Guide to the Luryier Diamond Opera Collection ARS.0083

Finding aid prepared by Franz Kunst
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Descriptive Summary

Title: Luryier Diamond Opera Collection
Dates: 1908-1994
Collection number: ARS.0083
Creator: Diamond, Luryier, 1914-
Collection Size: 51 boxes: 1850 7" open reel tapes
Contributing Institution: Archive of Recorded Sound
Language of Material: Multiple languages

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
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Source
The Luryier Diamond Opera Collection was donated to the Stanford Archive of Recorded Sound by Luryier Diamond in 2008.

Preferred Citation

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

Scope and Contents
Opera enthusiast Luryier Diamond (b. 1914) is a photographer, teacher and photo archivist at Kamehameha Schools in Honolulu, Hawaii. His collection consists of live audio recordings on tape of opera from the 1930s through the 1990s. The collection is particularly strong in the works of Verdi, Wagner, Strauss, Donizetti, Rossini, Puccini, Mozart, Massenet, Berlioz, and Bellini, but many more obscure composers and performances are also included. There are recordings from Royal Opera Covent Garden, the Chicago Lyric Opera, the Glyndebourne Festival, the Metropolitan Opera, Teatro alla Scala, Teatro la Fenice, and the San Francisco Opera. The collection also contains unusual items such as Maria Callas' "Rome Walk Out" during the premier of Norma in 1958, and a transfer of a circa 1908 set of Carmen in German (considered the first complete issued opera recording.)

Diamond was almost certainly part of the collector circuit and copied and traded recordings among his peers. Most of these tapes are an unknown generation, but, unlike many such collections, the original source is frequently noted: i.e. in-house, from radio and television broadcasts, or taped from transcriptions or lacquers. In some cases recordings appear to be one generation from masters. A few are commercial releases, or copies of commercial releases.

The collection is entirely tape recordings on seven-inch reels, numbered 1 through 1787 (plus an "E" series). All tapes are well-labeled, and accompanying the tapes are files for clippings, programs, and notes removed from tape boxes. There are also files arranged alphabetically by composer which include information on personnel, location, date, means of recording and source (i.e. "taped from network acetates."). For full content listing, please contact the Archive.

Indexing Terms
Live sound recordings
Operas
1. Audio recordings

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 16, Box 17, Box 18, Box 19, Box 20, Box 21, Box 22, Box 23, Box 24, Box 25, Box 26, Box 27, Box 28, Box 29, Box 30, Box 31, Box 32, Box 33, Box 34, Box 35, Box 36, Box 37, Box 38, Box 39, Box 40, Box 41, Box 42, Box 43, Box 44, Box 45, Box 46, Box 47, Box 48

1. Audio recordings

Physical Description: 1850 7" open reel tapes

Scope and Contents

For full contents listing, please refer to spreadsheet available at Archive.

2. Documentation

Physical Description: 35 folders

Box 49
Contents List A-Z

Box 50
Paper Inserts 1-1359

Box 51
Paper Inserts 1423-1787