
Piatigorsky Archives at the Colburn School 2016.GP.CS

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URL: <http://www.colburnschool.edu/>

Contributing Institution: The Colburn School

Title: Piatigorsky Archives at the Colburn School

creator: Piatigorsky, Gregor, 1903-1976

source: The Colburn School

Identifier/Call Number: 2016.GP.CS

Physical Description: 154.90 Linear Feet 151 boxes, approximately 19,000 items: 30 boxes of published and unpublished scores; 3 boxes of handwritten music manuscripts; 6 boxes of personal and work papers; 5 boxes of correspondence; 1 box of book manuscripts; 6 boxes of clippings; 1 box of ephemera; 5 boxes of concert programs; 10 boxes of photographs; 29 boxes of sound recordings in 7", 10", and 12" sound discs and reel tapes; 4 boxes of video recordings in film and reel tapes; 16 boxes of books, journals, and catalogs; 17 boxes of supplemental collection materials; 2 boxes of realia and textiles; 5 boxes of presentation materials; 4 boxes of duplicate materials; 1 box of 'treasure box' materials 39 storage cartons, 31 periodical boxes, 19 record boxes (12"), 16 document boxes, 14 print boxes, 9 CD boxes, 6 newspaper boxes, 4 multipurpose boxes, 2 record boxes (45 rpm), 1 record box (10"), 2 textile storage boxes (40")

Date (inclusive): 1900-1999

Date (bulk): 1930-1976

Abstract: The Piatigorsky Archives consists of 19,000 items documenting the life and career of cellist Gregor Piatigorsky (1903-1976). The collection includes musical scores and manuscripts, papers, correspondence, clippings, concert programs, photographs, sound and video recordings, books, and ephemera. The majority of the materials in the archives consists of Piatigorsky's personal collection, but it also includes items collected by or given to him by composers, colleagues, and friends. The collection was donated to the Colburn School, a music conservatory in Los Angeles, in 2014.

Language of Material: Primarily English with many materials in Russian and French. Also includes materials in German, Italian, Hungarian, Polish, and Spanish.

Biographical / Historical

Gregor Piatigorsky was among the most celebrated cellists of the twentieth century. At age 15 he was principal cellist of the Bolshoi Orchestra in Moscow and at 18 he was principal cellist of the Berlin Philharmonic. From the mid-1920s through the 1950s he toured as a soloist and recorded extensively. In the 1960s he performed often with his close friend, the violinist Jascha Heifetz.

Gregor Piatigorsky was born in 1903 in Ekaterinoslav, Ukraine. Coming from very humble beginnings, by the age of eight he was already a professional cellist, playing in restaurants and theaters. At fifteen he joined the Bolshoi Orchestra in Moscow as principal cellist. At eighteen, he escaped from Communist Russia and at twenty-one he was principal cellist of the Berlin Philharmonic.

Beginning in the mid-nineteen-twenties, Piatigorsky had an extensive career as a cello soloist, performing with the great orchestras and conductors of the day and playing chamber music with the most illustrious musicians of the twentieth century. He toured extensively throughout Europe, Asia, and the Americas. He made hundreds of recordings and appeared on radio, television, and film.

Piatigorsky was known as a great musician, raconteur, art collector, and a man of great warmth and generosity. In January 1937, Piatigorsky married Jacqueline de Rothschild in Ann Arbor, Michigan while on an American tour. During World War II, Piatigorsky was forced to leave Europe with his family, settling first in upstate New York. When Piatigorsky was appointed to the faculty of the Curtis Institute of Music in 1941 the family moved to Philadelphia. Finally, Piatigorsky settled in Los Angeles in 1949, for a short time teaching at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and later teaching master classes at the University of Southern California (USC) from 1962 to 1976.

The last concert Piatigorsky played was on June 15, 1976 opening the new Robin Hood Dell Series with the Philadelphia Orchestra, conducted by Eugene Ormandy, in the Brahms Double Concerto with Isaac Stern and Don Quixote by Richard Strauss, a work with which he had been associated throughout his career. A few months later, Piatigorsky died of lung cancer on August 6, 1976 at his home in Los Angeles.

Scope and Contents

The Piatigorsky Archives were accessioned by the Colburn School through the Piatigorsky family in January of 2014. The collection consists of musical scores and manuscripts, papers, correspondence, clippings, ephemera, concert programs, photographs, sound recordings (interviews, test pressings, commercial recordings, personal record collection), video recordings (performances, home movies, commercial films, biographies), and books. The materials came from Piatigorsky's personal collection at his home in Los Angeles, CA. Additionally, the collection includes supplemental materials donated to, or acquired by the Archives. A portion of the collection has been digitized, including photographs, music manuscripts, recorded audio interviews, and selections of concert programs and correspondence.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in 6 series with sub-series:

Series 1. Scores and Manuscripts: published scores, unpublished scores, music manuscripts (27.99 linear feet). Series 2. Papers: personal and work papers, correspondence, book manuscripts, clippings, ephemera, concert programs (27.11 linear feet). Series 3. Photographs: family, general, performance and rehearsals, portraits (6.38 linear feet). Series 4. Sound and Video Recordings: interviews, test pressings, commercial recordings, record collection, audio tape reels, video recordings (27.26 linear feet). Series 5. Books, Journals, and Catalogs: books, journals, music catalogs (15 linear feet). Series 6. Supplemental Collections: Adele Freedman Siegal collection, Margaret Bartley collection, Piatigorsky scores collection, CD collection (15.05 linear feet).

Conditions Governing Access

Open for research by appointment. Material must be requested at least two business days in advance of intended use. Contact the archives at piatigorskyarchives@colburnschool.edu.

Conditions Governing Use

For permission to publish or reproduce, please contact the archives at piatigorskyarchives@colburnschool.edu.

Preferred Citation

Item name, item date, unique identifier, box # : folder # . Piatigorsky Archives at the Colburn School, Los Angeles, CA (date accessed).

Processing Information

Collection processed by Clarice De Veyra (archivist), Meagan Mason and Alison Butler (musicologists, archives assistants), and Carol Merrill-Mirsky (archives consultant), 2014-2016.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Piatigorsky, Gregor (1903-1976) -- Archival resources

Cellists

Cellists -- California -- Los Angeles

Music -- 20th century -- Archival resources

Musicians -- California -- Los Angeles -- Archival resources

Musicians -- Classical music -- 20th century

Piatigorsky, Gregor, 1903-1976

The Colburn School

box 1-33

Scores and Manuscripts

Language of Material: Primarily English, includes materials in Russian.

Scope and Contents

Piatigorsky's collection of published and unpublished scores, and his own handwritten manuscripts.

Arrangement

Arranged by unique identifier.

box 1-22

Published Scores

Language of Material: Primarily English (boxes 1-20), includes materials in Russian (boxes 21-22).

Scope and Contents

Piatigorsky's personal collection of published scores.

Arrangement

Arranged by composer and piece.

box 23-30

Unpublished Scores

Language of Material: Primarily English (boxes 23-29), includes materials in Russian (box 30).

Scope and Contents

Unpublished scores, often sent by composers requesting Piatigorsky perform their pieces.

Arrangement

Arranged by composer and piece.

box 31-33

Music Manuscripts

Scope and Contents

Handwritten music manuscripts written by Piatigorsky, his wife Jacqueline, or a copyist. Includes Piatigorsky's own compositions and arrangements.

Arrangement

Arranged by unique identifier.

box 34-57

Papers

box 34-39

Personal and Work Papers 1924-1996

Language of Material: Primarily English, includes materials in Russian.

Scope and Contents

Papers related to Piatigorsky's life and work. Includes awards, concert fees and commissions, contracts, instrument documentation, personal notes, and more.

Arrangement

Items arranged either chronologically or alphabetically.

box 34, folder 1-2
box 39 (oversize),
folder 1
box 34, folder 3-6,
box 39 (oversize),
folder 2
box 34,
folder 7-11
box 34, folder 12

Art collection 1942-1976

Art prints

Awards and honors 1947-1975

Concert fees and commissions 1939-1972

Contacts 1940-1976

Scope and Contents

Contact information for Piatigorsky friends and colleagues. Includes saved envelopes with addresses, business cards, and handwritten notes with phone numbers and addresses.

box 34, folder 13
box 34, folder 14
box 34,
folder 15-18
box 34, folder 19
box 35, folder 1
box 35, folder 2
box 35, folder 3
box 35, folder 4
box 35, folder 5
box 35, folder 6-7
box 39 (oversize),
folder 3

Contracts: agents and managers 1940-1956

Contracts: books 1947-1970

Contracts: concerts 1938-1970

Contracts: films 1949-1974

Contracts: music publishers 1942-1972

Contracts: radio and television 1939-1975

Contracts: records 1939-1975

Events 1955-1973

Ford Foundation 1961-1971

Gerontology Center, USC 1969-1976

House blueprints 1949

box 35, folder 8-9	Instrument construction, repairs, inquiries 1934-1976
box 35, folder 10	Invitations 1940-1976
box 35, folder 11	Koussevitzky Foundation 1942-1973
box 35, folder 12-15	Memberships and contributions 1940-1976
box 38	Objects: plaques, awards, certificates
box 35, folder 16-17	Personal documents 1938-1976
box 35, folder 18-19	Personal notes
box 35, folder 20	Personal notes (Russian)
box 35, folder 21	Piatigorsky Award 1953-1973
box 35, folder 22	Piatigorsky funeral 1976
box 36, folder 1, box 39 (oversize), folder 4	Piatigorsky, Jacqueline 1940-1999
box 36, folder 2-3	Piatigorsky recordings 1924-1986
box 39 (oversize)	Piatigorsky's briefcase
box 36, folder 4	Poetry
box 36, folder 5	Poetry (Russian)
box 36, folder 6-7	Posthumous: memorial tributes and programs 1976-1987
box 36, folder 8	Posthumous: music manuscript and transcriptions requests 1976-1987
box 36, folder 9	Posthumous: publication of recordings 1976-1990
box 36, folder 10	Posthumous: Rosen, Nathaniel 1978-1986
box 36, folder 11	Posthumous: Stradivari exhibit 1987-1990
box 36, folder 12	Posthumous: Terry King book 1987-1996
box 36, folder 13	Press materials
box 36, folder 14	Publications of Piatigorsky's biography 1943-1977
box 36, folder 15	Radio programs 1946-1976
box 36, folder 16	Record collection 1977
box 36, folder 17	Royalties: Cellist 1957-1969
box 36, folder 18	Royalties: film 1951-1970
box 36, folder 19-20	Royalties: music publishers 1940-1975
box 36, folder 21-24	Royalties: record companies 1934-1975
box 37, folder 1	Schedule and programs 1930-1976
box 37, folder 2	School children letters 1965
box 37, folder 3	Stamp collection
box 37, folder 4-7	Student programs 1949-1976

 box 40-43, 116
Correspondence 1923-1976

Language of Material: Primarily English and Russian, includes letters in French, German, Italian, and Polish.

Scope and Contents

Correspondence to Piatigorsky from friends and colleagues (other musicians and performers), composers, and others. Includes letters from Piatigorsky to his wife, Jacqueline, while on tour and small amount of letters he wrote to others. A selection of correspondence has been digitized.

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically or alphabetically.

box 40, folder 1
box 40, folder 2-5
box 40, folder 6-7
box 40, folder 8-9

Admiration and congratulations 1941-1976**Agents and managers 1940-1976****Book publishers 1947-1976****Book "Cellist" 1944-1974**

box 40, folder 10-12	Composers 1939-1974
box 40, folder 13-14	Concerts 1920-1976
box 40, folder 15-19, box 41, folder 1-6 box 41, folder 7	Condolences 1976
box 41, folder 8-15, box 42, folder 1-5 box 42, folder 6 box 42, folder 7	French correspondence 1940-1976
box 42, folder 8-13	Friends and colleagues 1939-1976
box 42, folder 14-15	From Piatigorsky 1941-1964
box 42, folder 16 box 42, folder 17	German correspondence
box 42, folder 18-19	Gregor to Jacqueline 1939-1958
box 42, folder 20 box 42, folder 21-22	Inquiries 1940-1977
box 43, folder 1	Italian and Polish correspondence
box 116, folder 1-2	Jacqueline to Gregor 1940-1971
box 116, folder 3 box 116, folder 4 box 116, folder 5	Music manuscripts collection 1954-1976
box 116, folder 6-13	Music publishers 1939-1965
box 116, folder 14-15	Records 1941-1976
box 116, folder 16 box 116, folder 17 box 116, folder 18	Rothschilds 1945-1976
box 43, folder 2-7 box 43, folder 8-14	Russian correspondence: composers 1940-1974
	Russian correspondence: family (Stogorsky, A.) 1957-1975
	Russian correspondence: family (parents) 1939-1961
	Russian correspondence: family 1956-1971
	Russian correspondence: friends and colleagues 1940-1976
	Russian correspondence: Nicolai 1940-1968
	Russian correspondence: Piatigorsky, Gregor 1923-1965
	Russian correspondence: Tchaikovsky Competition 1965-1966
	Russian correspondence: unidentified letters
	Students 1942-1976
	Universities and schools 1943-1976

box 44	Book Manuscripts 1950-1965
	Scope and Contents
	Drafts of Piatigorsky's autobiography, "Cellist", published by Doubleday in 1965.
box 44, folder 1-15	Manuscript and drafts of "Cellist" 1950-1965
box 44, folder 16	Manuscript of "Cellist II"

box 46-51	Clippings 1923-1976
	Language of Material: Primarily English, includes materials in Russian and French.
	Scope and Contents
	Newspaper and magazine articles about, by, or related to Piatigorsky. Cut outs, whole newspapers or magazines, and scrapbooks.
	Arrangement
	Arranged chronologically by subject.

box 46, folder 1,
box 48 (oversize),
folder 1
box 46, folder 2
box 46, folder 3
box 48 (oversize),
folder 2
box 48 (oversize),
folder 3-5, box 49
(oversize),
folder 1-4
box 46, folder 4
box 49 (oversize),
folder 5
box 46, folder 5-7,
box 49 (oversize),
folder 6
box 46, folder 8
box 50 (oversize),
folder 1
box 46,
folder 9-12
box 47, folder 1-2
box 47, folder 3-4
box 47, folder 5,
box 50 (oversize),
folder 2
box 47, folder 6
box 47, folder 7-9
box 50 (oversize),
folder 3
box 47, folder 10
box 51
box 50 (oversize),
folder 4
box 47, folder 11
box 50 (oversize),
folder 5

Articles about Piatigorsky 1936-1977

Articles by Piatigorsky 1957-1976

Awards and honors 1949-1976

Cellist book articles and reviews 1949-1976

Concerts 1923-1976

Film 1946-1976

Foreign languages

Interviews with Piatigorsky 1939-1976

Jacqueline Piatigorsky 1966

Master class, USC 1961-1976

Mentions of Piatigorsky 1948-1989

Miscellaneous clippings 1940-1976

Music 1948-1976

Obituaries, eulogies, and tributes 1976-1997

Radio 1948-1963

Record ads and catalogs 1942-1975

Record reviews 1943-1975

Rothschilds 1961-1963

Scrapbooks

Teaching and judging 1948-1976

Television 1956-1974

Young Musicians Foundation 1957-1975

box 52

Ephemera 1927-1976

Scope and Contents

Press, concert flyers, announcements, and advertisements for Piatigorsky.

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.

box 53-57

Concert Programs 1902-1981

Language of Material: Primarily in English, includes materials in Russian, French, German, Spanish, and Japanese.

Scope and Contents

Programs of Piatigorsky's performances as well as those collected from the Hollywood Bowl, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and concerts in which Piatigorsky did not perform. A selection of the programs have been digitized.

Arrangement

Programs are arranged by General, Hollywood Bowl, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and Piatigorsky Performances. Organized by date.

box 53, folder 1-4,
box 56 (oversize),
folder 1**General 1902-1981**

box 53, folder 5

Hollywood Bowl 1925-1976

box 57, folder 1

Los Angeles Philharmonic 1920-1963

box 53,

Piatigorsky performances 1920-1976

folder 6-11,

box 54,

folder 1-12,

box 55,

folder 1-17,

box 56 (oversize),

folder 2

Russian programs 1920-1921

box 56 (oversize),

folder 3

Photographs

box 58-67

Scope and Contents

Approximately 1,800 photographic prints. All items have been digitized.

Arrangement

Arranged roughly chronologically by subject: family, general (friends, colleagues, performers, events), portraits, performance and rehearsals. Each item has a unique identifier.

box 58, folder 2,

Family 1912-1980

box 65 (oversize),

folder 1

box 58, folder 3-6,

General 1912-1980

box 59, folder 1-4,

box 60, folder 1-4,

box 65 (oversize),

folder 1-2

box 58, folder 1

Negatives

box 62, folder 1-4,

Performance and Rehearsals 1912-1980

box 63, folder 1-3,

box 65 (oversize),

folder 1, box 67

(oversize),

folder 1

box 64, folder 1-5,

Portraits 1912-1980

box 65 (oversize),

folder 1, box 66

(oversize),

folder 1-2

box 68-100	<p>Sound and Video Recordings</p> <p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>Sound recordings of interviews, performances, and in studio. Includes commercial recordings and Piatigorsky's personal record collection. Video recordings include performance, commercial film, interviews, home movies, and biographical films.</p> <p>Arrangement</p> <p>Arranged by composer or unique identifier.</p>
<p>box 68</p> <p>box 69-75</p> <p>box 76-83</p> <p>box 84-91</p> <p>box 92-96</p> <p>box 97-100</p> <p>box 101-115</p>	<p>Interviews SR.IN.0001 - SR.IN.0024</p> <p>Test Pressings SR.TP.0001 - SR.TP.0234</p> <p>Commercial Recordings</p> <p>Record Collection</p> <p>Audio Tape Reels</p> <p>Video Recordings</p> <p>Books, Journals, and Catalogs</p> <p>Language of Material: Primarily English and Russian, includes materials in German, French, Spanish, and Italian.</p> <p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>Piatigorsky's personal library of books, music journals, and music catalogs.</p> <p>Arrangement</p> <p>Arranged by author and unique identifier.</p>
box 117-133	<p>Supplemental Collections</p> <p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>Collections donated to or acquired by the Piatigorsky Archives as supplementary materials.</p>

box 117-118	<p>Adele Freedman Siegal Collection</p> <p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>Materials donated by Piatigorsky's unofficial secretary and long-time friend, Adele Freedman Siegal. Includes correspondence from Piatigorsky, clippings, photographs, and secretarial documents regarding Piatigorsky's work.</p> <p>Arrangement</p> <p>Arranged chronologically by subject.</p>
<p>box 117, folder 1</p> <p>box 117, folder 2</p> <p>box 117, folder 3-5</p> <p>box 117, folder 6</p> <p>box 117, folder 7</p> <p>box 117, folder 8</p> <p>box 117, folder 9</p> <p>box 117, folder 10</p> <p>box 117, folder 11</p> <p>box 117, folder 12</p> <p>box 118</p> <p>box 117, folder 13</p>	<p>Cellist book edits and correspondence 1961-1974</p> <p>Cellist book review clippings 1965</p> <p>Correspondence from Gregor Piatigorsky 1949-1972</p> <p>Correspondence with Jacqueline Piatigorsky</p> <p>Financial documents 1954-1972</p> <p>Miscellaneous materials</p> <p>Piatigorsky clippings 1954-1977</p> <p>Piatigorsky concert programs 1951-1976</p> <p>Piatigorsky ephemera 1950-1977</p> <p>Piatigorsky photographs</p> <p>Scrapbook</p> <p>Secretarial documents 1955-1987</p>

box 119-123

Margaret Bartley Collection

Scope and Contents

Research materials donated by biographer, historian, and author of "Grisha". Includes historical research about Russia, Piatigorsky's travel documents, correspondence with Piatigorsky's peers, and sound and video recordings. Most items are photocopies of originals.

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically by subject.

box 119,
folder 1-3
box 122
box 119, folder 4
box 119,
folder 5-9
box 120,
folder 1-2
box 120,
folder 3-4
box 120,
folder 5-6
box 120, folder 7
box 120, folder 8
box 121,
folder 1-2
box 123
box 121, folder 3
box 121,
folder 4-7
box 121, folder 8

Articles

Audiovisual materials

Concert programs

Correspondence

Mr. Blok manuscript

Musicians and friends

Photographs

Piatigorsky, Jacqueline

Piatigorsky materials (misc.)

Piatigorsky writings

Recordings

Research

Russian research

Ships manifest and travel documents

box 124

Piatigorsky Scores Collection

Scope and Contents

Published scores composed or arranged by Piatigorsky acquired for the Archives.

Arrangement

Arranged by composer and piece.

box 125-133

CD Collection

Scope and Contents

CDs created by digitizing original recordings, "The Piatigorsky Recordings". 15 full sets (47 volumes each set), one incomplete set, and miscellaneous CDs.

Arrangement

Arranged by sets.