

*Brahms-Schoenberg Quartet* 1966 - 1977

*Bugaku* 1963

*The Cage* 1951 - 1961

*Caracole* 1952

*The Card Game* 1951

*Celebration* 1983

*Chaconne* 1976 - 1982

*Chansons Madecasses* 1975

*The Chase* 1963

*Chopiniana* 1971

*Circus Polka* 1972
Series I: Prints (cont.)
Subseries A: Companies (cont.)
New York City Ballet (cont.)

b. 11 f. 27 The Concert (or, The Perils of Everybody) 1956 - 1975
b. 11 f. 28 Concertino 1952 - 1984
b. 12 f. 1 Concerto Barocco 1948 - 1971
b. 12 f. 2 Concerto for Jazz Band and Orchestra 1971
b. 12 f. 3 Coppélia 1975 - 1989
b. 12 f. 4 Cortège Hongrois 1973
b. 12 f. 5 Dances at a Gathering 1969 - 1979
b. 12 f. 6 Danses Concertantes 1972
b. 12 f. 7 Daphnis and Chloe 1975
b. 12 f. 8 Davidsbündlertänze 1980
b. 12 f. 9 Dim Lustre 1964
b. 12 f. 10 Divertimento No. 15 1963 - 1989
b. 12 f. 11 Donizetti Variations 1961 - 1989
b. 12 f. 12 Don Quixote 1965 - 1972
b. 12 f. 13 Dumbarton Oaks 1972
b. 12 f. 14 Duo Concertant 1972 - 1973
b. 12 f. 15 The Dybbuk Variations 1974
b. 12 f. 16 Electronics 1961
b. 12 f. 17 Episodes 1959 - 1963
b. 12 f. 18 Fancy Free 1972 - 1979
b. 12 f. 19 Fanfare 1964
b. 22 f. 8 Fantasia 1962
b. 12 f. 20 The Figure in the Carpet 1960
b. 12 f. 21 Filling Station 1953
b. 12 f. 22 Firebird 1949 - 1971
b. 12 f. 23 A Fool For You 1989
b. 12 f. 24 Four Bagatelles 1973
b. 12 f. 25 The Four Seasons 1969 - 1982
b. 12 f. 26 The Four Temperaments 1949 - 1963
b. 12 f. 27 Glinkiana 1967
b. 12 f. 28 The Goldberg Variations 1971
b. 22 f. 9
b. 12 f. 29 Gounod Symphony 1958 - 1963
b. 13 f. 1 Harlequinade 1953 - 1965
b. 13 f. 2 Harlequinade Pas de Deux 1952
b. 13 f. 3 Haydn Concerto 1968
b. 13 f. 4 Illuminations 1969
b. 13 f. 5 In G Major 1975
b. 13 f. 6 In the Night 1970 - 1971
b. 13 f. 7 Interplay 1952 - 1964
b. 13 f. 8 Jeux 1966
Series I: Prints (cont.)
Subseries A: Companies (cont.)
New York City Ballet (cont.)

b. 13 f. 9  Jeux d'Enfants 1955
b. 13 f. 10  Jewels 1967 - 1989
b. 13 f. 11  Jinx 1949
b. 13 f. 12  Liebeslieder Walzer 1960 - 1970
b. 13 f. 13  Lilac Garden 1951
b. 13 f. 14  The Magic Flute 1983
b. 13 f. 15  Medea 1958 - 1959
b. 13 f. 16  Meditation 1963
b. 13 f. 17  Metamorphoses 1952
b. 13 f. 18  Metastaseis and Pithoprakta 1968
b. 13 f. 19  A Midsummer Night's Dream 1962 - 1989
b. 22 f. 10  Modern Jazz: Variants 1961
b. 13 f. 21  Movements for Piano and Orchestra 1963
b. 22 f. 11  Not My Girl 1993
b. 13 f. 23  The Nutcracker 1950 - 1988
b. 23 f. 11  The Nutcracker, Act II Grand Pas de Deux 1953 - 1987
b. 13 f. 27  Ondine 1948
b. 13 f. 28  Opus 19/The Dreamer 1979
b. 14 f. 1  Orpheus 1948 - 1979
b. 14 f. 2  Other Dances 1979
b. 14 f. 3  PAMTGG 1971
b. 14 f. 4  Pan America 1959 - 1960
b. 14 f. 5  Pas de Deux 1963 - 1988
b. 14 f. 6  Pas de Dix 1959 - 1960
b. 14 f. 7  Pas de Trois Classique 1951 - 1955
b. 14 f. 8  Pastorale 1957
b. 14 f. 9  Picnic at Tintagel 1952
b. 14 f. 10  Prodigal Son 1950 - 1979
b. 14 f. 11  Pulcinella 1972
b. 14 f. 12  Ragtime 1982
b. 14 f. 14  Requiem Canticles 1968 - 1986
b. 14 f. 15  Roma 1955
b. 14 f. 16  Scherzo à la Russe 1982
b. 14 f. 17  Scherzo Fantastique 1972
b. 14 f. 18  Scotch Symphony 1952 - 1981
b. 14 f. 19  The Seven Deadly Sins 1959
b. 14 f. 20  Serenade 1950 - 1970
b. 14 f. 21  Slaughter on Tenth Avenue 1968
b. 14 f. 22  The Sleeping Beauty 1991
La Sonnambula 1959 - 1975
Sophisticated Lady 1988
La Source 1968 - 1979
The Spellbound Child 1975
Square Dance 1959 - 1979
Stars and Stripes 1957 - 1988
Steadfast Tin Soldier 1976 - 1980
Swan Lake 1950 - 1965
Sylvia Pas de Deux 1950
Symphony Concertante 1948
Symphony in C 1948 - 1988
Symphony in Three Movements 1972
Tarantella 1964 - 1979
Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 2 1972 - 1989
Tea-Rose 1988
Theme and Variations 1970 - 1980
Tricolore 1978
Trois Valses Romantiques 1967
Tyl Ulenspiegel 1951
Tzigane 1975 - 1979
The Unanswered Question
Union Jack 1976 - 1989
La Valse 1951 - 1967
Variations 1969
Variations pour une Porte et un Soupir 1974
La Ventana 1979
Vienna Waltzes 1977 - 1979
Violin Concerto 1972 - 1982
Watermill 1972
Western Symphony 1963
Who Cares 1970 - 1979
Curtain calls 1962 - 1989
Rehearsals 1962 - 1989
Studio shots 1963 - 1964
Xerox copies of George Balanchine photographs 1962 - 1975
Xerox copies of New York City Ballet photographs focused on choreographer and founder George Balanchine. An inventory list preceding the photographs that detail each copy's information is also available as an additional resource.
Unidentified performances
A Midsummer Night's Dream premiere negatives 1962
New York City Ballet keysheets and negatives 1985 - 1990
Black and white negatives (with contact sheets) documenting various New York City Ballet performances during the years 1985-1990.
Series I: Prints (cont.)
Subseries A: Companies (cont.)
  b. 16 f. 40  New York City Opera 1979  Includes a performance of *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme* featuring Rudolf Nureyev.
  b. 16 f. 41-42  Original Ballet Russe de Monte-Carlo 1940 - 1964
      b. 16 f. 43  Paul Taylor Dance Company 1969
      b. 23 f. 3  Pennsylvania Ballet 1968  Includes a performance of *Carmina Burana*.
  b. 16 f. 44  Pearl Lang Company 1969 - 1975
  b. 16 f. 45  Romanian National Ballet 1966
  b. 17 f. 1  Royal Danish Ballet 1965 - 1968  Includes performances of *Carmen*, *Don Quixote*, *The Lesson*, *Miss Julie*, *The Nutcracker*, and *La Sylphide*.
  b. 17 f. 2  Ruth Page's Chicago Opera Ballet 1962  Includes performances of *Don Quixote*, *Camille*, and *Die Fledermaus*.
  b. 17 f. 3  Slavenska-Franklin Ballet 1952 - 1953  Performances include *Mademoiselle Fifi* and *A Streetcar Named Desire*.
  b. 17 f. 4  Talley Beatty Company 1969  Includes the performances *Come and Get the Beauty of it Hot*, *Dougla*, and *L'Histoire d'un petit voyage*.
  b. 17 f. 5  Western Theatre Ballet Company 1963
  b. 17 f. 6  Yugoslav Folk Ensemble 1967  Includes a performance of *Lado*.
  b. 23 f. 4  Theater - West Side Story 1957
  b. 26 f. 5  Unidentified performances
  b. 17 f. 8-9  Subseries B: Experimental photographs
  A series of photographs Fred Fehl created from various dance performances in order to produce abstract and expressionistic compositions.
  Subseries C: Individuals 1940 - 1969
  b. 17 f. 10  Baum, Morton  (Includes one 4" x 5" negative of the portrait.)
  b. 17 f. 11  Bettis, Valerie 1950  Photographs from a performance of *As I Lay Dying* with Duncan Noble.
  b. 17 f. 12  De Lavallade, Carmen 1961  Photographs of the dancer performing *Ballet Ballads*.
  b. 17 f. 13  Dunham, Katherine 1945
  b. 17 f. 14  Junger, Esther 1940
  b. 17 f. 15  Rosario 1968
  b. 17 f. 16  Segarra, Ramon 1963 - 1964  Includes dance partner Rachel Zide.
  b. 17 f. 17  Weidman, Charles 1960
  b. 17 f. 18  Unidentified 1969
  b. 17 f. 19  *Apollo* 1963 January 18  Performers include by Jacques d'Amboise as Apollo and Melissa Hayden as Terpsichore.

Subseries D: Televised Productions 1962 - 1967
Photographs of ballet performances featured on NBC Television Network's Bell Telephone Hour throughout the 1960s. Many of the performers included are renowned ballet dancers such as Margot Fonteyn, Rudolf Nureyev, Erik Bruhn, and Maria Tallchief.
Series I: Prints (cont.)
Subseries D: Televised Productions (cont.)

b. 17 f. 20  *Black Swan* 1963 October 8
Performers include Erik Bruhn and Sonia Arova.

b. 17 f. 21  *Coppélia* 1963 November 19
Performers include Erik Bruhn and Sonia Arova.

b. 17 f. 22  *Le Corsaire* 1962 September 24
Featured performer Rudolf Nureyev.

Series II: Published materials 1940 - 1979 (3 boxes 3.51 linear feet)
Published materials represent Fehl's dance and theater photography as reproduced in newspapers, magazines, and other media. Included are clippings, tear sheets, magazine covers, sound recording covers, and promotional posters.

Subseries A: Clippings 1940 - 1967

b. 18 f. 1  *Cue Magazine* 1950 December 30
Article featuring Fehl's photographs of Ethel Merman in the musical *Call Me Madam*.

b. 27 f. 1  *Dance News* 1967 September
Articles featuring Fehl's photographs of Erik Bruhn and Carla Fracci in the televised production of *Romeo and Juliet* on NBC's Bell Telephone Hour.

b. 24 f. 1  *Look Magazine* 1953 June 16
Pages 34-35 feature Broadway photographs by Fehl.

b. 27 f. 2  *New York Journal-American* 1951 January 22
Articles featuring Fehl's photographs of *Darkness at Noon*.

Articles featuring Fehl's photographs include Broadway performances of *Inside U.S.A* and *Death of Salesman*.

b. 18 f. 8  *The Sunday Star*
Photographs by Fehl of ballet dancers Patricia McBride and Suzanne Farrell.

b. 18 f. 9  *Theater Arts Magazine* 1940
Articles featuring Fehl's photographs including performances of *Tomorrow the World*, *Medea*, *Native Son*, *The New Yorker*, *On My Mother's Side*, *They Too Are Exiles*, *Balustrade*, *Watch on the Rhine*, *Twelfth Night*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *What's Up*, *Jacobowsky and the Colonel*, *Apple of His Eye*. Actor profiles of Ethel Waters and Martin Beck also include photographs by Fehl.

Subseries B: Covers 1941 - 1979
Various covers utilizing Fehl's photographs including from recorded sound album jackets, book covers, and magazine covers.

b. 24 f. 3  Album jackets 1957 - 1979
Original and facsimile album jacket covers for *Coppélia* by the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra conducted by Antal Doráti; *Fancy Free* conducted by Leonard Bernstein and *Daughter of Colchis* conducted by Carlos Chávez; *Julius Caesar* by the New York City Opera Chorus and Orchestra; Manny Albam and his Jazz Greats Play Music from the Broadway musical *West Side Story*; and *The Swan Lake Selections/Faust Ballet Music* by conductors Hugo Rignold and Louis Fourestier.
Series II: Published materials (cont.)
Subseries B: Covers (cont.)

b. 24 f. 4 Books 1977 - 1979
Covers for the books Inside American Ballet Theatre by Clives Barnes and Leopold Stokowski by Abram Chasins.

b. 18 f. 10 Magazines 1941 June - 1968 March

b. 27 f. 4 Subseries C: Promotional posters 1961 - 1976
Promotional posters for events such as New York City Opera performances, A Memorial Tribute to Norman Treigle, Broadway musical 13 Daughters, and a poster announcing Fred Fehl's exhibition held at the Amsterdam Gallery at the New York Public Library in Lincoln Center.