

**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 20<sup>th</sup> 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-20<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Lyceum Association was active for only a few years. Around 1915-16, the group reemerged and remained active throughout WWII.
- The **New Orleans Civic Symphony Orchestra** was founded in 1936 and was a precursor to the New Orleans Philharmonic–Symphony Society. In 1944, the New Orleans Civic Symphony Orchestra merged with the New Orleans Philharmonic Society, renaming itself the New Orleans Symphony Society. The organization renamed itself twice more: the New Orleans Philharmonic-Symphony Society in 1952 and the New Orleans Symphony in 1989. The organization went bankrupt in 1991.
- **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**

Finding aid written, 1988 - updated by Katherine Kuhl Rivet, 2012. Updated by Maureen Kelly, 2014.

### **Container List**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
1	1	Greater New Orleans Choral Society - 1930
1	1	Grunewald Musicale – 1931, 1932, 1936
1	2	Irwin Poché Presents – 1948, 1949
1	3	Lyceum Association of New Orleans – 1939-1942
1	4-7	New Orleans Civic Symphony Orchestra – 1936-1939, 1941, 1942, 1946, 1952

1	8	New Orleans Grand Opera Association – 1939-1941, 1947, 1994
1	9-12	New Orleans Opera House Association - 1949-1951, 1960-1962, 1965, 1966, 1971
1	13-14	New Orleans Philharmonic-Symphony Society – 1960, 1961, 1966, 1967, 1969, 1971, 1984, 1985, 1989, 1991
1	15	Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra – 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1997
2	1-2	Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré – 1960-1962, 1964-1965
2	3-7	Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré – 1965-1967, 1971-1973
2	8-14	Philharmonic Society of New Orleans – 1931, 1932, 1935-1938, 1940-1942, 1947-1949
2	15	Summer Pop Concerts – 1945, 1947, 1953, 1958
2	16-18	Tulane Theatre – 1902-1904, 1906, 1921-1924
2	18-21	Miscellaneous Programs
3	1-10	Community Concert Association Programs 1960-1970
3	11	New Orleans Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra Programs
3	12	LSU Opera Programs 1951-1963
3	13	Xavier University Opera Programs 1952-1963