

Youth Symphony of Kansas City Records

The early records for the Youth Symphony of Kansas City are included in this collection. This orchestra for young local musicians began in 1958.

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Youth Symphony of Kansas City
Title: Youth Symphony of Kansas City records
Dates: 1958-1970
Size: 2 boxes, 44 folders
Location: SC70

Administrative Information

Restrictions on access: Unrestricted access.

Additional physical form available: Photographs have been digitized.

Acquisition information: Gift, 1970, Youth Symphony of Kansas City.

Citation note: Youth Symphony of Kansas City records (SC70), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

Collection Description

Biographical/Historical note

The Youth Symphony of Kansas City was organized on April 12, 1958, and was designed for talented musicians under the age of 21 years who wanted to play standard symphonic literature. The interested students had to be recommended by their school music director or private music teacher. Found in the contents of the collection was the fact that their first rehearsal was held in Kansas City, Missouri, on June 11th, 1958, at the Community Christian Church. The first director was Leo Scheer, but starting in 1961 Jack Herriman led the group and did so for the years covered in this collection.

Highlights for the orchestra during these early years included a trip to Chicago in 1963, playing in Washington D.C. and at the World's Fair in New York in 1964, and a trip to Barcelona, Spain in 1969. The material in the collection pertaining to the Spain trip includes newspaper clippings from the Barcelona newspaper.

Scope and content note

The collection of records of the Youth Symphony of Kansas City contains a number of different types of material covering the years 1958-1970. This time span represents the beginning, formative years of the organization. The symphony did not end in 1970 but continued on as a part of the metropolitan area cultural arts scene.

Items found in the collection most often include concert programs, newspaper clippings (photocopied in processing), correspondence and board minutes/budget reports. Many other types of items are also included as brochures, the group's publications, press releases, circulars and flyers, performer's biographies, notices of various types, a historical sketch, rules and regulations, the charter, memos, applications, women's committee yearbooks,

membership lists, and other miscellaneous items. There are nine photographs included that feature the orchestra, performers, and various group scenes.

The collection arrangement has been left as it was found prior to processing. This arrangement is chronological, beginning with 1958 and going to and including 1970. Some items that were not dated have been left at the beginning and noted as undated. The photographs have been placed in the very beginning folders. Programs, newspaper clippings and correspondence generally come first in each year's folders with the miscellaneous material for the year at the end.

Collection Inventory

Box 1

- Folder 1-2 – Photographs, #1-9
- Folder 3 – Miscellaneous Records, undated – Encore publication, charter, flyers
- Folder 4 – Miscellaneous Records, undated – Correspondence, circulars, membership lists, etc.
- Folder 5 – Miscellaneous Records, undated – Miscellaneous items, circulars, etc.
- Folder 6-7 – Miscellaneous Records, 1958 – Programs, newspaper clippings, correspondence, news releases, newsletter, circulars
- Folder 8-9 – Miscellaneous Records, 1959 – Programs, newspaper clippings, meeting reports including budgets, and correspondence by date
- Folder 10-12 – Miscellaneous Records, 1960 – Programs, newspaper clippings, circulars, correspondence, minutes, treasurer's report, rules and regulations, annual report to Board of Directors, agreement
- Folder 13-14 – Miscellaneous Records, 1961 – Programs, newspaper clippings, correspondence, financial report, scholarship information
- Folder 15-16 – Miscellaneous Records, 1962 – Programs, newspaper clippings, correspondence, circulars
- Folder 17-18 – Miscellaneous Records, 1963 – Programs, newspaper clippings, correspondence, historical sketch, Board of Directors, memos
- Folder 19-25 – Miscellaneous Records, 1964 – Programs, newspaper clippings, correspondence, publications, Youth Symphony News, financial reports, minutes, women's committee booklet, testimonial, miscellaneous items
- Folder 26-29 – Miscellaneous Records, 1965 – Programs, newspaper clippings, correspondence, board minutes and treasurer's reports, Youth Symphony Notes

Box 2

- Folder 1-3 – Miscellaneous Records, 1966 – Programs, newspaper clippings
- Folder 4-6 – Miscellaneous Records, 1967 – Programs, newspaper clippings, correspondence, women's committee yearbook, symphony membership list, application proposal, etc.
- Folder 7-9 – Miscellaneous Records, 1968 – Programs, newspaper clippings, correspondence, concert review, etc.
- Folder 10-13 – Miscellaneous Records, 1969 – Programs, poster, newspaper clippings, correspondence, minutes, women's committee yearbook, Spain trip material
- Folder 14-15 – Miscellaneous Records, 1970 – Programs, newspaper clippings, budget, flyer

Processed by Special Collections Librarian Sara Nyman, February 1999.