



## The New York Public Library Music Division

Guide to the

### **Naomi Ornest and William Yokel papers**

1945-1989

JPB 14-08

Compiled by Matthew Snyder, 2014

### **Summary**

**Creator:** Ornest, Naomi

**Title:** Naomi Ornest and William Yokel papers

**Date:** 1945-1989

**Size:** .67 linear feet (2 boxes)

**Source:** Donated by Jennifer Tarlow in 2007.

**Abstract:** Naomi Ornest (d. 2007) was an opera singer active in the late 1940s and early 1950s. She was later an opera director and translator. Her husband, William Yokel, a writer, worked for the American Theatre Wing (ATW). The Naomi Ornest and William Yokel papers date from 1945 to 1989 and document the career of Naomi Ornest through scores and correspondence. They also detail William Yokel's production for the American Theatre Wing of the WNYC radio program, Music on the Wing, through correspondence and scripts.

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

**Preferred citation:** Naomi Ornest and William Yokel papers, JPB 14-08. Music Division, The New York Public Library.

**Processing note:** Compiled by Matthew Snyder, 2014 Original order was maintained. Most content was rehoused.

### **Creator History**

Naomi Ornest (d. 2007) was an opera singer active in the late 1940s and early 1950s. She was later an opera director and translator. Her husband, William Yokel, a writer, worked for the American Theatre Wing (ATW), and produced the ATW's radio program Music on the Wing (broadcast on WNYC), which featured various types of music performed by artists associated with the ATW.

## Scope and Content Note

The Naomi Ornest and William Yobel papers date from 1945 to 1989 and document the vocal and opera directing careers of Naomi Ornest. They also detail William Yobel's production for the American Theatre Wing of the WNYC radio program Music on the Wing, and hold Yobel's writings.

Ornest's papers consist of scores for individual songs; correspondence; lists of opera engagements and roles performed; and the libretto or score for two operas. The scores are for piano and voice, and include both manuscript copies and a few manuscripts. Composers and librettists include William Flanagan, Frederick Piket, Richard Bodtke, Arthur F. Higgins, Russell Smith, Charles Strouse, Fritz Hutter, and Joseph Marx. The two operas are Trilby (1962), by Piket and Bodtke (directed by Ornest for the Opera Workshop of New York in 1967); and Discovery (1949), an early work by Strouse, based on a play by Charles Boultenhouse and John Myers. Ornest's correspondence is from William Flanagan (including postcards dating from 1989), William Yobel, friends, and family.

The William Yobel papers contain correspondence regarding Yobel's work on the WNYC program Music on the Wing, and a set of the program's scripts dating from 1948 to 1950. They also feature Yobel's essays and other writings dating from during and shortly after World War II.

**Arrangement:** The papers are in two sections: Naomi Ornest and William Yobel.

## Key Terms

### Genre/Physical Characteristic

Commercial correspondence  
Personal correspondence  
Radio scripts  
Scores  
Writings

### Occupations

Directors (performing arts)  
Musicians  
Opera singers  
Writers

### Names

Boultenhouse, Charles  
Flanagan, William, 1923-1969  
Piket, Frederick, 1903-1974  
Strouse, Charles  
Yobel, William  
American Theatre Wing  
WNYC (Radio station : New York, N.Y.)

## **Container List**

- b. 1 f. 1-3 Ornest, Naomi 1948-1989
- b. 2 f. 1-6 Yokel, William 1945-1950