



ArchivesSpace

Manschinger, Kurt and Grete Hartwig; Papers

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives

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Summary Information

Repository:	M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives
Title:	Greta Hartwig Manschinger and Kurt Manschinger (Ashley Vernon) Papers
ID:	ger025
Date [inclusive]:	1896-1986
Physical Description:	15.72 cubic ft.
Physical Location:	The materials are located onsite in the department.
Language of the Material:	English , German , German , Czech .
Abstract:	This collection contains correspondence, manuscripts, opera librettos, songs, short stories, novels, sketches, and critical reviews. It also has personal family papers of Kurt (Ashley Vernon) and Greta Hartwig Manschinger, paintings and writings by and other records from Greta's sister Mela Hartwig and her husband Robert Spira, audio recordings, scores, and sheet music, as well as audio recordings of performances.

Preferred Citation

Preferred citation for this material is as follows:

Identification of specific item, series, box, folder, Greta Hartwig Manschinger and Kurt Manschinger (Ashley Vernon) Papers, 1896-1986. M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University at Albany, State University of New York (hereafter referred to as the Manschinger Papers).

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Biographical History

Greta Hartwig was born on April 19, 1899 in Vienna, at the time the capital of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. She was the daughter of Theodor Hartwig (born Theodor Herzl, later changed to differentiate himself from the famous Zionist), a noted German philosopher and advocate for free-thinking, and younger sister to Mela Hartwig, a well-known artist and author. Raised in a musical family, Greta was

attracted to all forms of performing arts, her wide range of talents leading her to create the "One Woman Shows" that she became known for.

Dr. Kurt Manschinger, also known by the nom de plume Ashley Vernon, was born in 1902 in a Viennese suburb. A precocious youth with a talent for music, Kurt was schooled by the famous Austrian composer Anton von Webern during his teenage years. Eventually, Kurt would receive his doctorate in musicology from the University of Vienna in 1926. After establishing himself as a figure in the Austrian theater scene, Kurt would meet Greta as the starring actress in one of his plays.

Fiercely critical of fascism, Greta and Kurt were forced to flee their home country of Austria after its annexation by Nazi Germany in March 1938. First, the two fled to nearby Prague, where an inability to perform led to Greta's first foray into a writing career. Later, when the Hitler regime completed its annexation of Czechoslovakia, Greta and Kurt were forced to relocate to London in May 1939 where they helped found the anti-fascist literary cabaret "The Lantern", which hosted many of their fellow emigres who were fled the ever-rising violence of the Third Reich. The next year, the two would relocate for the final time, this time to New York City, and begin to re-establish themselves as mainstays in their respective artistic endeavors.

It was in America that the two found the most critical and commercial acclaim, with Greta successfully tutoring several students into prominent roles in film, stage, and television, while Kurt began to write operas. The most famous of these, "The Barber of New York", quickly became a critical and commercial success, being nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in 1954. In appreciation of their newfound home, both Greta and Kurt would become naturalized American citizens in April 1946.

Kurt died at home in 1968 while performing at his piano for a group of friends. Greta, never fully recovered from the loss of her husband, and passed away in April 1971 on vacation in Florida. Mela Hartwig Spira died in London in 1967, her husband Robert following just days later.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains biographical materials, correspondence and a significant amount of artistic output (manuscripts, opera librettos, songs, short stories, novels, sketches, sheet music, scores, audio recordings, and related critical reviews) from Greta Hartwig and Kurt Manschinger. The collection also contains original scholarly and artistic works by Greta's sister, Mela Hartwig Spira, and her father, Theodor Hartwig, and materials related to Mela's husband, Robert Spira.

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Arrangement of the Collection

This collection is arranged into three series and all are arranged alphabetically.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives

Revision Description

Converted to EAD Encoded in EAD by Jodi Boyle 2015 December 2015

Processing Information

Collection arranged and described by Johann Poehlmann, 2022 August.

Acquisition Information

The majority of items in this manuscript group were donated to the University Libraries, M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives, by Wilbur S. Broms, executor for the estates of Greta Hartwig Manschinger and Kurt Manschinger on 1983 March 13. Additional materials were added to the collection by Wilbur Broms in the later 1980s and by Martin Broms, son of Wilbur Broms on 2006 April 6.

Access

Access to this collection is unrestricted.

Copyright

The rights to the published works of Greta Hartwig Manschinger, Kurt Manschinger (Ashley Vernon), or Mela Hartwig are held according to applicable copyright laws.

The rights to any unpublished or other works of Greta Hartwig Manschinger or Mela Hartwig are held by the University Libraries of the University at Albany. Permission to perform any of Greta Hartwig Manschinger's musical works must be obtained from the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives.

The rights to any unpublished works of Kurt Manschinger (Ashley Vernon) are held by the Austrian National Library. This library must be contacted for permission to publish materials of Kurt Manschinger (Ashley Veronon) at Josefsplatz 1/Postfach 25/1015 Vienna/Tel: +43 1 534 10/Email: onb@onb.ac.at/https://www.onb.ac.at/en/

The researcher assumes full responsibility for conforming with the laws of copyright. Whenever possible, the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives will provide information about copyright owners and other restrictions, but the legal determination ultimately rests with the researcher. Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with the Head of Special Collections and Archives.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Hartwig, Greta, 1899-1971
- Vernon, Ashley
- Hartwig, Mela
- World War, 1939-1945 -- Refugees
- Women authors
- Music
- Literature
- Art
- Correspondence
- Scores
- Painting
- Novels
- open reel audiotapes
- Photographs

Collection Inventory

Biographical, 1896-1971

Physical Description: 2.58 cubic ft.

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.

Scope and Contents

This series contains biographical information regarding Greta Hartwig and Kurt Manschinger, including important legal documents surrounding their flight from Austria, brief autobiographical profiles of Kurt and Greta, Greta's daily calendars, legal materials related to Mela Hartwig and Robert Spira, plus many photographs of the Manschinger and Hartwig families.

Title/Description	Instances	
Biographical Data on Kurt Manschinger and Greta Hartwig, 1955-1971Undated	Box 1	Folder 1
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Legal Docs (Immigration, Marriage, Death,etc.), 1929-1971Undated	Box 1	Folder 18
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Photograph Album, Grete Hartwig, 19261929-1930Undated	Oversize 1	
Photograph Album, Kurt Hartwig, Undated	Oversize 1	

Scope and Contents

Photographs of Greta and Mela's younger brother brother who died in 1924.

Photograph Album, "To the Memory of the Kaiser Mountains"/"Zur Erinnerung an das Kaisergebirge", 1912 Summer	Oversize 2
Photograph Album, Untitled, 1910-1958Undated	Oversize 2

Photograph Album, Untitled, 1930-1931Undated	Oversize 1	
Photograph Album, Untitled, 1931-1940Undated	Oversize 1	
Photograph Album, Untitled, 1932-19351937	Oversize 1	
Photograph Album, Untitled, 1941-19441946-1950Undated	Oversize 2	
Photograph Album, Untitled, 1950-1952	Oversize 1	
Photograph Album, Untitled, 1950-19511953-19651967-1970	Oversize 2	
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Photographs, Greta Hartwig Manschinger, 19161968-1970Undated	Box 2	Folder 2
Photographs, Josef Felder, 19321965-1967Undated	Box 2	Folder 3
Photographs, Katherine Hartwig, 18961907-19131918-19201931-1935Undated	Box 2	Folder 4
Photographs, Knitwits, Undated	Box 2	Folder 5
Photographs, Kurt Manschinger, 19141917-19181920Undated	Box 2	Folder 6
Photographs, Kurt Manschinger, 1947-19481951Undated	Box 2	Folder 7
Photographs, Mela and Robert Spira, 191819211930Undated	Box 2	Folder 8
Photographs, Raoul and Helga Manschinger, 193119531961-19621965-1966Undated	Box 2	Folder 9
Photographs, Theodor Hartwig, 191419231946Undated	Box 2	Folder 10
Photographs, Unidentified Groups, 1905-19091921-19221935-19391955-1966Undated	Box 2	Folder 11
Photographs, Unidentified Individuals, 1925-1926196219671969Undated	Box 2	Folder 12
Photographs, Without People, 19371958-1959Undated	Box 2	Folder 13
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Robert and Mela Hartwig Spira, Final Statement on their Estate, 1965-1971Undated	Box 3	Folder 1
Robert Spira, Obituary, 1967 June	Box 3	Folder 2

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Correspondence, 1916-1986

Physical Description: 2.2 cubic ft.

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically.

Scope and Contents

This series consists of correspondence by Kurt and/or Greta Hartwig Manschinger to various friends, family members, and working associates. Much of the material concerns their attempts to develop their business endeavors in the United States, with several personal letters to family members still in Europe included as well. In addition, there are letters concerning the Manschinger estate and legacy from executor Wilbur Broms dated after Kurt and Greta's deaths.

Title/Description	Instances	
After Dinner Opera Company - Richard Flussel, 1953-1958` 1963-19651968Undated	Box 1	Folder 1
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Assorted Correspondence (German), 1931193719561976Undated	Box 1	Folder 4
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Bertha Hartwigova, 19501953-19591958-195919711977	Box 1	Folder 11
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Greta Hartwig Correspondence, American Council for Emigres, 19491954-195519651967-1968	Box 1	Folder 46
Greta Hartwig Correspondence, Cupid and Psyche, 19461960-19611968-1969	Box 1	Folder 47
Greta Hartwig Correspondence, Re: T.H. Hartwig, 19461949-1950Undated	Box 1	Folder 48
Greta Hartwig Correspondence, Turnau Opera Players, 1955-1957	Box 1	Folder 49
Greta Hartwig, Employment, 19461948-19591965-1970Undated	Box 1	Folder 50
Greta Hartwig Correspondence, Employment (Miscellaneous Companion, Non Professional), 195119611967	Box 1	Folder 51

Greta Hartwig Correspondence, Household Miscellaneous, 195119541958	Box 1	Folder 52
Greta Hartwig Correspondence, Vocal Exercises, Wilbur Broms and Joseph Felder, 1969	Box 1	Folder 53
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Kurt Manschinger Correspondence, Mrs. McWilliams and The Lightening, 1949	Box 2	Folder 8
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Artistic Works, 1916-1984

Physical Description: 10.94 cubic ft.

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.

Scope and Contents

This series includes original works created by Kurt and Greta Hartwig Manschinger, as well as Greta's sister Mela Hartwig Spira and their father Theodore Hartwig. Among the works are short stories, novels, playlets, librettos, operas, choral arrangements, scholarly articles, paintings, drawings, and recorded musical performances. Included with the works themselves are programs and reviews for various performances that the Manschingers were associated with. Materials related to Greta's teaching are also present, including correspondence, programs, and reviews from former students and institutions that she taught at.

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Accompaniment for Greta, Including Married, Undated	Reel 54	
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Concerts: A Concert of Music by Ashley Vernon, Carnegie Recital Hall (2 of 2), 1974 April 27	Reel 8	
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General

LP 1

Multiple copies

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Cut version.

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