# Table of Contents

Summary Information .................................................................................................................................... 3  
Biographical History ............................................................................................................................... 3  
Scope and Contents ............................................................................................................................... 4  
Arrangement of the Collection ............................................................................................................. 4  
Administrative Information .................................................................................................................. 4  
Controlled Access Headings ................................................................................................................. 5  
Collection Inventory ............................................................................................................................. 6
Summary Information

Repository: M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives
Title: Yella Pessl Sobotka Papers
ID: ger073
Date [inclusive]: 1918-1979
Physical Description: 13 cubic ft.
Physical Location: The materials are located onsite in the department.
Language of the Material: English, German.
Abstract: This collection documents the musical career of Yella Pessl, a harpsichordist, pianist and organist.

Preferred Citation

Preferred citation for this material is as follows:

Identification of specific item, series, box, folder, Yella Pessl Sobotka Papers, 1918-1979. M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University at Albany, State University of New York (hereafter referred to as the Pessl Sobotka Papers).

Biographical History

Gabriella Pessl Sobotka was a harpsichordist, pianist and organist who performed under the name Yella Pessl. Born in Vienna, she had a musical career in Europe before immigrating to the United States in 1931.

Pessl was best known for her interpretations of Bach and was founder and director of the Bach Circle, a New York group specializing in lesser-known works of Bach and other Baroque composers. Pessl toured extensively in the United States, performing in as a soloist and with orchestras. She also had her own radio program and was on the faculty of Columbia University.

Pessl died at the age of 85 in 1991 in Northhampton, Mass. Her husband, Dr. Harry Sobotka, predeceased her in 1970.
Scope and Contents

This collection contains Yella Pessl's correspondence, 1930-1979; musical manuscripts, arrangements, and fingered sheet music, primarily of the keyboard works of J. S. Bach, undated; scrapbooks pertaining to her concert career, 1924-1956; 78 commercial and private recordings of her performances on harpsichord and piano, primarily from the 1940s and 1950s; and printed materials.

The collection also contains 194 12-inch records, 39 10-inch records by Pessl. In addition, there are 50 12-inch records and 16 10-inch records either not by Pessl or unidentifiable.

Arrangement of the Collection

The collection is not processed. Some boxes are described at the box level. Others are described at the item level.

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
Processed in 2003 December by M. E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives, University at Albany, SUNY.
Acquisition Information

The M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives acquired this collection from Yella Pessl-Sobotka in 1978.

Access

Access to this record group is unrestricted.

Copyright

Per the donor agreement, rights to the published works of Yella Pessl Sobotka are held according to applicable copyright laws. Rights to any unpublished work will first be held by the donors Yella Pessl and her sister Mrs. Richard (Margit) Cartwright, and then by the University Libraries, University at Albany. Ms. Pessl died in 1991.

Researchers do not have permission to publish or disseminate material from these collections without permission from an archivist and/or the copyright holder.

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.

^ Return to Table of Contents

Controlled Access Headings

- Music
- World War, 1939-1945 -- Refugees
- Women musicians
- Scores
- Correspondence
- Clippings
- Concert programs
- 78 rpm records
- Scrapbooks
- Pessl, Yella, 1906-1991
# Collection Inventory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Instances</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Large navy scrapbook with clippings, programs. Numerous inserts, 1952-1956</td>
<td>Box 1 (Yella Pessl Papers) Folder 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beige scrapbook with clippings, programs, 1946-1947</td>
<td>Box 1 (Yella Pessl Papers) Folder 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Large black and gold scrapbook with clippings, programs, 1945</td>
<td>Box 1 (Yella Pessl Papers) Folder 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Large brown scrapbook with clippings, 1943-1944</td>
<td>Box 1 (Yella Pessl Papers) Folder 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Large brown scrapbook with black design with clippings, programs, 1942</td>
<td>Box 1 (Yella Pessl Papers) Folder 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Large manilla folder scrapbook with clippings, programs, 1941</td>
<td>Box 1 (Yella Pessl Papers) Folder 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Large black scrapbook with clippings, 1940 July 15 - 1941 February 3</td>
<td>Box 1 (Yella Pessl Papers) Folder 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scrapbooks, loose clippings, Undated</td>
<td>Box 2 (Yella Pessl Papers) Folder 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Large black scrapbook with clippings, programs, 1940</td>
<td>Box 2 (Yella Pessl Papers) Folder 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black scrapbook with clippings, programs, 1939</td>
<td>Box 2 (Yella Pessl Papers) Folder 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clippings in manilla envelope, mainly duplicates of scrapbook clippings,, 1938-1939</td>
<td>Box 2 (Yella Pessl Papers) Folder 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Large brown scrapbook with clippings, programs, 1938</td>
<td>Box 2 (Yella Pessl Papers) Folder 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black scrapbook with clippings, programs, 1936-1937</td>
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<td>Scrapbook with no cover. Clippings, some programs, 1935-1938</td>
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<td>Small gray/black mottled scrapbook. Programs, clippings, 1931-1932</td>
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<td>Small brown and tan scrapbook. Clippings, programs. 1924-1935. 60p., 1924-1935</td>
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<td>Clippings until 1930. Clippings in brown manilla envelope, 1920s1930</td>
<td>Box 2 (Yella Pessl Papers) Folder 10</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous clippings over many years, Undated</td>
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<td>Clippings concerning Yella Pessl, Susanne Bloch and Carl Dolmetsch, 1936 March 17</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous clippings in manilla folder, 1937</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous programs, 1930s-1970s</td>
<td>Box 3 (Yella Pessl Papers) Folder 1</td>
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<td>Program outlines. Columbia Broadcasting Systems, 1940-1941</td>
<td>Box 3 (Yella Pessl Papers) Folder 2</td>
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<td>Austrian programs and concert reviews, 1930s</td>
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<td>Bach Circle programs, 1937-1947</td>
<td>Box 3 (Yella Pessl Papers) Folder 4</td>
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<td>List of materials in collection, as compiled by Yella Pessl, Undated</td>
<td>Box 4 (Yella Pessl Papers) Folder 1</td>
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<td>Curriculum vita, autobiographical materials, Undated</td>
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<td>Correspondence file L, Undated</td>
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<td>Correspondence file M, Undated</td>
<td>Box 4 (Yella Pessl Papers) Folder 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Correspondence, concert season, 1944-1945</td>
<td>Box 4 (Yella Pessl Papers) Folder 9</td>
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<td>Correspondence, management, 1946-1947</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous correspondence, 1930s-1970s</td>
<td>Box 4 (Yella Pessl Papers) Folder 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fan mail and other miscellaneous correspondence, 1940s</td>
<td>Box 4 (Yella Pessl Papers) Folder 12</td>
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<td>Die Schule. Eine Komdie von Jella Pessl dem Vater zu seinem Geburtstag, 1918 November 23</td>
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<td>Interview, Undated</td>
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<td>Contracts, Undated</td>
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<td>Photographs of Yella Pessl, some duplicates, Undated</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous offprints, musical subjects, Undated</td>
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<td>[Hyde, Fred]. &quot;Chapter I: Mersenne, The Man; His Life.&quot; Also notes, presumably by Pessl, Undated</td>
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<td>Scores, reel-to-reel tapes, microfilms, slides, Undated</td>
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