

**The New York Public Library  
New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center  
Music Division**

Guide to the  
**Dorle Soria papers**  
1930-1991  
JPB 13-16

Compiled by Matthew Snyder, June 2013

## **Summary**

**Creator:** Soria, Dorle

**Title:** Dorle Soria papers, 1930-1991

**Size:** 2.77 linear feet (7 boxes)

**Source:** Donated by the estate of Dorle Soria in 2003.

**Abstract:** Dorle Jarmel Soria (1900-2002) was a publicist, record company impresario, and journalist in the classical music world of the mid-twentieth century, best known for her founding of the Angel Records label with her husband, Dario Soria. Her papers include business records, publicity materials, photographs, and correspondence with some of the most notable figures in twentieth-century classical music.

**Access:** Collection is open to the public. Library policy on photocopying and photography will apply. Advance notice may be required.

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

**Preferred citation:** Dorle Soria papers, JPB 13-16. Music Division, New York Public Library.

**Processing note:** Processing consisted of foldering papers and arranging files.

## **Related collections**

Arturo Toscanini correspondence with Dorle Soria. Music Division, New York Public Library.

Cetra-Soria collection, 1946-1954, JPB 88-1. Music Division, New York Public Library.

Maria Callas correspondence with Dorle Soria, JPB 09-2. Music Division, New York Public Library.

## **Creator history**

Dorle Jarmel Soria (1900-2002) was a publicist, record company impresario, and journalist in the classical music world of the mid-twentieth century.

She graduated from Columbia University and worked as a journalist before being hired as a publicist by

the concert manager Arthur Judson, who managed the New York Philharmonic in addition to his own company. She was put in charge of publicity for all of Judson's projects, but in time her duties primarily became the Philharmonic and Columbia Artists Management.

In 1942, she married Dario Soria, an Italian who had emigrated to the United States in 1939. Mr. Soria established the Cetra-Soria label in 1948 to print and distribute opera recordings from the Italian Cetra catalog in the United States. In 1953, Ms. Soria left Judson to launch Angel Records with her husband. Angel produced and distributed classical recordings for its corporate parent, EMI. The Sorias left the company in 1958 after EMI merged it with its American subsidiary, Capitol Records. They then worked with the composer Gian Carlo Menotti to establish his Festival of Two Worlds in Spoleto, Italy, that same year. The couple also began producing classical recordings for RCA using the title "Soria Series."

In the 1960s, Ms. Soria wrote a weekly column for the Carnegie Hall concert programs. She went on to write regularly for the magazines High Fidelity, Musical America (where she wrote a monthly column called Artist Life), and Opera News. She also wrote a history of the Metropolitan Opera (1982).

### **Scope and content note**

The Dorle Soria papers document Soria's work with her husband, Dario Soria, including the establishment and operation of the Angel Records label for EMI; the Soria Series of albums produced for RCA; the Cetra-Soria Records label; the launch of the Festival of Two Worlds in Spoleto, Italy, in collaboration with Gian Carlo Menotti; and Dorle Soria's working relationships with various musicians dating from her time working for Arthur Judson, as well as in later years. The papers consist of subject files containing professional and personal correspondence, contracts, promotional material, clippings, business records, company catalogs, and photographs. Correspondence throughout the collection is with either Dorle or Dario Soria.

The Angel Records and EMI files document the founding and history of the label from 1953 until the Sorias left the company in 1958. The Cetra-Soria files cover the years 1945 to 1958 and include catalogs, clippings, and photographs of the company offices. The RCA files contain inter-office correspondence and press releases regarding the Soria Series artist and repertoire, album designs, publicity, and other business matters, and include Dorle Soria's Grammy nomination for best Classical album design. They also contain correspondence between Dario Soria and RCA regarding his resignation from the company in 1970.

The files for Festival of Two Worlds and Gian Carlo Menotti hold correspondence with Menotti describing the nature of the Festival and the role of the Sorias in running it, as well as promotional material and programs.

Other subject files hold correspondence with or regarding musicians the Sorias worked with, including Eugene Ormandy, Vladimir Horowitz, José Iturbi, Yehudi Menuhin, Gregor Piatigorsky, Sir Thomas Beecham, Jascha Heifetz, Walter Legge, and Elisabeth Schwarzkopf. This correspondence discusses concert appearances and touring activities, recording and other business matters, and also holds informal personal notes and letters.

The files for Horowitz, Iturbi, Piatigorsky, and Schwarzkopf hold photographs as well as correspondence. A separate file of photographs contains images of unidentified persons.

The files also contain a folder on the book *The Festival of Opera*, for which Dario Soria wrote the preface. The file for Benny Goodman contains a report prepared by Dario Soria in 1958 advising Goodman on record company options. The clippings file holds articles about the Sorias, as well as articles by Dorle Soria from various publications she wrote for. Her writing is also represented by the file of Carnegie Hall program note drafts. The subject file for the Sorias contains biographies of both of them.

Correspondence with Maria Callas and Arturo Toscanini originally held in this collection was removed and processed separately.

## Arrangement

The papers are arranged alphabetically by file title.

### Key terms

#### Subjects

Opera  
Sound recording industry

#### Names

Angel Records (Firm)  
Beecham, Thomas, 1879-1961  
CETRA (Italy)  
EMI Records Ltd.  
Goodman, Benny, 1909-1986  
Heifetz, Jascha, 1901-1987  
Horowitz, Vladimir, 1903-1989  
Iturbi, José, 1895-1980  
Judson, Arthur, 1881-1975  
Legge, Walter, 1906-1979  
Menotti, Gian Carlo, 1911-2007  
Menuhin, Yehudi, 1916-1999  
Ormandy, Eugene, 1899-1985  
Piatigorsky, Gregor, 1903-1976  
RCA Corporation  
Schwarzkopf, Elisabeth  
Soria, Dario  
Soria, Dorle

#### Special formats

Black-and-white photographs  
Business records  
Clippings (information artifacts)  
Color photographs  
Contracts  
Correspondence  
Promotional materials  
Trade catalogs

#### Occupations

Executives  
Journalists  
Publicists

#### Events

Festival of Two Worlds

## Container list

### General Correspondence

- b.1 f.1 Soria, Dario, 1952-1970
- b.1 f.2 Soria, Dorle, 1944-1991

### Angel Records

- b.1 f.3-5 General Correspondence, 1953-1957
- b.1 f.6-8 Advertising, Promotional Material, and Press Releases, 1953-1957
- b.1 f.9 Business Records, 1957
- b.1 f.10 Catalogs, 1954-1957
- b.2 f.1-3 Sale to Capitol Records, 1957-1958
  - b.2 f.4 Beecham, Thomas, Sir, 1956-1959
  - b.2 f.5 Capitol Records, 1954-1955
  - b.2 f.7 Carnegie Hall Program Copy, 1964-1965
- b.2 f.8-14 Cetra - Soria Records, 1945-1958
  - b.6 f.1 Cetra - Soria Records, 1951
- b.2 f.15 Challan, Rene, 1953-1955
- b.2 f.16 Clark, Hattie, 1964
- b.2 f.17 Clippings, 1959-1970
- b.2 f.18 Dart, Thurston, 1961-1962
- b.2 f.19 Degoy, R., 1953-1957
- b.3 f.1-9 EMI Records Ltd., 1952-1957
- b.3 f.10 Freccia, Massimo, 1959
- b.3 f.11 *The Festival of Opera*, 1954-1957
- b.3 f.12-14 Festival of Two Worlds, 1958-1980
- b.4 f.1 Festival of Two Worlds, 1958-1980
- b.4 f.2 Francescatti, Zino, 1944-1961
- b.4 f.3 Gobbi, Tito and Tilda, 1961-1984
- b.4 f.4 Goodman, Benny, 1958
- b.4 f.5 Goodman, Saul, 1971
- b.4 f.6 Heifetz, Jascha, 1941-1962
- b.4 f.7-8 Horowitz, Vladimir, 1962-1963, undated
- b.4 f.9 Iturbi, José , 1930-1975
- b.4 f.10-11 Karajan, Herbert Von, 1959-1963
- b.4 f.12 Lee, John, 1955-1957
- b.4 f.13-17 Legge, Walter, 1952-1979
- b.5 f.1 London Symphony Orchestra, 1969-1970
- b.5 f.2 Macleod, John, 1959-1968
- b.5 f.3 Menotti, Gian Carlo, 1952-1970
- b.5 f.4 Menuhin, Yehudi, 1940-1981
- b.5 f.5 Moffo, Anna, 1959

- b.5 f.7 Ormandy, Eugene, 1959-1978
- b.5 f.8 Philharmonia Orchestra of London, 1955
- b.5 f.9 Photographs, 1974-1986
- b.5 f.10 Piatigorsky, Gregor, 1940-1965
- b.6 f.2 Piatigorsky, Gregor, undated
  - RCA Corporation
- b.5 f.11 General, 1961-1970
- b.5 f.12 Kayes, Alan, 1958
  - b.5 f.6 National Association of Recording Arts and Sciences, 1963
- b.7 f.3 Resignation of Dario Soria, 1970
- b.5 f.13 Soria Series, 1958-1963
- b.7 f.1-2 Soria Series, 1958-1963
  - b.2 f.6 Soria Series, 1963-1964
- b.7 f.4 Schippers, Thomas, 1957-1970
- b.7 f.5-7 Schwarzkopf, Elizabeth, 1953-1987
  - b.7 f.8 Serafin, Tullio, 1965
  - b.7 f.9 Skira, Albert, 1959-1976
  - b.7 f.10 Smith, Carleton Sprague, 1972
  - b.7 f.11 Soria, Dario and Dorle, undated
  - b.7 f.12 Starkie, Walter, 1956-1976
  - b.7 f.13 Tagliavini, Ferruccio, 1947-1988
  - b.7 f.14 Zirato, Bruno and Nina, 1945-1976