



THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI RESEARCH CENTER-KANSAS CITY

K0210

E. Geneve Lichtenwalter (1867-1951) Papers
1889-1951
58 folders

Personal papers and collected items of a prominent musician and music teacher in Kansas City, MO. Contains concert programs, meeting programs from local, state and national music societies, and other material representing Lichtenwalter's interest in classical music. Also correspondence from other musicians and photo albums contain family photos and travel photos from East Asia.

BIOGRAPHY:

Geneve Lichtenwalter was born in Cedar County, Iowa in 1867. Her family moved to Kansas City, Kansas at an undetermined date in the late 1800s. She earned five degrees, including a Bachelor of Music in 1892 and a Bachelor of Arts in 1899 from the University of Kansas, and was later a member of the university's faculty. Miss Lichtenwalter studied piano in Berlin, Paris, Berne, Munich and Chicago. She studied most intensively under pianist Robert Schmitz in New York, where she received a master's degree in music from Columbia University. In 1921 she won first prize in a piano competition at the Paris Conservatoire. She also composed music.

After living in New York in the early 1900s, Lichtenwalter returned to Kansas City to live in 1906. In 1909 she established The Lichtenwalter School of Piano Playing in the Studio Building at 9th and Locust. Future conductor/composer Virgil Thomson studied under her there.

Lichtenwalter performed frequently in Kansas City and was noted for both her musical skill and for her lively and informative commentary which accompanied the performance pieces. She also lectured on (as well as taught) former teacher Robert Schmitz's principles of piano techniques.

Lichtenwalter was active in a number of Kansas City music and civic organizations. She founded and was president of the Kansas City chapter of Pro

Musica, an international organization that promoted and booked tours of contemporary composers and performing artists. She was an early and avid supporter of the Kansas City Symphony Orchestra, served on the board of directors of the Woman's Dining Club (comprised of professional, business and civic-minded local women), and was active in local, state and national music teachers' associations.

Lichtenwalter corresponded frequently with her former teacher Robert Schmitz, who was also the international president of Pro Musica, and with a variety of musicians. Among her friends and correspondents were writer/philosopher Dane Rudhyar and lecturer/philosopher Will Durant.

Lichtenwalter owned a second home in Kenneth, Kansas, three miles south of Kansas City, which she named "Bu Saada," an Arabic term meaning "Abode of Happiness." She travelled abroad frequently, visiting Germany, the Far East, France, and England.

In 1951 E. Geneve Lichtenwalter died in Kansas City at age 84.

PROVENANCE:

These materials were transferred from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Archives as accession number KA0417 on May 1, 1987.

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Specific item; folder number; *E. Geneve Lichtenwalter (1867-1951) Papers (K0210)*; The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

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DESCRIPTION:

The collection primarily contains concert programs, meeting programs from local, state and national music societies, and other material representing Lichtenwalter's interest in classical music. She attended numerous concerts and operas locally, nationally and abroad. She actively promoted the work of contemporary composers through her involvement and leadership in a number of music societies.

Much of the collection is contained in scrapbooks and loose material comprised of concert programs from performances and music society programs dating from the late 1800s to the mid-1940s. There are several folders of correspondence from other musicians, primarily Robert Schmitz, Lichtenwalter's former piano teacher. Photo albums contain family photos and travel photos from East Asia.

INVENTORY:

Box 001

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| Folder 1. | Personal—biographical.
Includes articles about Lichtenwalter, a brochure for her piano school, and material from the University of Kansas. |
| Folder 2. | Personal—miscellaneous.
Includes piano master class notes and copied poems. |
| Folder 3. | Scrapbook No. 1, 1894-1900.
Includes Kansas City Symphony Orchestra. |
| Folder 4. | Scrapbook No. 2, 1897-1898.
Primarily from England and Germany. Includes British travel guides and memorabilia. |
| Folder 5. | Scrapbook No. 3, 1900-1910. |
| Folder 6. | Scrapbook No. 3, loose material.
Ventura Club programs, University of Kansas, 1900-1902 |
| Folder 7. | Scrapbook No. 4, 1900-1913.
Includes the Kansas City Symphony. |
| Folder 8. | Scrapbook No. 4, loose material. |
| Folder 9. | Scrapbook No. 5, 1913-1914
The Kansas City Symphony Orchestra |
| Folder 10. | Scrapbook No. 6, 1914-1915
The Kansas City Symphony Orchestra |
| Folder 11. | Scrapbook No. 6, 1914-1915, Loose materials |

Box 002

- Folder 12. Scrapbook No. 7, 1915-1917
Programs and clippings from various Theatres and Halls, includes the Kansas City Symphony Orchestra
- Folder 13. Scrapbook No. 7, 1915-1917, Loose materials
- Folder 14. Scrapbook No. 8, 1916-1917
Programs and clippings from various Theatres and Halls, includes the Kansas City Symphony Orchestra
- Folder 15. Scrapbook No. 8, 1916-1917, Loose materials
- Folder 16. Scrapbook No. 9, 1917-1918
Programs and clippings from various Theatres and Halls, includes the Kansas City Symphony Orchestra
- Folder 17. Scrapbook No. 9, 1917-1918, Loose materials
- Folder 18. Scrapbook No. 10, 1919-1920
- Folder 19. Scrapbook No. 10, 1919-1920, Loose materials
- Folder 20. Scrapbook No. 11, 1921-1923
Programs and clippings from various Theatres and Halls, includes the Kansas City Symphony Orchestra
- Folder 21. Scrapbook No. 12, 1923-1924
Programs and clippings from various Theatres and Halls, includes the Kansas City Symphony Orchestra
- Folder 22. Scrapbook No. 12, 1923-1924, Loose materials
- Folder 23. Scrapbook No. 13, 1925-1926
Programs and clippings from various Theatres and Halls, includes the Kansas City Symphony Orchestra
- Folder 24. Scrapbook No. 13, 1925-1926, Loose materials

Box 003

- Folder 25. Scrapbook No. 14, 1926-1927
Programs and clippings from various Theatres and Halls, includes the Kansas City Symphony Orchestra
- Folder 26. Scrapbook No. 14, 1926-1927, Loose materials
- Folder 27. Scrapbook No. 15, 1928-1929.
Includes a Kansas City-Horner Conservatory of Music flyer.
- Folder 28. Scrapbook No. 15, loose material.
Includes a Kansas City University Extension Center bulletin and press matter on Dane Rudhyar.
- Folder 29. Programs—1901-1915

- Folder 30. Programs—1916-1949
- Folder 31. Programs—Kansas City Symphony Orchestra Association, featuring the St. Louis Symphony, 1921-1922.
- Folder 32. Programs—1900-1910, nonlocal (New York).
- Folder 33. Programs—1911-1919, nonlocal (New York, London, Colorado).
- Folder 34. Programs—1920-1925, nonlocal (New York).
- Folder 35. Programs—1927-1936, nonlocal (New York, Pennsylvania). Includes NBC Radio Artists Service booklet.
- Folder 36. Ads for Conservatory of Music—1907 and undated.
- Folder 37. Society programs—music teachers' organizations, 1888-1922.
- Folder 38. Society programs—Woman's Dining Club, 1906-1915.
- Folder 39. Society programs—Franco American Musical Society. Includes bulletin, minutes of annual meeting, concert programs, 1923-1925.
- Folder 40. Society programs—Pro Musica (formerly Franco American Musical Society.) Includes programs, invitations, reports, and publicity material, 1925-1928.
- Folder 41. Correspondence, general—undated.
- Folder 42. Correspondence, general—1913-1937. Includes Carl Busch, Dane Rudhyar, and Will Durant.
- Folder 43. Correspondence—Robert Schmitz, 1923-1936. Primarily regarding Pro Musica. Includes publicity material circa 1914-1949.
- Folder 44. Ephemera—Newspaper and magazine article clippings. On composers, artists, performers, public figures, 1923-1943.
- Folder 45. Pictures—Musicians, composers, writers, and poets.
- Folder 46. Pictures—Public figures.
- Folder 47. Pictures—Classical scenes.
- Folder 48. Pictures—British landmarks.
- Folder 49. Photographs, publicity—Ferruccio Busoni, pianist, circa late 1800s-early 1900s.
- Folder 50. Photographs, publicity—Frederic Dixon, pianist, 1928.
- Folder 51. Photographs, publicity—Robert Schmitz, undated.
- Folder 52. Photographs, publicity—Dimitri Tiomkin, composer-pianist, 1920s.
- Folder 53. Photographs, publicity—Ludwig Wullner, singer, 1910.

- Folder 54. Photographs, personal—small album. Primarily of Far East, circa late 1800s or early 1900s.
- Folder 55. Photographs, personal—loose material from small album.
- Folder 56. Photographs, personal—large album. Family photographs, including studio portraits and memorial booklet, circa late 1800s-1920s.
- Folder 57. Photographs, personal—loose material from large album.
- Folder 58. Photographs—miscellaneous.
Includes musicians, a house, landscape, a woman in costume, unidentified men; circa late 1800s-late 1920s.

Oversize (in office)

Ladies Home Journal February – December 1898