

## Ruth Cady Austin Collection (SC17)

### *Introduction*

This collection consists of programs, brochures, and other material related to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century music career of Ruth Cady Austin. For more than three decades, Austin was prominent in the Kansas City music scene as a performer, teacher, and active member of local music organizations, such as the Choral Art Club and the Kansas City Music Club.

### *Descriptive Summary*

Creator: Ruth Cady Austin  
Title: Ruth Cady Austin Collection  
Dates: 1912-1947  
Size: 0.2 linear feet, 1 box, 13 folders  
Collection Number: SC17

### *Donor Information*

Found in collections.

### *Citation Note*

Ruth Cady Austin Collection (SC17), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

### *Administrative Information*

Related Collections: See SC66 Kansas City/Local Area Fine Arts Programs Collection and various issues of the *Musical Bulletin* (MVSC 780.5 M98) for more information on the Kansas City Musical Club and the Choral Arts Club.

See Vertical File: Churches—Christian—First for more information on the First Christian Church.

### *Biographical Sketch*

Ruth Standish Cady Austin was born in Ohio on May 24, 1886 to Ella Maria Falkenbury Cady, two months after the death of father Elijah Perkins Cady. After her mother remarried, Austin's family lived in Lawrence and Council Grove, Kansas, and Kansas City, Missouri. Austin, a talented coloratura soprano, attended and worked in a Boston conservatory before returning to live with her widowed mother in Kansas City. Austin ran a voice and piano school in the "Studio Building" at 9<sup>th</sup> and Locust and planned music programs for the First Christian Church at 11<sup>th</sup> and Locust during the 1910s.

For more than three decades, Austin was prominent in the local music scene as a performer, teacher, and active member of local music organizations, such as the Choral Art Club and the Kansas City Music Club. In 1922 Austin married another local music enthusiast, dentist Allen C. Austin, and gave birth to daughter Elizabeth two years later. Austin died November 15, 1987 aged 101 years.

### *Scope and Content Note*

This collection consists of programs, brochures, advertising cards, magazines, and other materials related to the career of singer and music teacher Ruth Cady Austin. The collection is arranged topically and dates from 1912 through 1947.

### *Collection Inventory*

- f. 1 Choral Art Club concerts, 1919-1921
- f. 2 Annual Spring Recitals, 1921-1922
- f. 3 Miscellaneous concerts, ca. 1918-1940
- f. 4 First Christian Church programs (11th & Locust), 1921-1923
- f. 5 Kansas City Musical Club programs, 1936
- f. 6 Lecture Recital programs, 1916-1919
- f. 7 The Olin System School of Music Expression- Dancing catalog
- f. 8 Pupils' recital programs, 1916-1923
- f. 9 Song recital invitations, 1912-1918
- f. 10 Miscellaneous advertising cards and brochures, n.d.
- f. 11 *The Musical Bulletin*: May 1945, January 1946 May 1946,  
November 1946, February 1947

**Processed by Gloria Maxwell, January, 1992. Re-processed by Melissa Horak-Hern, Special Collections Associate, November, 2016.**