



The New York Public Library
Music Division

Guide to the

The Cleveland String Quartet records

1965-2001

JPB 16-04

Compiled by Matthew Snyder, 2016.

Summary

Creator: Cleveland Quartet

Title: The Cleveland String Quartet records

Date: 1965-2001

Size: 11.55 linear feet (28 boxes)

Source: Donated by the Cleveland String Quartet, 2016.

Abstract: The Cleveland String Quartet records, dating from 1965 to 2001, document the formation and evolution of the ensemble; its performances, recordings, tours, and other activities; and its critical reception. They also evidence the careers of Paul and Martha Strongin Katz. They hold correspondence; contracts; itineraries; photographs; publicity files; contracts; repertoire lists; programs; clippings; management files; and datebooks.

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>

Conditions Governing Access:

Sound recordings are unavailable pending digitization.

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

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Processing note: Compiled by Matthew Snyder, 2016.

Creator History

The Cleveland String Quartet was founded in 1968 at the Marlboro Festival in Vermont by violinists Donald Weilerstein and Peter Salaff; violist Martha Strongin Katz; and Katz's husband, cellist Paul Katz. The ensemble made its debut in 1969, after which it became quartet-in-residence at the Cleveland Institute of Music. In 1971, it switched its residency to the State University of New York, Buffalo. There, it gave annual performances of all of Beethoven's string quartets. In 1973, it toured East Germany and appeared at the Casals Festival in Puerto Rico. Over the next 20 years, the Quartet frequently toured the United States and Europe, and also visited Japan, Russia, Australia, New Zealand, and South America.

The Quartet joined the faculty of the Eastman School of Music in 1976. In 1980, Martha Strongin Katz left the group and was succeeded by Atar Arad. After Arad departed in 1987, he was replaced by James Dunham. In 1989, William Preucil succeeded Weilerstein, and he remained as leader of the ensemble until it disbanded in 1995. The quartet gained nearly instant fame upon its founding and had a reputation for beauty of tone, intensity of performance, and technical facility. It made many recordings, including two cycles of the Beethoven Quartets, and gave the premieres of works by John Harbison, John Corigliano, and T_ru Takemitsu, among others.

Custodial History

The collection was assembled by Paul Katz, who made the donation. Some content documents only Paul or Martha Strongin Katz.

Scope and Content Note

The Cleveland String Quartet records, dating from 1965 to 2001, document the formation and evolution of the ensemble; its performances, recordings, tours, and other activities; and its critical reception. They also evidence the careers of Paul and Martha Strongin Katz. The collection holds programs, clippings, correspondence, contracts, itineraries, photographs, publicity files, repertoire lists, management files, touring files, program notes, and datebooks. The collection is arranged alphabetically by subject or format.

The largest components of the collection are programs, clippings, contracts, day files, management files, and the papers of Paul Katz. Both the programs and clippings are extensive and cover much of the Quartet's career from 1969 to 1995. The day files hold correspondence with or among the members of the quartet regarding business, touring, teaching, or other professional matters. Some of that content relates only to the business of Paul or Martha Strongin Katz. Further business and touring information can be found in the secretarial files. Dating from the mid-1970s to the mid-1980s, these consist of memos to the Quartet members from the group's executive assistant, Carol Freeman.

The management files are divided among several companies, impresarios, and agents: Sofia Amman; Yves Dandelot; ICM Artists; Ingpen and Williams; Kazuko Hillyer International; Hans Ulrich Schmid; Sonia Simmenauer; and Takayanagi Concert Management. These files contain correspondence regarding repertoire and travel arrangements; information on performances and tours; performance contracts; and managerial agreements. Contracts can also be found under the separate heading of contracts. Further information on bookings, in the form of tear sheets regarding individual engagements, can be found under bookings.

The Paul Katz files document his early career with the Toledo String Quartet, his teaching, and his post-Cleveland Quartet activities. They also contain personal correspondence with the Katz's family and friends; datebooks; and personal photographs and slides. The Martha Strongin Katz files document her career before and after her time with the Cleveland Quartet, and hold photographs, programs, clippings, and letters.

The publicity files contain press releases, flyers, and biographies of the Quartet and its members. Some of this material was produced by Shuman Associates.

The touring files document European visits from the mid-1970s to 1995, as well as tours of Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Russia, and South America. They hold itineraries, repertoire lists, clippings, programs, photographs, and correspondence with presenters.

The photograph files dates from throughout the Quartet's history. They consist of publicity images and headshots of the Quartet and its individual members; contact sheets; and informal shots of the group on tour or in performance. A set of photographs of the 1968 Marlboro Festival in Vermont show Pablo Casals, Josef Gingold, and Ravi Shankar, among others, but does not show members of the Quartet.

The remainder of the collection is comprised of files regarding individuals, events, organizations, academic institutions, festivals, and special projects. The files hold correspondence, programs, photographs, and contracts. Subjects include Chamber Music America, with which the Quartet worked closely; the Aspen Music Festival; the Eastman School of Music; the Corcoran Gallery of Art; CBS and Telarc Records; the composer John Corigliano; a set of Farewell Letters written to the Quartet upon its disbandment; and special recording projects such as the complete Beethoven quartet cycle. Also present are files regarding individual members of the Quartet; the transcript of a 1983 interview with the Quartet at KQED in San Francisco; and program and liner notes dating from throughout the Quartet's lifetime.

The collection also holds two sound recordings. One is a demonstration recording, circa 1970, of the Quartet playing single movements of quartets by Ravel, Bartok, Beethoven, Tchaikovsky, Ives, Haydn, and Mozart. The content of the other, undated recording is unknown. Sound recordings are unavailable pending preservation transfer.

Arrangement: The collection is arranged alphabetically by subject or format.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Appointment books
Clippings (information artifacts)
Contracts
Correspondence
Photographs
Programs (documents)
Sound recordings

Subjects

Music -- United States -- 20th century
String quartets (Musical groups)

Occupations

Musicians

Names

Arad, Atar

Dunham, James

Katz, Martha Strongin

Katz, Paul, 1941-

Preucil, William, 1958-

Salaff, Peter

Weilerstein, Donald

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 Amman, Sofia 1976-1982
An Italian presenter.
- b. 1 f. 2 Arad, Atar 1980-1987
Contains correspondence discussing the search for a replacement for Martha Strongin Katz.
- b. 1 f. 3-5 Aspen Music Festival 1976-1993
- b. 1 f. 6 Awards and Honors 1980s
- b. 1 f. 7 Beethoven Edition Project 1978-1983, 1990
- b. 2 f. 1 Benefit Concerts 1977-1984
- b. 2 f. 2 Bookings 1977-1980
- b. 2 f. 3 CBS Records 1982-1991
Chamber Music America
- b. 2 f. 4-5 1979-1980
- b. 3 f. 1-3 1982-1995
- b. 3 f. 4 Cleveland Institute of Music 1983, 1986
Clippings
- b. 3 f. 5 1970-1982
- b. 3 f. 6 1970-1995
- b. 4 f. 1-3 1970s
- b. 4 f. 4-5 1980s
- b. 5 f. 1-4 1980s-1990s
- b. 6 f. 1-2 1990s
Contracts
- b. 6 f. 3-5 1975-1982
- b. 7 f. 1-6 1982-1995
- b. 8 f. 1-2 Corcoran Gallery of Art 1981-1992
- b. 8 f. 3 Corigliano, John 1995
- b. 8 f. 4 Correspondence 1970s-1990s
All related to business and touring.
- b. 8 f. 5 Dandelot, Yves 1975-1982
French impresario.
- Day Files
Business correspondence regarding either the Cleveland Quartet or Paul and Martha Katz.
- b. 8 f. 6-7 1977-1978
- b. 9 f. 1-6 1979-1987
- b. 9 f. 7 Dunham, James 1980s
- b. 9 f. 8 Dvo_ák Cyprise Project 1982-1983
Eastman School of Music
- b. 9 f. 9 Ranlet Concert Series 1978-1986

- Eastman School of Music (cont.)
- b. 10 f. 1-2 1976-1994
 - b. 10 f. 3 Farewell Letters 1995
 - ICM Artists
Management company.
 - b. 10 f. 4-5 Contracts 1991-1993
 - Correspondence
 - b. 10 f. 6 1981-1985
 - b. 11 f. 1-2 1988-1993
 - b. 11 f. 3-4 Performances and Touring 1993-1995
 - b. 11 f. 5 Ingpen and Williams 1977-1991
Management company. Contains correspondence, royalty statements, and engagement information.
 - b. 12 f. 1 Interlochen Center for the Arts 1977-1978
 - b. 12 f. 2 International Television Trading Corporation 1984
 - b. 12 f. 3-6 Itineraries 1971-1995
 - b. 12 f. 7 Katz, Martha Strongin 1968-1989
 - Katz, Paul
 - b. 13 f. 1 *American String Teacher Magazine* 1986-1991
 - b. 13 f. 2 Biographies and Photographs 1965, 1979-1995
 - b. 13 f. 3-4 Correspondence 1972-1999
 - b. 14 Datebooks 1988-1996
 - b. 13 f. 5 Katz, O'Riley, and Dawes Trio 1998-1999
 - b. 15 f. 1-2 Personal Photographs 1973-1978
 - b. 15 f. 3 Programs and Clippings 1965-2001
 - b. 15 f. 4 Student Letters and Recommendations 1979-1995
 - Kazuko Hillyer International
Management company.
 - b. 15 f. 5 1976-1980
 - b. 16 f. 1 1976-1980
 - b. 16 f. 2 Klein, Joanne 1976-1984
Travel agent.
 - b. 16 f. 3 KQED Interview Transcript 1983
 - b. 16 f. 4 Nixon, Hargrave, Devans and Doyle 1979-1981
Law firm.
- Photographs
- b. 16 f. 5 Japan Tour 1992
 - b. 16 f. 6 Korean Tour 1992
 - b. 16 f. 7 Marlboro Festival 1968
 - b. 16 f. 8-11 1969-1995
 - b. 16 f. 12 Preucil, William 1990-1994

- b. 17 f. 1 Pro Arte Records 1983-1996
Program and Liner Notes
- b. 17 f. 2 Beethoven Quartets 1978-1982
- b. 17 f. 3-4 1969-1995
Programs
- b. 17 f. 5 1970s
- b. 18 f. 1-5 1970-1995
- b. 19 f. 1-4 1980s-1990s
- b. 20 f. 1-2 1990s
Publicity
Shuman Associates
- b. 20 f. 3-4 1987-1993
- b. 21 f. 1 1995
- b. 21 f. 2 1970s-1990s
- b. 21 f. 3 RCA Records 1976-1986
- b. 21 f. 4-6 Repertoire Lists 1976-1995
- b. 22 f. 1 Salaff, Peter 1983
Schmid, Hans Ulrich
German manager.
- b. 22 f. 2-5 1976-1986
- b. 23 f. 1 1987-1989
Secretarial Statements
Logs of calls, business, and correspondence from Carol Freeman, executive assistant to the Quartet.
- b. 23 f. 2-4 1976-1986
- b. 24 f. 1-3 1978-1985
- b. 24 f. 4-6 Simmenauer, Sonia 1989-1995
German manager.
- Sound Recordings
Circa 1970
origsr.247399
This recording was made when the Quartet was in residence at the Cleveland Institute of Music.

Original sound recording unavailable until digitized.

Circa 1970s-1980s
origsr.247400
Original sound recording unavailable until digitized.
- b. 25 f. 1 Sterling Travel 1990-1995
- b. 25 f. 2 Summer Festivals 1980-1981
- b. 25 f. 3 Takayanagi Concert Management 1985

- b. 25 f. 4 Telarc Records 1984-1997
- b. 25 f. 5 Tenth Anniversary Concert 1977-1979
- Tours
 - b. 25 f. 6 Australia and New Zealand 1978
 - Europe
 - b. 26 f. 1-10 1977-1988
 - b. 27 f. 1-5 1988-1995
 - Japan
 - b. 27 f. 6 1980-1986
 - b. 28 f. 1 1992-1994
 - b. 28 f. 2 Russia 1988
 - b. 28 f. 3 South America 1985
 - b. 28 f. 4 University of Maryland 1982-1990
 - b. 28 f. 5 Weilerstein, Donald 1988
 - b. 28 f. 6 WXXI Radio Series 1983-1984