



The New York Public Library
Rodgers and Hammerstein Archives of Recorded Sound

Guide to the

Anna Balos collection of non-commercial recordings [sound recording]

*L (Special) 96-23

Summary

Creator: Balos, Anna, 1910-2001

Title: Anna Balos collection of non-commercial recordings [sound recording]

Size: 121 sound recordings, analog; 121 sound recordings, analog; 14, analog, 10 in.; 14, analog, 10 in.; 75, analog, 7 in.; 75, analog, 7 in.; 13, analog, 5 in.; 13, analog, 5 in.; 13, analog acetate, 12 in.; 13, analog acetate, 12 in.; 6, analog acetate, 10 in.; 6, analog acetate, 10 in.

Source: Loan, Balos, Anna, 1992 Gift, Golden, Jean, 2001

Abstract: Anna Balos was a dramatic soprano, who performed throughout Europe and in the United States. Balos was born in Poland in 1910, and immigrated to the U.S. with her family at the age of ten. The family lived for a short time in New York, but then moved to Denver, where Balos cultivated an early love for the piano and singing. Her talent earned her a scholarship to attend the Institute of Musical Art, later known as the Juilliard School. Balos' first major role was that of Aida on Feb. 18, 1939 at the Hippodrome Theatre, NYC. After World War II, she went to Italy, and became understudy to Kirsten Flagstad at La Scala. It was there that she had her debut as Kundry in Wagner's Parsifal on Mar. 26, 1948. She lived and sang in Italy and Germany until 1957, when she was forced to return to the United States because of an eye injury. Back in New York, she maintained a schedule of recitals and concerts, with reviewed concerts given at Town Hall on Apr. 6, 1962, and at Judson Hall on Nov. 23, 1962. Ms. Balos continued to sing and give voice and piano lessons until her death on Apr. 15, 2001. The collection consists of private recordings featuring Anna Balos, operatic soprano, and includes 5 tapes of opera excerpts from Don Carlos, Elektra, Die Gotterdammerung and Tristan und Isolde, performed in Halle and Oldenburg, Germany in 1955. The bulk of the collection includes other private recordings of Balos in rehearsal, recital, concert, and operatic performance.

Conditions Governing Access:

Access to original tapes restricted ; For access to unprocessed material, contact the Curator of the archive.

Preferred citation: Anna Balos collection of non-commercial recordings [sound recording], Rodgers and Hammerstein Archives of Recorded Sound, The New York Public Library

Creator History

Anna Balos was a dramatic soprano, who performed throughout Europe and in the United States. Balos was born in Poland in 1910, and immigrated to the U.S. with her family at the age of ten. The family lived for a short time in New York, but then moved to Denver, where Balos cultivated an early love for the piano and singing. Her talent earned her a scholarship to attend the Institute of Musical Art, later known as the Juilliard School. Balos' first major role was that of Aida on Feb. 18, 1939 at the Hippodrome Theatre, NYC. After World War II, she went to Italy, and became understudy to Kirsten Flagstad at La Scala. It was there that she had her debut as Kundry in Wagner's Parsifal on Mar. 26, 1948. She lived and sang in Italy and Germany until 1957, when she was forced to return to the United States because of an eye injury. Back in New York, she maintained a schedule of recitals and concerts, with reviewed concerts given at Town Hall on Apr. 6, 1962, and at Judson Hall on Nov. 23, 1962. Ms. Balos continued to sing and give voice and piano lessons until her death on Apr. 15, 2001.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of private recordings featuring Anna Balos, operatic soprano, and includes 5 tapes of opera excerpts from Don Carlos, Elektra, Die Gotterdammerung and Tristan und Isolde, performed in Halle and Oldenburg, Germany in 1955. The bulk of the collection includes other private recordings of Balos in rehearsal, recital, concert, and operatic performance.

Key Terms

Subjects

Operas -- Excerpts

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Sound recordings

Names

Balos, Anna, 1910-2001

Strauss, Richard, 1864-1949

Verdi, Giuseppe, 1813-1901

Wagner, Richard, 1813-1883