



The New York Public Library Music Division

Guide to the

Mischa Mischakoff papers

1895-2011

JPB 21-137

Processed by Valerie Wingfield in 2021.

Summary

Creator: Mischakoff, Mischa, 1895-1981

Title: Mischa Mischakoff papers

Date: 1895-2011

Size: 4.96 linear feet (13 boxes, 1 tube)

Source: The collection was donated by Sharon Mischakoff.

Abstract: Mischa Mischakoff (1895-1981), a Ukrainian American, was a renowned violinist and concertmaster for several symphony orchestras including the NBC Symphony Orchestra under Arturo Toscanini. The collection, dated from 1895 to 2011, mostly focuses on Mischakoff's career in the United States with several symphony orchestras in the United States after he emigrated from Russia in 1922. The files include correspondence, certificates, contracts, correspondence, memorabilia, music scores, photographs, posters, programs, and sound recordings.

Conditions Governing Access:

Inquiries regarding audio materials in the collection may be directed to the Rodgers and Hammerstein Archives of Recorded Sound (recordedsound@nypl.org). Audio materials will be subject to preservation evaluation and migration prior to access.

Preferred citation: Mischa Mischakoff papers, JPB 21-137. Music Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

Language of the Material: Multiple languages Collection is predominantly in English; some materials in Russian, French and German.

Processing note: Processed by Valerie Wingfield in 2021.

Creator History

Mischa Mischakoff (1895-1981), was a renowned violinist and concertmaster for Walter Damrosch,

Leopold Stokowski, and Arturo Toscanini. Mischakoff was born in Ukraine, 1895. After emigrating to the United States in 1922, he changed his surname from Fishburg to Mischakoff because there were too many other classical musicians named Fishburg.

His career as a violinist began as a child with a gold medal win at the St. Petersburg Conservatory in 1913. At the Conservatory, he studied with S. Korguyev. While residing in Europe, he had opportunities to perform including being chosen as the concertmaster of the Warsaw Philharmonic and Bolshoi Opera. In Europe, he used the stage name Michael Fibère.

Once in the United States, Mischakoff had to reestablish his career. After some initial performances, his career moved forward with The New York Symphony Society under Walter Damrosch (1924-1927); followed by the Philadelphia Orchestra under Leopold Stokowski (1927-1930); the Chicago Symphony Orchestra under Frederick Stock (1930-1937); the NBC Symphony Orchestra under Arturo Toscanini (1937-1952); the Detroit Symphony Orchestra under Paul Paray and Sixten Ehrling (1952-1968); and in later years guest concertmaster with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. Mischakoff led for many years the Mischakoff String Quartet.

During the summer (1925-1965), Mischakoff served as the concertmaster and soloist at the Chautauqua Symphony in Chautauqua, New York. His teaching credentials include being on the faculty of the Juilliard School (1941-1952), and from 1952, Wayne State University in Detroit. As a concert violinist, he owned an exceptional collection of violins including four Stradivari.

Mischakoff died in Michigan in 1981. He was survived by his wife Hortense, two sons and a daughter.

Scope and Content Note

The Mischa Mischakoff papers, dated 1895 to 2011, documents the career of violinist and concertmaster Mischa Mischakoff (1895-1981). The collection holds correspondence, certificates, legal documents, printed matter, notes, photographs, posters, sheet music, memorabilia and audio recordings.

The collection reflects Mischakoff's career as an internationally renowned violinist and concertmaster in the United States. This is evident in the files such as the performance programs, photographs from concerts, and reviews that consistently demonstrate Mischakoff's influence in the classical world. Complementary material are several posters announcing his performances. The collection also includes letters to Hortense during his touring days with NBC Symphony Orchestra; letters upon the death of Mischa Mischakoff, the publication *Mischa Mischakoff, Journeys of a Concertmaster* by his daughter Anne Mischakoff Heiles, bills and receipts for the sale of his violins, and recordings that feature Mischakoff at New York City venues along with recordings of the NBC Symphony Orchestra with Maestro Arturo Toscanini.

Key Terms

Subjects

Concert tours

Music -- United States -- 20th century

Ukrainian American artists

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Photographs

Playbills (Posters)

Programs (Publications)

Scores

Sound recordings

Occupations

Violinists.

Names

Mischakoff, Mischa, 1895-1981

NBC Symphony Orchestra

Container List

European and Russian Documents 1895-1922

- b. 1 f. 1-2 Birth Certificate 1895
- b. 1 f. 3 Diploma, Violin--St. Petersburg Imperial Conservatory of Music 1912
- b. 1 f. 4 Leave Document For Imperial Conservatory of Music 1905
- b. 1 f. 5 Military Request To Serve 1913
- b. 1 f. 6 Official Registration Of Residence, Russia 1914
- b. 1 f. 7 Passports and Cunard Ticket 1922
There are two, one appears to be for travel within Russia and the other for entry into the United States.
- b. 1 f. 8 Program. Concert 1921
- b. 1 f. 9 Recommendation For Mischakoff 1912
- b. 1 f. 10-11 Russian and Other European Documents, Assorted 1920s
- b. 1 f. 12 Violin Certificate 1905
- b. 1 f. 13-14 Biographical Material 1920s-1970s

Correspondence 1950-1976

- b. 1 f. 15-17 General Correspondence 1950-1976
- b. 1 f. 18 Toscanini, Walter 1951
Walter Toscanini wrote that no one has the courage to tell his father Arturo Toscanini that Mischakoff has signed a contract with the Detroit Symphony for the next five years.
- b. 1 f. 19 Appointment. Guest Lecturer at University of Michigan 1967
- b. 1 f. 20-23 Condolences Upon Death of Mischa Mischakoff 1981
- b. 2 f. 1
- b. 2 f. 2 Eulogy by Karl Haas 1981
- b. 2 f. 3 Tributes To Mischakoff 1981
- b. 2 f. 4-14 Certificates For Violins 1927-1970
- b. 2 f. 15-20 Contracts For Events 1941-1973
- b. 3 f. 1-5

Writings 1938-1967

- b. 3 f. 6 Fundamentals of Violin Playing 1950s-1960s
- b. 3 f. 7 Introducing Mischa Mischakoff 1967
- b. 3 f. 8 NBC Symphony Program Intermission Talk 1938
Intermission talk by Samuel Chotzinoff.
- b. 3 f. 9 Violin Workshop Notes 1953
- b. 3 f. 10 Notes, Assorted

Printed Matter 1910-2006

- b. 3 f. 11-25 Articles 1930s-1981
- b. 4 f. 1-8

Music Scores, Annotated

- b. 4 f. 9 *La Fille Aux Cheveux de lin* 1910
Transcription pour violon et piano par Arthur Hartmann.
Alternate title: The Girl With the Linen Hair.
- b. 4 f. 10 *Konzert NR.2 In G Dur 2* 1933
Publisher: C.F. Peters Corporation.

Printed Matter (cont.)

Music Scores, Annotated (cont.)

- b. 12 f. 1 *Second Concerto Pour Le Violon*
Par Henri Wieniawski.
- b. 4 f. 11 *Sonata* 1915
Edited and revised by Leopold Lichtenberg. Work by César Franck. Piano part fingered by
Clarence Adler.
Composed for violin and piano.
- b. 4 f. 12 *Third Concerto in G Major*
Edited by Leopold Auer.
- b. 4 f. 13-19 Programs 1923-1970s
- b. 5 f. 1-9

Posters

- t. 1 Toscanini--The Television Concerts 1963
- b. 11 f. 1 Erie Philharmonic Concert
- b. 11 f. 2 Hebrew University of Jerusalem 1971
- b. 11 f. 3-4 Mischakoff, Thrilling Musician, World Famous
- b. 11 f. 5 Music Study Club Of Detroit
There are two posters.

Books 1975, 2006

- b. 5 f. 10 *Dumouchelle Art Galleries* 1976
- b. 12 f. 2 *Mischa Mischakoff. Journey Of A Concertmaster* 2006
Author: Anne Mischakoff Heiles.
- b. 12 f. 3 *The Way They Play* 1975
Authors: Samuel and Sada Applebaum.
- b. 5 f. 11 Assorted Printed Matter 1950s-1960s

Photographs 1920s-1970s

- b. 6 f. 1 Benny, Jack
- b. 13 f. 1
- b. 6 f. 2 Detroit Symphony Orchestra
- b. 13 f. 2
- b. 6 f. 3 Ehrling, Sixten 1973
- b. 6 f. 45-47 Entertainment Events
- b. 7 f. 1-9
- b. 6 f. 4 Fiedler, Arthur 1967 (Etching.)
- b. 6 f. 5-7 Gordon, Nathan 1955, 1965
Photographs also include Andre Segovia and Mischakoff.
- b. 6 f. 48 Heifetz, Jascha
Removed for conservation treatment.
- b. 6 f. 8 Jarvis, Lucy and Others 1969
- b. 6 f. 9 Katims, Milton 1953
- b. 13 f. 3 Kaye, Danny
- b. 6 f. 10 Kostelanetz, Andre 1974
- b. 6 f. 11-15 Mischakoff, Hortense 1930s-1970s
see also: Entertainment Events
- b. 6 f. 16-34 Mischakoff, Mischa 1920s-1970s
- b. 13 f. 4
- b. 6 f. 35 Perlman, Itzak

Photographs (cont.)

- b. 6 f. 36 Romney, George
- b. 13 f. 5
- b. 6 f. 37 Senofsky, Berl 1960
- b. 7 f. 10 South American Tour With Toscanini 1940
Leisure and countryside images.
- b. 13 f. 6 Testimonial Dinner. NBC Orchestra 1942
- b. 6 f. 38-40 Toscanini, Arturo 1940
- b. 13 f. 7
- b. 6 f. 41 Wild, Earl, Bbenar Heifetz and Mischakoff
- b. 6 f. 42-44 Unidentified Individuals

Family Papers 1930s-2011

- b. 8 f. 1-5 Mischakoff, Mischa letters to Hortense 1950, 1959-1960
- b. 8 f. 6-7 Wedding Announcement and Photograph 1937
Mischakoff, Hortense
- b. 8 f. 8 Articles 1930s-1990s
- b. 8 f. 9 Tribute 1998
- b. 8 f. 10 Heiles Anne Mischakoff 1960s-1990s
- b. 8 f. 11 Mischakoff, Matthew 1960s-2010
- b. 8 f. 12 Mischakoff, Paul Michael 1993, 2011
- b. 8 f. 13 Family Photographs
see also: Photographs, Entertainment Events
- b. 8 f. 14 Legal Documents, Personal 1920s-1980s
- b. 8 f. 15 Fishburg Family History
- b. 8 f. 16 Moritz (Hortense Mischakoff) Family History
- b. 8 f. 17 Stationary
- b. 8 f. 18 Assorted Files

Memorabilia

- b. 9 Chamber Music Society of Detroit Plaque 1968
- b. 10 Handkerchiefs
- b. 9 Mischakoff's Silver Anniversary Book 1962
- b. 9 Paul Mischakoff's Autograph Book 1952
- b. 10 Wallets

Audio and Moving Image Materials 1938-1948, 1975

The sound recordings of Mischa Mischakoff were mostly produced during his tenure as concertmaster for the NBC Symphony Orchestra under the conductor Arturo Toscanini. The sound recordings also include a single disc by Ani Kavafian, violinist with Charles Wadsworth, pianist. Wadsworth, who was a former student of Mischakoff.

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Sound Recordings

- 763756 Ani Kavafian, violinist with Charles Wadsworth, pianist 1975
The Philip M. Faucett String Prize of Young Concert Artists. The album was autographed by the artist.
- 763720 Auturo Toscanini Rehearsal

Audio and Moving Image Materials (cont.)
Sound Recordings (cont.)

- 763747 **Barber of Seville; Alouette**
Verso: Choral March; Trumpeter's Lullaby." National Music Camp, Interlochen, Michigan.
The camp's complete name is full name is Interlochen Center for the Arts.
Beethoven, Ludwig van
No additional information about contents.
- 763670 **Excerpts Part I of VIII** 1941 May 31
Concerto for violin and orchestra. NBC Summer Symphony Orchestra.
- 763671 **Part II; Part V (?)** 1941 May 31.
Concerto for violin and orchestra. NBC Summer Symphony Orchestra.
- 763672 **Part III; Part VI (verso)** 1941 May 31
Concerto for violin and orchestra. NBC Summer Symphony Orchestra.
- 763673 **Part VII** 1941 May 31
Concerto for violin and orchestra. NBC Summer Symphony Orchestra.
- 763674 **Part VIII** 1941 May 31
Concerto for violin and orchestra. NBC Summer Symphony Orchestra.
- Brahms, Johannes**
- 763751 **Sonata**
Limited information.
- 763753 **Sonata**
- 763754 **Sonata**
- 763755 **Sonata**
- 763752 **Sonata First Movement**
- Brahms, Johannes**
- 763678 **Parts 1 and 2** 1948? November 13
- 763679 **Parts 3 and 4** 1948? November 13
- 763680 **Parts 5 and 6** 1948? November 13
- Caprice Viennois, Opus 2 by Fritz Kreisler**
- 763743 **Artist. Fritz Kreisler; Artist. Mischa Mischakoff**
Verso: "Russian Dance." Artist. Mischa Mischakoff
- 763683 **Artist. Fritz Kreisler** 1946 June 17; September 23
Verso: Hejre Kati-Hubay. Mischa Mischakoff played with NBC Symphony Orchestra.
Disc was labeled a copy.
- 763690 **Cassation No. 1 in G Major. by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Artist, Mischa Mischakoff** 1941 April 20
- Cello Concerto in D Minor by Édouard Lalo**
Artist, Mischa Mischakoff.
- 763734 **Part I**
Verso: Part III.
- 763735 **Part II**
Verso: Part IV.
- 763736 **Part V**
Verso: "Orientale" and "Gitana."
- 763744 **Concerto for Two Violins in D Minor. BWV 1043. Composer. Johann Sebastian Bach**
Fritz Kreisler and Efram Zimbalist accompanied by a string quartet.

Audio and Moving Image Materials (cont.)
Sound Recordings (cont.)

Concerto Artists. Jules Conus and Mischa Mischakoff with NBC Symphony Orchestra

763740 Part VII 1946 May 19
Verso: Part II.

763741 Part III or IV? 1946 May 19
Part III or IV?

Ein Heldenleben, Opus 40 by Richard Strauss

763718 Side I
Verso: Part II. Conductor. Arturo Toscanini.

763719 Side III
Verso: Part IV. Conductor. Arturo Toscanini.

763709 First Movement. Composer. Felix Mendelssohn
Verso of disc. Second Movement.

La Gitana

763742 Artists. Fritz Kreisler and Mischa Mischakoff with the NBC Symphony Orchestra 1947 January 13
Noted as a copy.

763692 Artist. Mischa Mischakoff with the Spitalny Orchestra 1939 May 21; May 7
Verso: Viola Concerto in E Minor.

763746 *End of La Gitana*
verso: "Swiss Lullaby."

763706 *Gypsy Rondo. Composer Joseph Haydn. Artist Mischa Mischakoff* 1939 April 23
Verso: Nocturne in E Flat. Composer. Chopin.

763685 *Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso-Saint Sens, Opus 28 by Camille Saint-Saëns* 1946 January 31
Frank Black was the conductor; Mischa Mischakoff with NBC Symphony Orchestra.
"Jota" from Spanish Folk Song Suite by Manuel De Falla
The composer was Manuel De Falla.

763688 1941 January 12
Verso: "Symphony Concertanta." Composer Mozart. Played by Mischa Mischakoff.

763689 1941 January 12, 1940 December 1
Verso: Hungarian Rhapsody," Spitalny-Tapestry.

763750 *"Le Zefir", Opus 30, No. 5, from Virágrege* 1946 May 20
This was noted as a copy.

763716 *Lover Come Back To Me by Sigmund Romberg and Oscar Hammerstein II. Artist. Mischa Mischakoff with the Spitalny Orchestra* 1945 October 22
Verso: La Gitana. Artist Mischa Mischakoff with Spitalny Orchestra.

763684 *The Magic Of The Violin. Thomas Hayward and Mischa Mischakoff with Spitalny Orchestra* 1946 January 15; March 25
Verso: Shadows of the Past. Mischa Mischakoff with Spitalny Orchestra.

763693 Movement of Haydn's. Concertmaster Mischa Mischakoff 1938 October 29; 9
Verso: Cont. Symphonie Espagnol. Accompanist, Spitalny Orchestra.

763713 Music of Antonio Vivaldi and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. New York Philharmonic Orchestra 1954 March 14

NBC Music Appreciation Hour. Artist, Mischa Mischakoff

763701, 763702 *Violin Concerto in D Major, Opus 61 by Ludwig van Beethoven. Larghetto* 1941 January 3

Audio and Moving Image Materials (cont.)
Sound Recordings (cont.)

- 763687 *Nocturne, Opus 9. Violin solo; Composer Frédéric François Chopin. Artist. Mischa Mischakoff* 1939 April 23
Accompanied by the Spitalny Orchestra.
- 763729 *Nocturne in D Flat. Composer Frédéric François Chopin. Artist. Mischa Mischakoff* 1940 January 21
- 763686 *Praeludium and Allegro by Fritz Kreisler* 1945 November 18; December 16
Verso: Brandenburg Concerto No. 5; Bach; NBC Symphony Orchestra; violin Mischa Mischakoff.
- 763707 *"Romanza Andaluza (Andantino)," Opus 21, from Spanish Dances by Pablo de Sarasate*
Verso: Chanson Polonaise. Composer: Henryk Wieniawski.. Composer. Pablo de Sarasate. Artist. Mischa Mischakoff.
- 763724, 763682 *Sarabande. Composer. Jean Roger-Ducasse. Artist. Mischa Mischakoff* 1946 April 7
- 33433130796273 *Serenade Melancolique. Tschaikowsky. Artist Mischa Mischakoff* 1942 May 18
Item is unavailable pending preservation treatment.
- 763721, 763722, 763723 *String Quartet in C Minor, Opus 51, No. 1*
Johannes Brahms. Artist. The Mischakoff Strings Quartet.
- 763708 *String Quartet in F Major, Opus 3, No. 5 "Serenade" by Franz Joseph Haydn*
Verso: Scherzo from the Mischakoff String Quartet in D Minor.
- 763694 *Symphonie Espagnole in D Minor, Opus 21 by Édouard Lalo. Artist. Mischa Mischakoff* 1938 October 9
Accompanist. Spitalny Orchestra; Verso: III. continuation.
Symphony Concertante. Sonata in D
Artist. Mischa Mischakoff.
- 763695 *Part I. Composer, Antonio Vivaldi* 1940 April 7
Verso: Part III. Sonata in D.
- 763696 *Part II. Antonio Vivaldi* 1940 April 7
Verso: No.1 'Hullázmó Balaton. composer Jenő Hubay.
Symphony Concertante 1941 February 15
Composer, Mozart; Artist, Mischa Mischakoff.
- 763697 *Part I. Symphony Concertante*
Arturo Toscanini conducting. Verso: Part III.
- 763703 *Part I. Symphony Concertante*
Verso: Part III (Duplicate)
- 763698 *Part II. Symphony Concertante*
Arturo Toscanini conducting. Verso: Part IV.
- 763704 *Part II. Symphony Concertante*
Verso: Part IV.
- 763699 *Part V. Symphony Concertante*
Arturo Toscanini conducting. Verso: Part VI.
- 763700 *Part V. Symphony Concertante*
Duplicate?
- 763705 *Part VI. Symphony Concertante*
Verso: Violin Solo "Benedictus" and Missa Solenne." Composer: Verdi.
Symphonic Concerto. Composer Mozart. Artist Mischa Mischakoff and Nathan Gordon

Audio and Moving Image Materials (cont.)

Sound Recordings (cont.)

Symphonic Concerto. Composer Mozart. Artist Mischa Mischakoff and Nathan Gordon (cont.)

- 763730 **Part II** 1938 August 21
Accompanist: Chautauqua Verso: Part VI?
- 763731 **Part II** 1938 August 21
Verso: Part VI.
- 763732 **Part III** 1938 August 21
Verso: Part V.
- 763733 **Part IV** 1938 August 21
Verso: Part VI.
- 763714 *Symphony No. 4 in A major, Opus 90 ("Italian") by Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy* 1954 February 28
Side 2. Symphony, conclusion and Don Juan.
- Violin Concerto**
- 763737 Violin Concerto
- 763738 Violin Concerto. Composer. Henrik Wieniawski
No additional information.
- 763739 Violin Concerto. Conclusion
No additional information.
- Violin Concerto No. 1 in G Minor, Opus 26 by Max Bruch. Artist. Mischa Mischakoff*
Artur Balsam accompanied at the piano.
- 763725 **Parts I and IV** 1941 March
Verso: Part II. A. Balsam at the piano.
- 763726 **Parts II and III** 1941 March
Parts III and IV.
- 763727 **Parts V and VI** 1941 March
Parts V and VI.
- 763712 *Violin Concerto. Composer Max Bruch. Artist. Mischa Mischakoff* 1954
October 19
Butler County Symphony Orchestra. Conductor Edward Roncone. Pennsylvania.
- 763728 *Violin Concerto. Artist: Joseph Szigeti*
NBC Symphony Orchestra. *Violin Concerto* by Alban Berg.
Violin Concerto in E Minor Opus 64 by Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy
The recording was completed on several discs.
- 763675 1939 May 7
Numbers 1 and 2.
- 763676 1939 May 7
Numbers 3 and 4.
- 763677 1939 May 7
Numbers 5 and 6.
- 763691 *Violin Solo "Benedictus" from Missa Solemnis by Ludwig van Beethoven.*
Artist. Mischa Mischakoff 1940 December 28
- Vivaldi Violin Concerto**
- 763749 **Part II** 1947 November 22
Artist. Mischa Mischakoff and the NBC Symphony Orchestra.
- 763748 **Parts I and III** 1947 November 22
Artist. Mischa Mischakoff and the NBC Symphony Orchestra.

Audio and Moving Image Materials (cont.)

Sound Recordings (cont.)

- 763717 *Zigeunerweisen, Opus 20 by Pablo de Sarasate. Artist. Mischa Mischakoff with Spitalny Orchestra* 1945 December 3
Verso: Zigeunerweisen
- 763681 Unidentified
- 763710 Unidentified
A note indicates that the discs was a recording of Mischa Mischakoff for NBC..
- 763711 Unidentified
A note indicates that the discs was a recording of Mischa Mischakoff for NBC..
- 763715 Unidentified
- 763745 Unidentified. Artist. Mischa Mischakoff
- 33433130796281 Unidentified
Item is unavailable pending preservation treatment.