Guide to the
Gabriel Banat papers
ca. 1946-2007

Call number: JPB 12-16

Compiled by Bob Kosovsky, November 2012

Summary

Creator: Banat, Gabriel

Title: Gabriel Banat papers, ca. 1946-2007

Size: 0.42 linear feet (1 box)

Source: Donated by Gabriel Banat, 2012

Abstract: The Gabriel Banat papers document the career and activities of violinist Gabriel Banat chiefly through correspondence, programs, reviews, and photographs.

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

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

Preferred citation: Gabriel Banat papers, JPB 12-16, Music Division, New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Processing note: Processing consisted of organizing files and refoldering.

Gabriel Banat is an American violinist who played for many years with the New York Philharmonic. He was born in Transylvania, Romania in 1926, eventually moving to Hungary. At the age of eight, he was discovered by Béla Bartók, who enabled him to be accepted at the Royal Academy in Budapest (now the Franz Liszt Academy of Music), where he won honors. In 1946 he moved to New York City where he toured with Georges Enesco, his mentor. He became a naturalized citizen in 1953. He toured in the United States, Europe and Japan, and was guest soloist with the London Philharmonic, Oslo Philharmonic, among others. In 1970 he joined the New York Philharmonic. He was a professor at Smith College where he led the violin department. His extensive research on Mozart led to publication in facsimile of Mozart’s five violin concertos (Raven Press, 1986). His research on the Chevalier de Saint-Georges led to a biography (Pendragon Press, 2006) as well as numerous articles.

Scope and contents note
The Gabriel Banat papers date from approximately 1946 to 2007, and document Banat’s career as a violinist with the New York Philharmonic and as a solo performer or participant in chamber music concerts. These materials include correspondence (some items from well-known conductors and musicians), programs, clippings and photographs.


Sound recordings have been transferred to the Rodgers and Hammerstein Archives of Recorded Sound.
Arrangement
The Gabriel Banat papers are organized into the following series (each housed in a single folder):
Series 1: Correspondence
Series 2: Materials concerning the New York Philharmonic
Series 3: Festival Bahnhof Rolandseck
Series 4: Programs
Series 5: Clippings
Series 6: Miscellaneous
Series 7: Photographs

Key terms

Names:
Banat, Gabriel

Occupations:
Violinists
Conductors

Special formats:
Black-and-white photographs
Clippings (information artifacts)
Color photographs
Personal correspondence
Programs (documents)
Series/Container list

Folder 1  
Series 1: Correspondence  

Folder 2  
Series 2: New York Philharmonic  
Correspondence, programs, clippings and other documents concerning Banat’s career with the New York Philharmonic.

Folder 3  
Series 3: Festival Bahnhof Rolandseck  
Music Director Zubin Mehta chose Banat to lead members of the New York Philharmonic in their participation at the Festival Bahnhof Rolandseck in 1990-1991. Includes correspondence, clippings, programs and photographs.

Folder 4  
Series 4: Clippings  
The series of clippings cover Banat’s solo career. They are subdivided in two sub-series:
   A. American reviews  
   B. Non-American reviews

Folder 5  
Series 5: Programs  
Programs from his 1967 complete Mozart- and 1968 ‘20th Century’ Sonata cycles at Library’s Bruno Walter Auditorium, recitals and with orchestras in the U.S. and in Europe, and conducting his Westchester Conservatory Orchestra in White Plains and at New York’s Cooper Union including several with first-chair colleagues from the New York Philharmonic as soloists.
Folder 6  Series 6: Miscellaneous

Folder 7  Series 7: Photographs
Contains photographs of Banat alone, with various musicians (including Béla Bartók, Pablo Casals, Yehudi Menuhin), and in other situations. Autograph photographs include those of Leonard Bernstein (photo by Banat), Aaron Copland, Georges Enesco, and Zubin Mehta (photo by Banat).