
Guide to the Irwin Rabinov Collection ARS.0111

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: Irwin Rabinov Collection

Dates: 1965-1980

Collection number: ARS.0111

Collection size: 23 boxes: 834 open reel tapes (27 5" reels ; 807 7" reels)

Repository: Archive of Recorded Sound

Abstract: Rare opera and vocal recordings on open reel tape, from the collection of Irwin Rabinov.

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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Preferred Citation

Irwin Rabinov Collection, ARS-0111. Courtesy of the Stanford Archive of Recorded Sound, Stanford University Libraries, Stanford, Calif.

Source

The Irwin Rabinov Collection was donated to the Stanford Archive of Recorded Sound by David Rabinov in 1980.

Sponsor

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

Scope and Contents

The Irwin Rabinov Collection consists of over eight hundred reels of opera and vocal performances, built over a period of fifteen years of trading with other collectors around the world. The collection, which features hundreds of obscure composers and works, was donated in 1980 by his son David, following Irwin's passing. At the time of its accession, the Rabinov Collection was considered a massive reference library, constituting (in the words of appraiser Ted Fagan) "a broad-ranging and comprehensive collection of both commercially and privately recorded opera performances from all over the world." While the days of tape trading networks have been superceded by file-sharing, there are undoubtedly many underdocumented rarities hidden here.

A paper contents listing is available at the Archive, listed alphabetically by composer in seven groups. The first list is the largest, and contains (in Irwin's own description) "operas, operettas, musicals, zarzuelas, and special movies." The second list contains "shows and singers on 78 rpm records." The third list contains plays. The fourth list is "oratorios, cantatas, religious and secular specials," the fifth is "poems, songs, song cycles, and vocal specials," the sixth list is all ballet, and list number seven contains "symphonies, concertos, and tone poems." There is also information on the recordings written on tape boxes. No original sources are identified on the tapes or in the contents listing, but at least a portion of the material are dubs from commercial releases.

Indexing Terms

Rabinov, Irwin

Operas

Box 1	1. 1-36
Box 2	2. 37-72
Box 3	3. 73-108
Box 4	4. 109-144
Box 5	5. 145-180

Box 6	6. 181-216
Box 7	7. 217-252
Box 8	8. 253-288
Box 9	9. 289-324
Box 10	10. 325-349aj
Box 11	11. 349ak-349bt
Box 12	12. 349bv-349db
Box 13	13. 349dc-349ek
Box 14	14. 349el-349fu
Box 15	15. 349fv-349i
Box 16	16. 349j-368u
Box 17	17. 369v-405c
Box 18	18. 406c-443c
Box 19	19. 444c-479b
Box 20	20. 480o-515o
Box 21	21. 516k-550v
Box 22	22. 551v-583w
Box 23	23. 584v-624