

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

Guide to the
Albert Stoessel papers, Additions
1915-1955
JPB 13-25

Compiled by Matthew Snyder, September 2013

Summary

Creator: Stoessel, Albert

Title: Albert Stoessel papers, Additions, 1915-1955

Size: .42 linear foot (1 box)

Source: Donated by Frederic Stoessel in 1998.

Abstract: Albert Stoessel (1894-1943) was an American violinist, conductor, composer, and pedagogue. The Albert Stoessel papers, Additions, primarily hold lecture texts and course materials, and also contain small portions of biographical papers, photographs, and correspondence.

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: Albert Stoessel papers, Additions, JPB 13-25. Music Division, The New York Public Library.

Custodial history: The collection was assembled by Fredric Stoessel from his father's papers; he also added a few items to it.

Processing note: Physical processing consisted of foldering and boxing papers and photographs.

Related collections

Albert Stoessel papers, JPB 89-91. Music Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Creator history

Albert Stoessel (1894-1943) was an American violinist, conductor, and composer. Born in St. Louis, he received his early musical training there. In his late teens, he studied violin, composition, and conducting at the Hochschule für Musik in Berlin, where he made his debut as a violinist. After a European tour as a member of the Hess String Quartet, he returned to the United States, debuting in 1915 as violin soloist with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra. In 1920, he performed as soloist with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and toured with the tenor Enrico Caruso; the following year he helped to found the American

Music Guild.

Stoessel succeeded Walter Damrosch as conductor of the Oratorio Society of New York in 1921, became director of music of the Chautauqua Institution in 1923, and succeeded Henry Hadley as conductor of the Worcester (Massachusetts) Music Festival in 1925; he held all three posts until his death. He also appeared as guest conductor of the symphony orchestras of Boston, Cleveland, and St. Louis, among others.

From 1923 to 1930, Stoessel established and was the first head of the music department of New York University. In 1927, he accepted the directorship of the opera and orchestra departments of the Juilliard Graduate School. He was elected to the National Institute of Arts and Letters in 1931.

Stoessel collapsed and died on stage on May 12, 1943, while conducting an ensemble at an event for the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Sources:

Gustave Reese and Michael Meckna. "Stoessel, Albert." Grove Music Online. Oxford Music Online. Oxford University Press, accessed September 18, 2013, <http://www.oxfordmusiconline.com/subscriber/article/grove/music/26816>.

"Stoessel's Career Started In Europe." The New York Times, May 13, 1943, p. 15.

Scope and content note

The Albert Stoessel papers, Additions, date from 1915 to 1955. They primarily hold lecture texts, course syllabi, and other teaching material for classes taught at New York University or the Juilliard School, as well as texts of public lectures. They also contain small portions of biographical papers, photographs, and correspondence.

Course and lecture topics include the art of conducting; composers such as Mendelssohn, Handel, Gluck, Haydn, Schubert, and Beethoven; orchestration; choral activity in the United States; an argument for opera sung in English; and musical forms and styles.

The biographical papers contain clippings, promotional biographies and press quotes, and the program for Stoessel's memorial service. The correspondence is mostly between Stoessel and the institutions at which he taught, and includes a letter from Walter Damrosch. The photographs contain publicity portraits and an image of Stoessel conducting the chorus and orchestra of the Worcester Music Festival.

Collection content dating from after Stoessel's death (a few clippings, the memorial program, and one piece of correspondence), was added by Stoessel's son, Fredric.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in four divisions: Biographical Papers, Correspondence, Photographs, and Teaching Papers and Lectures.

Key terms

Subjects

Music Instruction and study

Names

Chautauqua Institution

Damrosch, Walter, 1862-1950

Juilliard School

New York University

Stoessel, Albert

Special formats

Black-and-white photographs

Clippings (information artifacts)

Commercial correspondence

Lectures

Personal Correspondence

Promotional materials

Syllabi

Occupations

Composers

Conductors (Music)

Musicians

Teachers

Violinists

Places

Worcester (Mass.)

Events

Worcester Music Festival (Worcester, Mass.)

Container list

- b.1 f.1 Biographical Papers, 1915-1943, undated
- b.1 f.2 Correspondence, 1922-1955
- b.1 f.3 Photographs, 1936-1938, undated
- b.1 f.4-9 Teaching Papers and Lectures, 1923-1943, undated