Guide to the Sacramento Opera Guild records

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Guide to the Sacramento Opera Guild records

Collection number: MC 21

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Descriptive Summary
Title: Sacramento Opera Guild records
Dates: 1947-1975
Collection number: MC 21
Creator: Sacramento Opera Guild
Collection Size: 1 linear ft. (2 archival boxes)
Repository: Sacramento Public Library. Sacramento Room
Sacramento, California 95814

Abstract: Founded in 1947, the Sacramento Opera Guild was established by Sacramento women to cultivate a wider public interest in operatic arts and to sponsor local performances and educational programs. The records of the guild include administrative records and meeting minutes (1947-1975).

Physical location: For current information on the location of these materials, please contact the Sacramento Room.

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access
Collection is open for research.

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Historical Note
The Sacramento Opera Guild was founded as a not-for-profit corporation in October 1947 and began with 50 charter members, its governing board and membership initially comprised almost entirely of local women interested in supporting the operatic arts in Sacramento. Its purpose was, "to develop and cultivate a wider public interest in opera and its allied arts, and to contribute to their support; to further musical education and appreciation; and to sponsor and give assistance to operatic, musical and cultural programs and activities of an educational character."

Mabel Hazelton, Mary Richardson and Carolyn E. Ware served as the guild's first governing group and Mrs. H. J. McClatchy as its first president. The Sacramento Opera Guild board met in the Directors Room at the California-Western States Life Insurance building and later in the homes of board members, where tea was regularly served. The guild's first act was to buy $50 worth of tickets for music students to attend concerts by Patrice Munsel and Florence Quartararo. Over the following decades, the Opera Guild would continue to purchase student tickets, fund numerous operalogues and opera performances, and host other special events and educational programs in Sacramento. Membership expanded to over 100 by the early 1950s and nearly 300 in the early 1970s.
The Opera Guild also formed a number of important partnerships over its many decades of service. In 1952, the guild began working in partnership with the Sacramento Saturday Club to bring annual performances of the San Francisco Opera to Sacramento. And since the Sacramento Opera Association began to produce local opera in 1981, the Sacramento Opera Guild has supported the company’s performances.

**Scope and Content Note**

The records of the Sacramento Opera Guild contain one folder of administrative records, which includes the club’s incorporation documents (1947, 1963) and audit reports (1973-1974); bound meeting minutes, which comprise the bulk of the collection (1947-1975), include discussion of club activities, financial reports, committee reports, board nominations and election results, and membership statistics.

This collection is organized into two series:

- Series 1. Administration
- Series 2. Minutes

**Indexing Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library’s online public access catalog.

- Sacramento Opera Guild -- History
- Opera
- Women -- California -- Sacramento -- Societies and clubs -- History

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**Series 1. Administration 1947-1974**

Physical Description: 1 folder

**Box 1:**

- Incorporation documents (1947-1965) and audit reports (1973-1974)

**Series 2. Minutes 1947-1975**

Physical Description: 2 boxes

**Box 1:**

- Minutes, October 1947 - January 1958
- Minutes, March 1958 - January 1963
- Minutes, January 1963 - January 1964
- Minutes, January 1964 - January 1965
- Minutes, February 1965 - December 1965
- Minutes, January 1966 - January 1967
- Minutes, February 1967 - January 1968
- Minutes, February 1968 - January 1969
- Minutes, February 1969 - January 1970
- Minutes, June 1973 - May 1974; June 1974 - May 1975

**Box 2:**

- Minutes, May 1975 - December 1975