

Guide to the Hour of Music Records, 1945-1975

JPB 06-38

Music Division

**The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts
New York, New York**

Contact Information

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Descriptive Summary

Title:	Hour of Music Records
Collection ID:	JPB 06-38
Creator:	Hour of Music
Extent:	.5 linear feet (1 box)
Repository:	Music Division. The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

Abstract

This collection of records from the Hour of Music organization spans a 30-year period. Included are committee papers, correspondence, legal documents, publicity materials and treasurer's reports.

Administrative Information

Access

Collection is open to the public. Library policy on photocopying will apply. Advance notice may be required.

Publication Rights

For permission to publish, contact the Chief, Music Division.

Preferred Citation

Hour of Music Records, JPB 06-38, Music Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and cataloged in 2006.

Historical Note

The Hour of Music organization was founded in 1939 with the aim of showcasing young musical talent through concerts, and supporting them with financial aid. The not-for-profit group was entirely funded by voluntary contributions and benefit concerts. Among the artists appearing at the concerts were cellist Leonard Rose, soprano Margaret Harshaw, and pianist Beveridge Webster. Many of the events were held at New York City locations such as the Colony Club and the Hunter College Playhouse. The organization awarded prizes to outstanding young talents including Kenji Kobayashi, Joseph Plon and David Wells. It ceased its activities in 1975 due to financial difficulties, distributing its remaining assets between the Julliard School of Music and the Manhattan School of Music.

Scope and Content Note

The Hour of Music records include 9 folders, arranged alphabetically by content, with material from 1945 to the final days of the organization in 1975. Legal documents include the Certificate of Incorporation and the Plan of Dissolution. Among the items of correspondence are those from legal representatives, and letters to and from artists and their agents. Financial reports are present on an annual basis from 1955 to 1970 with many detailed monthly reports covering this period. The largest section of the collection consists of executive committee reports, with minutes of meetings kept from the mid 1950s onwards.

Publicity materials consist largely of concert invitations and programs. The earliest program is from a 1945 performance at the Cosmopolitan Club. The Colony Club is a favorite venue, although the Town Hall is also featured. Other articles of interest in the collection include an envelope for donations, press articles featuring An Hour of Music, and a list of all performers up to 1971.

Hour of Music Records

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
		Committee Papers
1	1	1956-1958
	2	1959-1965
	3	1966-1975
	4	Correspondance -A-Z
	5	Legal Documents, 1948-1973
		Publicity Materials
	6	1945-1967
	7	1968-1973
		Treasurer's Reports
	8	1955-1968
	9	1969-1973