Programs of New Orleans
Cultural Performances

1.5 Linear Feet

Special Collections & Archives
Loyola University Library
Collection 11
Programs of New Orleans Cultural Performances

Reference Code

Collection 11

Name and Location of Repository

Special Collections and Archives, J. Edgar & Louise S. Monroe Library, Loyola University, New Orleans

Title

Programs of New Orleans Cultural Performances

Date

1902-1998

Extent

3 boxes, 1.5 linear feet

Subject Headings

- Poché, Irwin F.
- New Orleans Civic Symphony Orchestra (New Orleans, Louisiana)
- Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra

Administrative/Biographical History

This is an artificial collection informally collected over time at the Loyola University New Orleans Archives and Special Collections.

Portions of the collection, specifically those relating to the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, were donated by Richard and Helen Erb in 1999. Richard Erb graduated from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. He was a former bass trombonist of both the New Orleans Symphony and the Louisiana
Philharmonic Orchestra, and was a faculty member of Loyola University and the University of New Orleans. As a product of his teaching, a great many of Mr. Erb's students have gone on to professional careers with leading orchestras throughout the world.

Helen Erb played the English Horn in the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra and had a prolific amount of students from the New Orleans area who have gone into the musical field.

Additional programs from the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra as well as programs from the Community Concert Association, The Scorsone Ensemble, the Theatre of Music in New Orleans, the New Orleans Ballet Foundation, Inc., the New Orleans Music and Drama Foundation, LSU Opera, and Xavier University Opera were added to the collection from miscellaneous materials culled from the New Orleans Opera Association collection.

Scope and Content

Spanning every decade of the 20th century, these programs provide information about New Orleans’ cultural life including theatre, opera, symphony and other artistic performances and about the organizations that sponsored such performances. Organizations represented in the collection include:

- The Greater New Orleans Choral Society was organized in September of 1929 and sponsored by the Music Committee of the Association of Commerce. Their first concert took place at the Municipal Auditorium Concert Hall on February 10, 1930. This organization was established to stimulate music in New Orleans by offering the opportunity for people to study under musical directors and to give back to the community by providing musical entertainment at a low cost.

- The Grunewald Musicale performances began around 1920 as Friday morning events at the Grunewald Hotel in New Orleans. Often these musicales included tea or luncheon. These performances were staged in the hotel’s auditorium throughout the 1920s and into the 1930s. The hotel is now the Roosevelt New Orleans, a Waldorf-Astoria hotel.

- Irwin Poché was a New Orleans businessman and civic leader. Active in New Orleans throughout the mid-20th century, one of Poché’s many careers involved managing the Municipal Auditorium through which he brought several famous stars and touring groups to the city. ‘Irwin Poché Presents’
were a series of performances at the Municipal Auditorium in the late 1940s through the early 1950s.

- The **Lyceum Association of New Orleans** was an educational organization which brought guest lecturers and academics to the city to speak to its members and to the general public. Founded in the late 19th century, the Lyceum Association was active for only a few years. Around 1915-16, the group reemerged and remained active throughout WWII.


- The **Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra** was founded in 1991 by members of the former New Orleans Symphony. It is currently the only full-time operating orchestra in the Gulf South. Many of the Orchestra members currently serve as instrumental faculty at Loyola University New Orleans.

- The **New Orleans Grand Opera Association** was formed in 1930 when Benedict M. Grunewald, with the help of several financial backers, sponsored local performances by the Chicago Opera Company. Using the profits from that initial opera performance, Grunewald formed the New Orleans Grand Opera Association, Inc., with himself as president. Active until 1947, the New Orleans Grand Opera Association brought numerous performances to the city, including the Metropolitan Opera. After several dormant years, the association dissolved in 1956, giving over the remainder of their treasury to the more recently formed and active, New Orleans Opera House Association.

- The **New Orleans Opera House Association** was formed in 1943 to provide the city of New Orleans with a permanent fixed company of its own. Led by Walter L. Loubat, this group thrived, eventually becoming the New Orleans Opera Association of today.

- **Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré** is a locally developed community theater in the French Quarter of New Orleans. Founded in 1919, the ‘Little Theater’ remains in existence today.

- The **Philharmonic Society of New Orleans** was founded in 1906 to bring musical performances to the city. The organization was merged with the New Orleans Civic Symphony Orchestra to form the New Orleans Symphony Society.
- The **Summer Pop Concerts** were organized in New Orleans in 1943 to provide free entertainment to servicemen and women. These concerts offered a variety of different music to the public each summer for several decades.

- **Tulane Theatre** was constructed in 1898 and active for several decades. Contrary to its name, the theatre was not connected with Tulane University. The Tulane was run by Klaw and Erlanger’s New Orleans Theatres Company in conjunction with its sister theatre, The Crescent. These theatres were once located on University Place.

**Systems of Arrangement**

The programs have been arranged alphabetically by sponsoring organization and then chronologically. Dates indicate holdings of at least one program for that year.

**Conditions Governing Access**

The collection is open for research use. No known restrictions.

**Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use**

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**Language and Scripts of the Material**

Collection is in English.

**Notes**

A complete list of the organizations represented in this collection is as follows:

- Greater New Orleans Choral Society
- Grunewald Musicale
- Poché, Irwin F.
- Lyceum Association of New Orleans
- New Orleans Civic Symphony Orchestra (New Orleans, Louisiana)
- Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra
- New Orleans Grand Opera Association
- New Orleans Opera House Association
- New Orleans Philharmonic-Symphony Society
- Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré
- Philharmonic Society of New Orleans
- Summer Pop Concerts, Inc.
- Tulane University Theatre
- Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra
- Community Concert Association (which presented a variety of performances, including the Joffrey Ballet, Orchestre de Paris, and the New York Philharmonic)
- The Scorsone Ensemble
- Theatre of Music in New Orleans
- New Orleans Ballet Foundation, Inc.
- The New Orleans Music and Drama Foundation
- LSU Opera
- Xavier University Opera

**Processing Information**


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