Descriptive Summary

Title: William R. Moran Sound Recording Collection

Dates: 1902-1984

Collection number: ARS.0075

Creator: Moran, William R.

Collection size: 18 boxes: approx. 700 discs (about 280 10” discs and 410 12” discs) ; six open reel tapes ; ten metal parts ; approx. twelve folders of papers

Repository: Archive of Recorded Sound

Abstract: Rare recordings on custom vinyl pressings of opera and Western art music, donated by collector and researcher William Moran.

Access

Open for research; material must be requested at least two business days in advance of intended use. Contact the Archive for assistance.

Publication Rights

Property rights reside with repository. Publication and reproduction rights reside with the creators or their heirs. To obtain permission to publish or reproduce, please contact the Head Librarian of the Archive of Recorded Sound.

Preferred Citation


Source

The William R. Moran Sound Recording Collection was donated to the Stanford Archive of Recorded Sound by William Moran from 1987 to 1993.

Sponsor

This finding aid was produced with generous financial support from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

Biography

William Rodes Moran (1919-2004) was a collector, researcher, writer, and discographer, particularly in the field of early sound recordings and vocal art music. His monumental Victor discography with Ted Fagan formed the basis for the on-line Encyclopedic Discography of Victor Recordings (http://victor.library.ucsb.edu/), but he authored or contributed to countless books. Moran was a singular presence at the Archive of Recorded Sound, and this collection reflects only a fraction of the material he donated.

Scope and Contents

The William R. Moran Sound Recording Collection consists largely of custom vinyl pressings of rare or unreleased early 20th century vocal art music, donated to the Archive by collector William Moran. There are also some shellac pressings and metal parts (mothers and stampers). The collection numbers approximately 700 discs, many of which are cancelled releases, alternate takes, or otherwise commercially unavailable records. Most recording sessions originally produced by the Victor company, although there are some H.M.V. and Columbia recordings. Many are releases from the International Record Collectors’ Club series of limited reissues. A detailed contents list is available.

Related Collections

Stanford University Archives holds the William R. Moran Collection, BRN-003, which chronicles Moran's occupation as an oil field surveyor. Moran graduated from Stanford with a degree in geology. University of California, Santa Barbara Libraries holds a William R. Moran Collection, PA Mss 57, which contains his writing, music research, and sound recordings.

Indexing Terms

Operas

Vocal music.

1. Sound recordings
1. Sound recordings

Custom vinyl and shellac pressings (and a few lacquers). Refer to ARS for contents list.

| Box 1, Box 2, Box 3, Box 4, Box 5, Box 6, Box 7, Box 8, Box 9, Box 10, Box 11, Box 12, Box 13, Box 14, Box 15, Box 17 | Custom vinyl and shellac pressings (and a few lacquers). Refer to ARS for contents list.  
Physical Description: 700 78 rpm discs (approx.) |
|---|---|

| Box 15, Box 17 | Metal mothers, masters, and stampers  
Physical Description: 10 metal parts |
|---|---|

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 16</th>
<th>Open reel tapes</th>
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| Box 16 | Jean De Reszke, Faust-Salve Dimora, Bettini Cylinder  
Physical Description: 1 5" open reel tape |
| Box 16 | Dame Nellie in America (Copies of Australian Radio Broadcasts) 1982  
Physical Description: 1 7" open reel tape |
| Box 16 | Walkure, Exxon - N.Y.Philharmonic Broadcasts, Originally from KDFC, San Francisco - Program No. N801-19C  
Physical Description: 1 10.5" open reel tape |
| Box 16 | Mary Shastid Martin, piano compositions, recorded in Northridge, California 1955  
Physical Description: 3 10.5" open reel tapes |

2. Papers

| Box 17, Box 18 | Stroboscope master  
Schumann-Heink Correspondence 1966-1984  
Physical Description: 8 folders  
Scope and Contents  
William Moran and James McPherson were contributors and consulting editors for the Opera Quarterly. These letters were McPherson’s correspondence with members of Ernestine Schumann-Heink’s family from 1966 to 1984. McPherson was the author of an unpublished book on Schumann-Heink.  
Subjects and Indexing Terms  
Schumann-Heink, Ernestine, 1861-1936. |
|---|---|
| Box 18 | Donation Lists, Recording notebooks, Spoken Word Card File copies, Stroboscope copies  
Physical Description: 8 folders |