Guide to the Lida Brodenova Papers 1917/1992

Special Collections & University Archives

Overview of the Collection

Collection Title: Lida Brodenova Papers
Dates: 1917-1992
Identification: MS-0002
Creator: Brodenova, Lida, 1902-1990
Physical Description: 12.50 linear ft
Language of Materials: English, Czech
Repository: Special Collections & University Archives
5500 Campanile Dr. MC 8050
San Diego, CA, 92182-8050
URL: http://library.sdsu.edu/scua
Email: scref@rohan.sdsu.edu
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Biographical Information:

Lida Brodenova, born in Czechoslovakia in 1902, was a performer and producer of Czech operas. Early on she began playing the piano and taking singing lessons, with the Czech soprano Emma Destinnova as her inspiration. She studied under Leos Janacek, with her principal voice teacher Sigmund Auspitzer at the Music Conservatory in Brno, Czechoslovakia. She began her career in the French theatre in Brno, and spent most of the 1930s performing operettas in various German and Czech troupes.

In 1940 Lida and her husband Boris, who was Jewish, emigrated to America to avoid persecution. Once in America Lida began performing on the radio in New York. It was the beginning of a long career in the theatre in which she performed, wrote, and taught Czech repertory. She died at the age of eighty-eight in 1990.

Access Terms

This collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Genre/Form of Material:

Audio Recordings
Personal Papers

Personal Name:

Brodenov, Boris -- Diaries
Brodenova, Lida
Brodenová, Lida -- Archives

Topical Term:

Opera -- Czechoslovakia -- History -- 20th century -- Sources
Opera -- Czechoslovakia -- Sources
Opera -- United States -- History -- 20th century -- Sources
Opera -- United States -- Sources
Singers -- Biography -- Sources
Singers -- Czechoslovakia -- Biography -- Sources
Singers -- United States -- Biography -- Sources

Accruals:

1992

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The diaries of Boris Brodenov, in the collection of papers of Lida Brodenova, housed in the SDSU Library, may contain sensitive references to the personal lives of Lida Brodenova and Boris Brodenov. Researchers must agree that discretion will be used in the research and publication of such passages. Embarrassing or defamatory work will be avoided.

**Preferred Citation:**
Identification of item, folder title, box number, Lida Brodenova Collection, Special Collections and University Archives, Library and Information Access, San Diego State University.

**Arrangement of Materials:**
I. Biographies, Writings, Etc.
II. Correspondence, ca. 1930s-1988
III. Personal
IV. Performance and Production Material
V. Scrapbooks of Performances
VI. Photographs
VII. Unsorted, Unclassified Miscellany
VIII. Audio Recordings
IX. Boris Brodenov Personal

**Scope and Contents**
The collection includes correspondence, awards, travel accounts, opera and recital programs, clippings, photographs, diaries, postcards, reviews, scrapbooks, photo albums, tape and phono recordings. Much of the collection is in Czech, and is separated into personal and professional categories.

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**Biographies, Writings, Etc.**

**Box 1, Folder 1**
Personal Documents, Awards, School Degrees circa 1940-1955

**Box 1, Folder 2**
Summaries of Lida's life and career by J. Fiehler, L. Brodenova and others circa 1988-1990

**Box 1, Folder 3**
Judith Fiehler notes re. Brodenova

**Box 1, Folder 4**
Map of Czechoslovakia, travel documents (Italy) 1940

**Box 1, Folder 5**
Passports 1922-1985

**Box 1, Folder 6**
Miscellaneous Writing (mostly Lida's) circa 1977-1989

**Box 1, Folder 7**
Announcements of Recitals and Operas

**Box 1, Folder 8**
Programs of Recitals, Lida's Speeches, Reports and Articles about Czech Music and Operas, Lida's writing about Prague, Czech Operas in USA circa 1975-1988

**Box 1, Folder 9**
Newsletters, newspaper clippings about Lida's career circa 1962-1985

**Box 1, Folder 10**
Czech emigre newspaper Nase Hlasy (extensive article about NY Sokol's production of Dve Vdovy October 5-26, 1974
Biographies, Writings, Etc.

Box 1, Folder 11
Three Medals: 2 Konservator Brno, 1 Internationaler Wettbewerb Fur Gesangvioline, Wien 1932

Box 1, Folder 12
"Oral Histories" (notes on the opera): 1) Janoski by Jan Cikker (Sturman, 1992); 2) Cert A Kaca by Dvorak (Brodenova, 1993); 3) Krutnava by Eugen Suchon (Sturman, 1991); 4) Rusalka opera in 3 acts by Dvorak. English translation by Ruth and Thomas Martin

Correspondence ca. 1930-1988

Box 1
Includes: thanl you letters, clippings, sympathy letters, business letters, invitations, music and personal.

Box 1, Folder 1
Notes about correspondents, by Judith Fiehler 1994

Box 1, Folder 2
1940s and 1950s family correspondence

Box 1, Folder 3
1940-1945

Box 1, Folder 4
1946-1949

Box 1, Folder 5
1950-1954 (New York)

Box 1, Folder 6
1955-1956 (Washington)

Box 1, Folder 7
1957-1959

Box 1, Folder 8
1960-1964

Box 1, Folder 9
1965-1969

Box 1, Folder 10
1970-1979

Box 1, Folder 11
1980-1984

Box 1, Folder 12
1985-1990

Box 1, Folder 13
Undated Meci

Box 1, Folder 14
Copies made by Lida

Personal

Box 2, Folder 1
Postcards:
Scope and Contents
9 Easter postcards showing Czechoslovakian embroidered dresses, country houses decorated with ornaments, and colored easter eggs. 1 Folding postcard of the National Theater of Prague -Postcards of Prague and other cities and historical places in Czechoslovakia and Europe

Box 2, Folder 2
Address books: 2 files 1954-1980s

Box 2, Folder 3
Address card box 1940-1954

Box 2, Folder 4
Pupils and associates, Includes: pictures, letters, clippings, programs, etc. of pupils L. Brodenova followed

Performance and Production Material

Box 3, Folder 1
Miscellaneous Czech programs, letters, clippings, photographs (most from Brno's Theater Svatobos) 1921

Box 3, Folder 2
Miscellaneous Czech and American programs, letters, clippings, photos (2 files) circa 1935-1980s

Box 3, Folder 3
Washington Sokol performances (clippings, programs, photos) (2 files) circa 1954-1987

Box 3, Folder 4
Washington Sokol Opera Productions (all include photos):
V Studeni, performed in Washington and New York 1964
Dratenik, an opera by Frantisek Skroup 1983
Selma Sedlak, opera by Dvorak 1961
Tvrde Palice, opera by Dvorak 1977
Hubicka, opera by Smetana 1967
Psohlavci, opera by Kovarovic 1972
The Grand Potpurri revue 1976
Two Widows, an opera by Smetana 1974
Babicka by Bozena Nemcova (no photos) 1962
Box 3, Folder 4  The Bartered Bride, opera by Smethana 1956
Box 3, Folder 4  The Bartered Bride, English version 1969
Box 3, Folder 4  The Gypsy Baron, opera by J. Strauss 1957
Box 3, Folder 4  Tales of Hoffman, opera by J. Offenbach 1958
Box 3, Folder 4  The Merry Widow, operetta by F. Lehar (no photos) 1959
Box 3, Folder 4  The Student Prince, a musical romance 1961
Box 3, Folder 4  Rusalka, opera by Dvorak 1972
Box 3, Folder 5  Mount Vernon Seminar Productions:
Box 3, Folder 5  Christmas Show
Box 3, Folder 5  Twelve Months
Box 3, Folder 5  Dido and Aenas
Box 3, Folder 5  The Marriage of Figaro (includes photos) 1963
Box 3, Folder 6  Agriculture Symphony Orchestra:
Box 3, Folder 6  The Clemency of Titus (includes photos) 1955

Scrapbooks of Performances 1927-1951

Box 4, Folder 1  1927-1940
Box 4, Folder 2  1940-1942
Box 4, Folder 3  1942-1943
Box 4, Folder 4  1943-1945
Box 4, Folder 5  1944-1947
Box 4, Folder 6  1947-1951
Box 4, Folder 7  Duplicates of originals already in this collection: theatre programs, announcements, thank you letters, clippings, articles
Box 4, Folder 8  1 File loose scrapbook material
Box 5, Folder 1  Hubicka, (the kiss) opera by B. Smetana 1967
Box 5, Folder 2  Cert a Kaca (The Devil and the Kate) opera by Dvorak performed at Kennedy Center 1981
Box 5, Folder 3  Jakobin, Sokol's opera by Dvorak, performed in Washington D.C.

Photographs

Box 5, Folder 1  Photographs, slides: includes performances, misc., friends, travels, etc.
Box 6, Folder 1  Photo Albums
Box 6, Folder 1  1927-1930, family and friends, Czechoslovakia
Box 6, Folder 1  1930-1937, family and friends, Czechoslovakia
Box 6, Folder 1  1937-1944, family and friends, Czechoslovakia and USA
Box 6, Folder 1  1944-1948, Lida and Boris
Box 6, Folder 1  1948-1951, Lida and Boris
Box 6, Folder 1  1960s, Lida and Boris on vacation; friends and relatives
Box 6, Folder 1  1963, Brno, from visit at the Svatoboj Theatre
Box 6, Folder 1  1954-1957, Lida, Boris and friends at Schroon Lake, Kew Gardens, Lake Placid, and other US spots
Box 6, Folder 1  1970s places in Rumania, Czechoslovakia, Austria, and USA (mostly postcards, some snapshots)

Unsorted, Unclassified Miscellany

Box 7, Folder 1  Includes Miscellaneous Czech and American programs, notes; items about Czechoslovakia; Czech publications; sheet music; catalogable publications. TO BE SORTED

Audio Recordings

Box 8, Folder 1  Audio Recordings
Box 9, Folder 1  Phonograph Recordings: 78RPM records
Box 9, Folder 1  Christmas songs sung by L. Brodenova, 3 records, 1956
Box 9, Folder 1  Commemoration of President Wilson, 3 records 1956
Box 9, Folder 1  Memorial tribute-Ripka, Program of “Spring Songs” arranged by L. Brodenova, 1 record 1958
Box 9, Folder 1  La Clemenza di Tito-Vitella, act 1 and 2, 2 records 1955
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Box 10, Folder 1</th>
<th>3 Diaries: 1917-1920, 1922-1923, 1935-1960 (condition of use form must be signed before access to diaries)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 2</td>
<td>Passports and drivers license circa 1915-1945</td>
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<td>Box 10, Folder 3</td>
<td>Marriage announcements of future Brodenovas, calling cards, theatre membership, clippings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 4</td>
<td>12 photographs: all but one B. Brodenova</td>
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<td>Box 10, Folder 5</td>
<td>Correspondence: letters to and from friends 1956-1982</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 6</td>
<td>&quot;Salkind&quot; 1960 (regarding cartoon: Oh, Mi Kary Kiki&quot;)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Babicka by Bozen Nemcova (no photos) 1962</td>
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