



The New York Public Library Music Division

Guide to the

Alexander Smallens papers

ca. 1900-1970

JPB 89-88

Summary

Creator: Smallens, Alexander, 1889-1972

Title: Alexander Smallens papers

Date: ca. 1900-1970

Size: ca. 6 cu. ft.

Abstract: Alexander Smallens was a Russian-born American conductor. He accompanied the Anna Pavlova Ballet Company on a tour to South America (1915-1916) and worked on the staffs of the Boston Opera, Chicago Opera, Philadelphia Opera, and Philadelphia Orchestra. From 1947 to 1950 he was music director of Radio City Music Hall, New York. For many summers he conducted concerts at Lewisohn Stadium, New York. He conducted the premiere of Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* in Boston in 1935 and later took it on tour in the United States and Europe. Papers relating to Smallens' career as a conductor include correspondence, programs and flyers, photographs, clippings, complete issues of *Broun's Nutmeg* 1939 May 27-Sept. 30, and musical scores including arrangements by Smallens and scores with performance markings. Some scores have also been cataloged separately in the Scores file. Correspondents include Marc Blitzstein, Frederick Jacobi, and Leopold Stokowski (each represented by 20 or more letters); George Antheil, Norman Bel Geddes, Alfredo Casella, Aaron Copland, Henry Cowell, Olin Downes, Ira Gershwin, Morton Gould, Werner Josten, Darius Milhaud, Serge Prokofieff, Pitts Sanborn, William Schuman, Roger Sessions, Virgil Thomson, Eugen Zador, and Maria Gay Zenatello (each represented by 5 or more letters); and many other composers and conductors; there is 1 letter from Anton Webern. Series III has been cataloged separately in the VIM file as Photographs from the Alexander Smallens papers.

Preferred citation: Alexander Smallens papers, Music Division, The New York Public Library

Creator History

Alexander Smallens was a Russian-born American conductor. He accompanied the Anna Pavlova Ballet Company on a tour to South America (1915-1916) and worked on the staffs of the Boston Opera, Chicago Opera, Philadelphia Opera, and Philadelphia Orchestra. From 1947 to 1950 he was music director of Radio City Music Hall, New York. For many summers he conducted concerts at Lewisohn Stadium, New York. He conducted the premiere of Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* in Boston in 1935 and later took it on tour in the United States and Europe.

Scope and Content Note

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Arrangement: I. Correspondence; II. Programs and flyers; III. Photographs; IV. Clippings; V. Miscellaneous papers; VI. Musical scores; VII. Issues of Broun's Nutmeg; VIII. Certificates

Key Terms

Titles

Broun's Nutmeg

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Clippings
Correspondence
Newspapers
Photographic prints
Portrait photographs
Programs
Scores

Occupations

Conductors (Music)

Names

Smallens, Alexander, 1889-1972
Antheil, George, 1900-1959
Blitzstein, Marc
Casella, Alfredo, 1883-1947
Copland, Aaron, 1900-1990
Downes, Olin, 1886-1955
Gay, Maria, 1879-1943
Geddes, Norman Bel, 1893-1958
Gershwin, George, 1898-1937
Gershwin, Ira, 1896-1983
Gould, Morton, 1913-1996
Jacobi, Frederick, 1891-1952
Josten, Werner, 1885-1963
Milhaud, Darius, 1892-1974
Pavlova, Anna, 1881-1931
Prokofiev, Sergey, 1891-1953

Sanborn, Pitts, 1879-1941
Schuman, William, 1910-1992
Sessions, Roger, 1896-1985
Stokowski, Leopold, 1882-1977
Thomson, Virgil, 1896-1989
Webern, Anton, 1883-1945
Zádor, Eugene, 1894-1977
American Music Collection
Lewisohn Stadium (New York, N.Y.)
Philadelphia Orchestra