Summary

Creator: Society for Asian Music

Title: Society for Asian Music collection of noncommercial recordings

Date: 1959-1966

Size: 108 reels (5", 7", and 10" audio tape reels)

Source: Gift of Willard Rhodes, 1969.

Abstract: These music and spoken word recordings were collected under the auspices of the Society for Asian Music, and the contents of the recordings primarily concern Asian music, in both specific and general contexts. The Society was also the sponsor of many of the music recitals and lectures within the collection.

Access: Access to original items by permission only. Some items may be available as service copies. Other items which need preservation work may require advance notification for use. Refer to item descriptions in individual catalog records for more information.

Preferred citation: Society for Asian Music collection of noncommercial recordings, Rodgers and Hammerstein Archives of Recorded Sound, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Creator History

The Society for Asian Music began in 1959 as an informal offshoot of the New York City-based Asia Society. It was officially incorporated on March 7, 1960 and held its first general meeting on March 27 of that year at the Asia House. While the early years of the society focused on musical recitals by known performers (such as Ravi Shankar), eventually it came to combine performances with lectures, and to feature musicians less familiar to United States audiences. In 1962, the society began arranging visits through the U.S. State Department of Asian Artists. The society is still in existence today and produces two issues a year of the academic journal Asian Music.
Scope and Content Note

These music and spoken word recordings were collected under the auspices of the Society for Asian Music, and the contents of the recordings primarily concern Asian music, in both specific and general contexts. The Society was also the sponsor of many of the music recitals and lectures within the collection. Although the collection contains a diverse sampling of the music of many Asian countries, the music of India is given a more substantial treatment. Both Hindustani and Karnatic music are represented by performances as well as lectures. Noteworthy performers include Shirish Gor, Ravi Shankar, and M. L. Vasanthakumari. The songs and poetry of Rabindranath Tagore are the topic of several recordings. Programs broadcast by All India Radio include performances and discussion of the songs of Tagore, and poetry readings by Tagore himself. In addition, the collection contains a symposium on the poetry of Tagore, held in New York in 1961, that features tributes given by Amiya Chandra Chakravarty and Robert Frost. Music from other countries includes folk music from China, Indonesia, Korea, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam, and dance music from the Philippines. The collection also includes examples of the classical music of China, Japan, Korea, Laos, and Pakistan. Additional spoken word recordings include a series of introductory lectures on Asian music by Henry Cowell, and a lecture by Alan Hovhaness on Gagaku.

Key Terms

Subjects
Carnatic music
Dance music -- Philippines
Folk music
Gagaku -- History and criticism
Hindustani music
Music -- China
Music -- Japan
Music -- Korea
Music -- Laos
Music -- Pakistan
Songs, Bengali -- India

Genre/Physical Characteristic
Sound recordings

Names
Chakravarty, Amiya Chandra
Cowell, Henry, 1897-1965
Frost, Robert, 1874-1963
Gor, Shirish
Hovhaness, Alan, 1911-2000
Shankar, Ravi, 1920-2012
Tagore, Rabindranath, 1861-1941
Vasanthakumari, M. L., 1928-
All India Radio
Society for Asian Music
Container List

350755  Afghanistan: [Lecture]  9 January 1962  (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)
350802  Asia: Introduction to Asian music [lecture], Prof. Henry Cowell  29 January 1962  
(1 reel 7" audio tape reel)
350804, 350805  Asia, Southeast: Economic change based on an examination of the 
landscape [lecture], Prof. Peter Gosling  (2 reels 7" audio tape reels)

Bali
350725  Bali: Gamelan music  27 November 1961  (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)
350797  [Bali]: Gamelan concert  (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)
350813  [Bali]: Gamelan music  (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)
350812  Ceremonial music of the Far East [radio broadcast]  (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)

China
350809  Classical music  (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)
350807, 350808  Folk music recital  1 March 1964  (2 reels 7" audio tape reels)
350736, 350738  Mandarin music  19 April 1962  (2 reels 7" audio tape reels)
350738  Music  (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)
350735  [Music and lecture], Charles Hucker  (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)
350801  Folk music (various locales)  (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)

India

India, North
350796  Classical singing, Dr. B.R. Deodhar  (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)
350772, 350773  Dr. B.R. Deodhar lecture and concert  30 April 1960  (2 reels 7" audio tape reels)
350794  Hindustani music  (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)

India, South
350761  Vocal music  (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)
348688  Tamil folk songs  (1 reel 5" audio tape reel)
350762  Nadhaswaram recital  (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)
350760  Flute recital  (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)

India [general or unspecified region]
350763  India [music and commentary]  (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)
350792, 350793  Chitrangada: a dance drama, Rabindranath Tagore  (2 reels 7" audio tape reels)
350744, 350745  Classical dance, Indrani  2 October 1961  (2 reels 7" audio tape reels)
350757, 350759  Classical music  (2 reels 7" audio tape reels)
350756  Conference on India and United States relations, Barbara Ward  (1 reel 7" 
audio tape reel)
350755  Introduction [lecture], R.I. Crane  (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)
348679, 350758  Music recital  19 May 1959  (2 reels 5" audio tape reel, 7" audio tape reel)
348682  AIR Program, Calcutta: Sitar: Raag; Raqeshri: Raag; Bageshri Raag, 
Bimala Kanta, Roy Chaudhuri, performers  1 December 1962  (1 reel 5" audio tape 
reel)
350774  New trends in Indian music [lecture], Vanraj Bhatia  8 November 1963  (1 reel 7" 
audio tape reel)
India (cont.)  
India [general or unspecified region] (cont.)

350754  
Problems of democracy [lecture], P. Talbot  
November 1, 1959 (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)

350747  
Sangeeta Madras  
5 November 1962 (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)

348684  
Setting down folksongs in Madras [lecture and interview], Wendy Asuath  
1 April 1961 (1 reel 5" audio tape reel)

350775, 350776, 350777, 350778  
Sitar music (4 reels 7" audio tape reels)

350770, 350771  
Sitar recital: Tagore songs, All India Radio  
27 May 1961 (2 reels 7" audio tape reel)

350767, 350768, 350769  
Songs of Rabindranath Tagore  
5 May 1961 (3 reels 7" audio tape reels)

348685, 348686  
Tagore drama and songs [lecture], Amiya Chakravarty  
(2 reels 5" audio tape reels)  
Second reel contains a further note on Tagore's poetry.

350764  
Tagore poetry symposium  
18 April 1961 (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)

350746  
Tagore poetry tape: three selections from "Tagore Reader." Paul Roche,  
narrator (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)

Tagore tribute  
19 April 1961 (3 reels)

350748, 350749, 350750  
Parts I-III  
19 April 1961 (7" audio tape reels 3 reels)

350751  
Robert Frost remarks  
19 April 1961 (1 reel 7" audio tape)

350752  
Two thoughts: conversations  
19 April 1961 (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)

350753  
The original voice of Rabindranath Tagore [radio program]  
31 May 1961 (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)

350766  
[Music], Ravi Shankar [1961] (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)

350791  
Indonesia and Korea: Road to friendship [lecture] (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)  
Indonesia 1960-1961 (6 reels)

348689  
Folk songs (1 reel 5" audio tape reel)

Music 1961, undated (3 reels)

348680  
[Unidentified music] (1 reel 5" audio tape)

348681  
[Unidentified music] (1 reel 5" audio tape reel)

350790  
[Unidentified music] 31 October 1961 (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)

350789  
Poetry test, [Burton] Raffel (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)

350790  
Wayang theater 4 March 1960 (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)

350780  
Iran: Music (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)

Japan 1959-1961, undated (9 reels)

350811  
Contemporary Japanese prints [lecture] 14 March 1960 (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)

350811, 350743  
Gagaku: Japanese imperial court music [lecture], Alan Hovhaness [21  
September 1963] (2 reels 7" audio tape reels)

471623, 471975  
Hogaku (2 reels 10" audio tape reels)

350739  
President's proposed visit to Japan [discussion] 12 June 1960 (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)

350740  
Problems of contemporary Japan [lecture], Barbara Ward 23 April 1959 (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)

350741  
Relations of Japan and the United States [lecture], Kosaka 19 September 1961  
(1 reel 7" audio tape reel)

350810  
Tea ceremony [lecture] (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)
Korea March 1961 (4 reels)

348683 Byungki Hwang: Kayagum solo and lyric song undated (1 reel 5" audio tape reel)
350732 Court music undated (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)
350731 Folk and classical court music 17 March 1961 (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)
350733 Instruments of traditional music 16 March 1961 (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)

Laos 1959, 1963 (2 reels)

350724 Music and drama 1 April 1963 (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)
350723 Music of Laos [UNESCO lecture], Alain Danielou 11 February 1959 (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)
350729 Malaya: Problems and prospects [lecture], H.E. Dato' Nik Ahmed Kamil 4 June 1959 (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)
350734 Music of the Far East [recital and lecture] 12 May 1962 (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)
350779 Near Eastern music [recital and lecture], presented by Henry Cowell 29 May 1962 (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)
Performers include Madeline Araradian (vocals), Petros Kalogerakos (vocals, bouzoukee), Emin Gunduz (vocals, kanoon), Tarik Bulut (darbuka), and Oudi Hrant (oud).

Pakistan 1959, undated (3 reels)

350798 Classical music (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)
350787 Music (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)
350788 The promise of New Pakistan [lecture], Aktur Hamid Khan 5 November 1959 (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)

Philippines 1960, 1962 (5 reels)

350784, 350785, 350786 Bayanihan dance music 9 May 1960 (2 reels 7" audio tape reels)
350800 Culture [lecture] (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)
350782 Folk music [lecture], Jose Maseda 19 April 1962 (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)
350783 Pandanggo sa Ilaw 12 April 1960 (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)

Thailand 1965, undated (4 reels)

350722 Folk and children's songs (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)
350720 Music and theatrical art [lecture], O. Yupho (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)
350721 Music [unidentified] 1965, undated (2 reels)
350730 [Unidentified] (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)
350721 [Unidentified] 9 December 1965 (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)

UNESCO 1959, undated (3 reels)

471974 An Evening in Lahore [radio broadcast] (1 reel 10" audio tape reel)
348687 Music: a common denominator [lecture], Yehudi Menuhin 11 February 1959 (1 reel 5" audio tape reel)

Vietnam 1959, undated (2 reels)

350799 Vietnam [lecture], Weslyn Fischel 3 November 1959 (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)
350726 [Unidentified] (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)
350727 [Unidentified] (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)
350728 [Unidentified] (1 reel 7" audio tape reel)