Guide to the Al Block Broadcast Collection ARS.077

Finding aid prepared by Franz Kunst
Archive of Recorded Sound
Braun Music Center
541 Lasuen Mall
Stanford University
Stanford, California, 94305-3076
650-723-9312
soundarchive@stanford.edu
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Descriptive Summary

Title: Al Block Broadcast Collection
Dates: 1943-1958
Collection number: ARS.077
Creator: Block, Al
Collection size: 2 boxes: 35 open reel tapes
Repository: Archive of Recorded Sound
Abstract: Open reel tapes containing off-air recordings from the late 1940s through the mid-50s, particularly of Toscanini conducting the NBC Symphony Orchestra.
Language of Material: English

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

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Preferred Citation

Source
The Al Block Broadcast Collection was donated to the Stanford Archive of Recorded Sound by Al Block.

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

Scope and Contents
The Al Block Broadcast Collection consists of open reel tapes containing off-air recordings from the late 1940s through the mid-50s, particularly of Toscanini conducting the NBC Symphony Orchestra. There is little information enclosed about the performances, outside of principle performers and the date of broadcast; however, most of these programs have likely been documented elsewhere. The numbering for the programs was assigned by Block. Discrepancies between box and reel information imply that some boxes were mixed up over the years. The Toscanini recordings appear to have been originally made by a recording engineer at Westinghouse who had a direct line feed from the NBC studio console. His widow was contacted by a Toscanini collector, who then passed on copies (recorded at 7.5 ips half-track mono) to the donor.

Indexing Terms
Toscanini, Arturo, 1867-1957
NBC Symphony Orchestra.
Live sound recordings
Radio programs

Toscanini, NBC Orchestra broadcasts

Box 1
1. 1944-01-03
   Physical Description: 1 7\" open reel tape

Box 1
2. 1944-02-17
   Physical Description: 1 7\" open reel tape

Box 1
3. Music of Old and New Russia 1944-08-09
   Physical Description: 1 7\" open reel tape
4. Guest: Artur Rubenstein 1944-10-29  
Physical Description: 1 7” open reel tape  
creator: Rubinstein, Artur, 1887-1982

5. All Brahms 1948-11-27  
Physical Description: 1 7” open reel tape  
creator: Brahms, Johannes, 1833-1897

6. 1949-02-19  
Physical Description: 1 7” open reel tape

7. 1949-03-19  
Physical Description: 1 7” open reel tape

8. 1949-12-10  
Physical Description: 1 7” open reel tape

9. 1951-02-10  
Physical Description: 1 7” open reel tape

10. 1951-11-17  
Physical Description: 1 7” open reel tape

11. 1953-01-31  
Physical Description: 1 7” open reel tape

12. All Beethoven 1953-02-06  
Physical Description: 1 7” open reel tape  
creator: Beethoven, Ludwig van, 1770-1827

2. Other broadcasts

Audio 2  
James Melton Entertains For International Harvester Employees And Family  
1950-06-09  
Physical Description: 1 7” open reel tape

Box 2  
#15. Monteux, NY Philharmonic, Stern 11/12/1944 ; #13. Rodzinski, NY Philharmonic,  
Casadesus 10/29/1944 ; Stokowski, SF Symphony. NBC 12/5/1952 ; Walter, SF  
Physical Description: 1 10.5” open reel tape

Box 2  
Stokowski, Hollywood Bowl Symphony Orchestra. All Russian Program 6/19/1947 ;  
Brahms, Wagner Concert 7/18/1948 1947-1948  
Physical Description: 1 10.5” open reel tape

Box 2  
Rodzinski, NY Philharmonic, Milstein 12/31/1944 ; St. Louis Municipal Opera, CBS  
6/26/1948 ; Toscanini, NBC Symphony. #45, 11/5/1944 ; #58 2/4/1945 1944-1948  
Physical Description: 1 10.5” open reel tape

Box 2  
Romberg, Stewart 7/30/1944 ; #7. Great Moments in Music. Merry Widow - Peerce,  
Terryson, Weede. 8/2/1944 ; #5. Mitropoulos, NY Philharmonic, Brailowsky 11/3/1944  
; #31. Music America Loves Best. Maynor, Dorsey 1/7/1945 1944-1945  
Physical Description: 1 10.5” open reel tape
2. Other broadcasts

|       | Physical Description: 1 10.5" open reel tape |
| Box 2 | #164. Reiner, NBC Symphony, Goodman 11/6/1950 ; Concert Hall. Teyte, Brodsky ; #22. Stokowski, NBC Symphony 2/9/1944 1944-1950 |
|       | Physical Description: 1 10.5" open reel tape |
|       | Physical Description: 1 10.5" open reel tape |
|       | Physical Description: 1 10.5" open reel tape |
|       | Physical Description: 1 10.5" open reel tape |
| Box 2 | Koussevitsky, Boston Symphony. #47. 4/29/1944 ; #37. 1/9/1944 ; #49. 10/14/1944 1944 |
|       | Physical Description: 1 10.5" open reel tape |
|       | Physical Description: 1 10.5" open reel tape |
|       | Physical Description: 1 10.5" open reel tape |
| Box 2 | Railroad Hour. Casey At The Bat 7/9/1951 ; Christmas sShow 12/25/1950 ; Vagabond King 3/5/1951 ; Blossom Time 10/31/1949 1949-1951 |
|       | Physical Description: 1 10.5" open reel tape |
|       | Physical Description: 1 10.5" open reel tape |
2. Other broadcasts

Box 2
United States Steel Hour, Conclusion. 7/23/1950 ; Encore NBC. Willson, Hayward 3/23/1953 ; Telephone Hour. Cummings 7/16/1951 ; #27. Longacre Opera Concert (Mutual). Nella, Scott ; Standard Hour. Wallerstein, Schnabel 1/13/1946 ; Percy Grainger Christmas Seals Broadcast 1947 1946-1953
Physical Description: 1 10.5" open reel tape

Box 2
Physical Description: 1 10.5" open reel tape

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Physical Description: 1 10.5" open reel tape

Box 2
Physical Description: 1 10.5" open reel tape

Box 2
Music We Love. #123. 12/10/1945 ; #37. 4/10/1944 ; #66. 11/6/1944 ; #45. 6/12/1944. Kostelanetz, Melton, Adler 1944 ; #94. Kostelanetz, Pons 1944-1945
Physical Description: 1 10.5" open reel tape

Box 2
Physical Description: 1 10.5" open reel tape

Box 2
Physical Description: 1 10.5" open reel tape

Box 2
Chicago Theater Of The Air. 12/11/1949 ; 12/18/1949 ; 10/30/1949 1949
Physical Description: 1 10.5" open reel tape