



THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI RESEARCH CENTER-KANSAS CITY

K1270

Norman Benjamin Kahn (1918-2011) Papers

[Jewish Community Archives]

1939-2011

3 cubic feet, oversize scrapbooks

Kahn was a businessman, entrepreneur, community leader, supporter of the arts, and contributor to Jewish and community causes. Includes correspondence, reports and other materials relating to the Kansas City Philharmonic and Kansas City Symphony and other organization in which he was involved.

BIOGRAPHY:

Norman Benjamin Kahn, was born in the Chicago on August 25, 1918, to Harry and Ida Kahn, who were in the dry goods business. The family moved to Kansas City, MO, during the Great Depression in 1933 to be near other family members. He attended Paseo High School and was a member of Boy Scout Troop 61 chartered to Beth Shalom Synagogue. Norman attended the Kansas City Junior College and the University of Missouri in Columbia.

When World War II began he was employed with Sonken Galamba Metals in Kansas City, KS, but left to enlist in the Army Air Corps. Grounded by an ear abnormality, he trained as an instructor in "pre-flight" mechanics, preparing B-25 bombers in Ypsilanti, MI and in Seattle, WA. On November 23, 1944, Norman married Sybil Kahn (no relation), whom he had met when she was a student at Stephens College in Columbia, MO.

After the war, Norman brought Sybil to Kansas City where he was again employed at Sonken Galamba Metals, working his way up to sales manager and launching his career in the steel industry. In 1955, he joined Brown Strauss Steel Company in Kansas City, KS, as President of their new steel division. He soon became President of the company and in 1973 led the sale of Brown-Strauss to Azcon Steel, the North American arm of the multi-national company Consolidated Gold Fields Ltd., with offices in New York City and London. He served as President of Azcon and sat on the Board of Directors of Consolidated Gold Fields for 10 years. Following his tenure at Consolidated Gold Fields, he

started Kahn Steel Co., which he soon sold to Levinson Steel of Pittsburgh, PA. In 1988, he joined his sons Fred and Ted, establishing a new Kahn Steel Company.

Norman served as president of the Board of the Westwood View School in Fairway, KS, where he encouraged innovations in this single-school district, such as non-graded classrooms and Spanish language education in the early grades. At age 65, he received his Masters Degree in Business Administration from Rockhurst University. He then taught in the MBA program and served on the Rockhurst Board of Regents for many years, including as its Chair. He also served for many years on the Boards of Penn Valley Community College, Merchants Bank, Brotherhood State Bank, Menorah Hospital, Young Men's Hebrew Association (YMHA), Jewish Family Services, and was a life member of the Jewish Community Foundation.

A lifelong supporter of art and music, Norman was President of the Board of Directors of the Kansas City Philharmonic Orchestra when it transitioned to the current Kansas City Symphony Orchestra. He was particularly interested in bringing the symphony to youth, starting the "Coke Concerts" in the 1950s, a forerunner of the Young Audience program. He served as Treasurer and then Vice- President of the Kansas City Symphony Foundation until his death. Also Norman was the first male docent at the Nelson Atkins Museum of Art for more than 20 years, specializing in tours for schoolchildren. He and Sybil founded *Museum without Walls* providing museum quality exhibitions in public spaces.

A lifelong member of Congregation Beth Shalom and for many years a member of The Temple, Congregation B'nai Jehudah, Ohev Sholom and Kehilath Israel Synagogues, as well, Norman Kahn died on the of June 13, 2011, after a short illness.

PROVENANCE:

This gift was received from Sybil Kahn as accession KA2108 on May 13, 2013.

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PREFERRED CITATION:

Specific item; folder number; *Norman Benjamin Kahn (1918-2011) Papers* (K1270); 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 includes administrative materials, publications, booklets, research notes, reports, studies, and scrapbooks related to the Kansas City Philharmonic. Also included are materials concerning various other arts, education, and community organizations.

INVENTORY:

BOX 001*KANSAS CITY PHILHARMONIC*Administrative Files

- Folder 1. Kansas City Philharmonic: correspondence, 1968-1982
- Folder 2. Kansas City Symphony: correspondence, 1998-2011
- Folder 3. Kansas City Symphony: correspondence-Orpheus Statue, 2008-2011
- Folder 4. Kansas City Philharmonic: History, ca1978
- Folder 5. Kansas City Philharmonic: Photographs, 1980-1982
- Folder 6. Kansas City Philharmonic: State of Missouri incorporation documents, 1983
- Folder 7. Kansas City Philharmonic: Board of Governors Book, 1974-1975 (1)
- Folder 8. Kansas City Philharmonic: Board of Governors Book, 1974-1975 (2)
- Folder 9. Kansas City Philharmonic: Board of Governors and Executive Committee Book, 1979-1980 (1)
- Folder 10. Kansas City Philharmonic: Board of Governors and Executive Committee Book, 1979-1980 (2)
- Folder 11. Kansas City Philharmonic: Auxiliary Presidents, 1981
- Folder 12. Kansas City Philharmonic: Board of Directors/Governors special meeting minutes, July 1, 1982
- Folder 13. Kansas City Philharmonic: Board of Directors minutes, 2005

- Folder 14. Kansas City Philharmonic: Board of Directors meeting, 2005
- Folder 15. Kansas City Philharmonic: Board of Directors meetings, 2006
- Folder 16. Kansas City Philharmonic: Board of Directors meetings, 2008
- Folder 17. Kansas City Philharmonic: Board of Directors meeting, October 6, 2009
- Folder 18. Kansas City Philharmonic: Board of Directors meeting, December 15, 2009
- Folder 19. Kansas City Philharmonic: Board of Directors meetings, 2009
- Folder 20. Kansas City Philharmonic: Board of Directors meeting, March 23, 2010
- Folder 21. Kansas City Philharmonic: Board of Directors meetings, 2010
- Folder 22. Kansas City Philharmonic: Board of Directors meeting, December 19, 2010
- Folder 23. Kansas City Philharmonic: Board of Directors meeting, June 1, 2010
- Folder 24. Kansas City Philharmonic: Board of Directors meeting, October 19, 2010
- Folder 25. Kansas City Philharmonic: Board of Directors meetings, 2011
- Folder 26. Kansas City Philharmonic: Board of Directors meeting, March 22, 2011
- Folder 27. Kansas City Philharmonic: Financial details, 1972-1980
- Folder 28. Kansas City Philharmonic: Feasibility study- Kansas City Philharmonic Association, Frantzreb & Pray Associates, September 1967
- Folder 29. Kansas City Philharmonic: Long range plan, February 1979
- Folder 30. Kansas City Philharmonic: Studies re. condition and future, 1976-1988 (1)
- Folder 31. Kansas City Philharmonic: Studies re: condition and future, 1981-1982 (2)
- Folder 32. Kansas City Philharmonic: Project 50 (Golden anniversary), December 1981

BOX 002*KANSAS CITY PHILHARMONIC*Reports/Studies

- Folder 1. Kansas City Philharmonic: Fund-raising feasibility study report, May 5, 1982

- Folder 2. Kansas City Philharmonic: "An evaluation of the Performing Arts"- Kansas City Performing Arts Foundation, December 15, 1969
- Folder 3. Mid-America Assembly on the Future of the Performing Arts, 1979
- Folder 4. Kansas City Philharmonic: "Economic impact of the Performing Arts on Kansas City", MRI project 4827-D, Final report, June 1980 for Hallmark Educational Foundation
- Folder 5. Kansas City Philharmonic: "Report to the KC Philharmonic Association from special long-range planning committee", June 10, 1982
- Folder 6. Kansas City Philharmonic: *Kansas City Star/Times* marketing research re: classical music concerts, ca 1982
- Folder 7. Kansas City Philharmonic: "Reasons for the demise. . ." by Ernest A. Dick, 1983
- Folder 8. Kansas City Philharmonic: preliminary report of Mayors Philharmonic task force (Mayor Berkley)
- Folder 9. Kansas City Philharmonic: photocopies of articles/chapters re: finances of orchestras, 1951, 1970
- Folder 10. Greater Kansas City Council on Philanthropy: "Building and effective development office and powerful tools for self-assessment", Stanley Weinstein, July 17, 1997

Conductor's cards/Programs/Press books

- Folder 11. Kansas City Philharmonic: Karl Krueger, conductor (1933-1943) cards, includes: composer, piece, and parts
- Folder 12. Kansas City Philharmonic: Press Book, 1939-1940
- Folder 13. Kansas City Philharmonic: Press book, 1979-1980
- Folder 14. Kansas City Philharmonic: Programs, 1945
- Folder 15. Kansas City Philharmonic: Newsletters, 1947-1948 Season
- Folder 16. Kansas City Philharmonic: Programs, 1957-1958 Season
- Folder 17. Kansas City Philharmonic: Programs, 1958-1959 Season
- Folder 18. Kansas City Philharmonic: Programs, 1959-1960
- Folder 19. Kansas City Philharmonic: Programs, 1960-1961
- Folder 20. Kansas City Philharmonic: Programs, 1961-1962
- Folder 21. Kansas City Philharmonic: Programs, 1962-1963 Season
- Folder 22. Kansas City Philharmonic: Brochures, 1971-1972 Season

- Folder 23. Kansas City Philharmonic: Programs, 1980-1981 Season
- Folder 24. Kansas City Philharmonic: Programs, 1981-1982 Season
- Folder 25. Folly Frolics: Program, 1981-1982
- Folder 26. Gala Brillante II, June 6, 1982
- Folder 27. Kansas City Symphony: Program, 1982-1983 Season preview
- Folder 28. Kansas City Symphony: Program, 2011-2012 Season

Booklets

- Folder 29. Booklet: "My most Precious Thanks": children's letters to the Kansas City Philharmonic, 1970
- Folder 30. Booklet: "A Brief History of Philanthropy in Kansas City" by Douglas Kingsbury, 1980
- Folder 31. Booklet: "An inside View", Kansas City Symphony, October 2010

History Project

- Folder 32. Kansas City Philharmonic: An overview of the History of the Kansas City Philharmonic project, 1982
- Folder 33. Kansas City Philharmonic: History Project- Correspondence, 1983
- Folder 34. Kansas City Philharmonic: History Project- Administrative file, 1982-1984
- Folder 35. Kansas City Philharmonic: History Project- "A History of music in Kansas City, 1900-1965" by James milford Crabb, UMKC Dissertation, 1967, photocopies
- Folder 36. Kansas City Philharmonic: History Project- research notes, Kranitz-Sanders, Board of Governors, 1961-1973
- Folder 37. Kansas City Philharmonic: History Project- "Sir Carl Busch. . ." by Donald Robert Lowe, UMKC Dissertation, 1972, notes from
- Folder 38. Kansas City Philharmonic: History Project- research notes, Fowler (source?)
- Folder 39. Kansas City Philharmonic: History Project- research notes, Kranitz-Sanders, various sources (1)
- Folder 40. Kansas City Philharmonic: History Project- research notes, Kranitz-Sanders, various sources (2)
- Folder 41. Kansas City Philharmonic: History Project- research notes, various sources
- Folder 42. Kansas City Philharmonic: History Project- research- clippings, 1933

- Folder 43. Kansas City Philharmonic: History Project- research- clippings, 1940s
- Folder 44. Kansas City Philharmonic: History Project- research- clippings, 1960s
- Folder 45. Kansas City Philharmonic: History Project- research- clippings, 1970s
- Folder 46. Kansas City Philharmonic: History Project- research- clippings, 1980s
- Folder 47. Kansas City Philharmonic: History Project- research- clippings, 1981

BOX 003 (box not full)*KANSAS CITY PHILHARMONIC*History Project

- Folder 1. Kansas City Philharmonic: History Project- research- clippings, 1982 (1)
- Folder 2. Kansas City Philharmonic: History Project- research- clippings, 1982 (2)
- Folder 3. Kansas City Philharmonic: History Project- research- clippings, 1982 (3)
- Folder 4. Kansas City Philharmonic: History Project- research- clippings, 1982 (4)
- Folder 5. Kansas City Philharmonic: History Project- research- clippings, 1983

VARIOUS ARTS/ EDUCATION/ COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

- Folder 6. Kansas City Ballet, 1981
- Folder 7. Nelson Gallery of Art, Board of Trustees
- Folder 8. William Jewell Events, 1981, 1983
- Folder 9. Starlight Theater, 1982
- Folder 10. People Puzzle Exhibit, 1996
- Folder 11. Rockhurst University- correspondence, 2010
- Folder 12. Johnson County Community College, 2010
- Folder 13. Kauffman Center for Performing Arts, seating chart
- Folder 14. Jewish Community Foundation, Judaic Art Fund, 2007-2011
- Folder 15. Jewish Community Foundation, Board of Trustees, minutes, 2007
- Folder 16. Jewish Community Archives, 2003-2007

BOX 001x1*KANSAS CITY PHILHARMONIC SCRAPBOOKS*

- Volume 1. Jewell Ball and other occasions, 1964-1967
- Volume 2. Kansas City Philharmonic, 1973-1974 Season
- Volume 3. Kansas City Philharmonic, 1974-1975 Season
- Volume 4. Kansas City Philharmonic, 1975-1976 Season
- Volume 5. Philharmonic League, 1979-1981