

# Performing Artists Photograph Collection, circa 1890-1976, undated

## Administrative Information

### Creators

Berry, Zorah  
De Forest, Marian, 1864-1935  
Smith, Mai Davis

### Call Number

RBR WNYO 1890.P46

### Extent

4 manuscript boxes, 1 oversize box (2.25 linear feet)

### Abstract

Black & white and sepia-toned photographs of renowned musicians, singers, dancers, actors and other performers that appeared in Buffalo from the late 19th through late 20th century. The bulk of the collection is photos personally collected by Marian De Forest, Mai Davis Smith, and Zorah Berry, circa 1900 to 1950. Others were donated to, or acquired by the Buffalo Public Library and later, the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library.

### Terms of Use

The Performing Artists Photograph Collection is open for research.

### Reproduction of Materials

See librarian for information on reproducing materials from this collection, including photocopies, digital camera images, digital scans, as well as copyright restrictions that may pertain to these materials.

### Preferred Citation

[Description and dates], Box/folder number, *Performing Artists Photograph Collection*, Rare Book Room, Buffalo and Erie County Public Library.

### Acquisition

The Zorah Berry photographs are part of a collection of local concert programs, reviews, articles and images donated to the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library in February 1975 by William D. MacPherson, a friend of Mrs. Berry.<sup>1</sup> The Marian De Forest and Mai Davis Smith photographs were donated to the Buffalo Public Library in February 1935 by De Forest shortly before her death.<sup>2</sup>

Other donations included several photos given to the Buffalo Public Library in 1939 by William J. Neill, Jr. (as noted on the photo verso), another Buffalo concert promoter. Librarians also

actively collected photographs, sometimes requesting them directly from the performer, as indicated by correspondence, and autographs signed “To the Buffalo Public Library.”

<sup>1</sup>“Fond memories of Zorah Berry,” *Buffalo Evening News*, February 8, 1975, p. C10.

<sup>2</sup>“Miss De Forest presents Library photo collection.” *Courier Express*, February 9, 1935. Buffalo Public Library Scrapbook, 1932-1935, p.245

## Processing Information

Collection processed by: Susan Cutrona, December 2008

Finding aid written by: Susan Cutrona, June 2013

## Biographical History

The bulk of the photographs originated from the personal collections of three women who were early impresarios and important figures in Buffalo music history.

**Marian De Forest** (1864-1935) was a newspaperwoman, playwright, music promoter, and social leader. She began her professional career as one of the first female reporters in Western New York. De Forest was the drama critic and department editor for the *Buffalo Courier Express* for over 20 years.<sup>1</sup> She also wrote adaptations for the theater and radio, most notably a dramatization of *Little Women* in 1911.

Along with her partner, **Mai Davis Smith** (1860-1924), De Forest established the Buffalo Musical Foundation, bringing symphony orchestras and individual performers to Buffalo. According to her obituaries, Smith was the first person in Buffalo to earn a living as a concert promoter.<sup>2</sup> The two women were successful business partners, determined to offer Buffalonians the best in opera and classical music.

In 1919, De Forest founded the Zonta Club of Buffalo, later known as Zonta International, an organization of professional women dedicated to improving the status of women worldwide. She also served on the Board of the Buffalo Public Library, becoming the first female Library trustee.

De Forest and Smith’s collection of autographed photographs of performers were “personal tributes of friendship and appreciation” and evidence of widespread associations in the theater and music worlds.<sup>3</sup> Photographs of De Forest are included in the collection.

**Zorah Berry** (1889-1969) was a concert promoter and entrepreneur who brought hundreds of musical performers to Buffalo during her 40-year career. The “Zorah Berry Presents” concert series began when she engaged world-renowned opera singer Amelita Galli-Curci in 1926. Over the years, her concerts attracted the “greats of music” to Buffalo, including Ignacy Jan Paderewski, Sergei Rachmaninoff, and Lily Pons. The concerts were enjoyed by many loyal local patrons; Berry estimated that more than 1,000, 000 people had attended her events.<sup>4</sup>

In 1957, Berry collaborated with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra to continue management of the concert series upon her retirement. Her last major project, a “Great Artists Series” in 1964, featured notable vocalists, musicians, and dancers.

Berry's collection of autographed photographs and scrapbooks documenting performers and concerts were on display at her office at 32 Court Street. Her friend and collaborator William D. MacPherson acquired the collection after her death in 1969, and donated the material to the Library in 1975.<sup>5</sup>

1 "Reviving a legend," Buffalo News, March 17, 2001, p. D1

2 Kanen, Candace A. *Swornest chums: Buffalo women in business and the arts, 1900-1935*. M.A. Thesis. SUNY at Buffalo, [1992].

3 "Marian De Forest" [Editorial, obituary], Courier-Express, February 18, 1935, p.8

4 "Mrs. Zorah B. Berry dies; Buffalo impresario 40 years," *Buffalo Evening News*, March 4, 1969, p.26.

5 "Fond memories of Zorah Berry," *Buffalo Evening News*, February 8, 1975, p. C10.

## Scope and Content

The collection is a chronicle of the nationally and internationally known performing artists that graced Buffalo stages from the late nineteenth through mid-twentieth century. It contains black & white and sepia toned photos of musicians, singers, dancers, and actors that performed in Buffalo. Photo types include cartes de visite, cabinet cards, 8 x10 publicity shots, and modern headshots. Several later photos appear to have been used in press releases and newspaper articles. The dates on the photographs range from 1895 to 1976; the bulk is from 1900 to 1950.

Many of the photo subjects are internationally renowned musicians and performers, including Harold Arlen, Katharine Cornell, Geraldine Farrar, Maurice Ravel, Camille Saint-Saens, Pablo Casals, Walter Damrosch, Isadora Duncan, Max Fielder, Lillian Gish, Philip Glass, Gustave Mahler, Mitch Miller, Lily Pons, and Serge Rachmaninoff. Several musical trios, quartets, and other groups are also present. A few notable non-entertainers include Gisela Richter (archaeologist and art historian), Ivan Mestrovic (sculptor), Frances Perkins (Secretary of Labor under Franklin D. Roosevelt), and Leroy Lincoln (President of Metropolitan Life Insurance).

Most of the photographs are autographed to Davis Smith, De Forest, Berry, and others.

See librarian for a detailed Excel spreadsheet listing each photograph in the collection. It includes identifying information of subject, date, size, color, and photographer. Notes were taken from photograph verso annotations.

## Arrangement

The collection is arranged alphabetically by individual's last name or the name of the musical group.

### Photograph subjects

Adonaylo, Raquel

Albeneri Trio

Alda, Frances

Alsen, Elsa

Amadeus Quartet

Amato, Pasquale

Antoine, Josephine  
Arlen, Harold  
Barbirolli, John  
Barylli Quartet  
Bauer, Harold  
Beaux Arts String Quartet  
Beaux Arts Trio of New York  
Bentonelli, Joseph  
Berkshire Quartet  
Berlin Philharmonic Octet  
Black, Frank  
Bos, Coenraad  
Brailowsky, Alexander  
Brodsky, Vera  
Brownlee, John  
Budapest String Quartet  
Busoni, Ferruccio  
Butt, Clara  
Bychkov, Semyon  
Carreno, (Maria) Teresa  
Casals, Pablo  
Casella, Alfredo  
Castagna, Bruna  
Castle, Irene  
Castle, Vernon  
Cavalieri, Lina  
Cayvan, Georgia  
Cisneros, Eleonora de  
Clarion Wind Quintet  
Cleveland Quartet  
Cornell, Katharine  
Corona, Leonora  
Crooks, Richard  
Culp, Julia  
Damrosch, Walter  
Davis, Jessie Bartlett  
De Forest, Marian  
De Reszke Singers  
Dillman, Hugh  
Dorian Woodwind Quintet  
Duchin, Eddy  
Duncan, Isadora  
Eames, Emma  
Eddy, Nelson  
Eger, Joseph  
Elliott, Gertrude  
Elman, Mischa

Enesco, Georges  
Engel, Lehman  
Farrar, Geraldine  
Fiedler, Max  
Fine Arts Quartet  
Flagstad, Kirsten  
Flonzaley Quartet  
Francescatti, Zino  
Friedman, Ignaz  
Fuchs, Joseph  
Gabrilowitsch, Ossip  
Gadski, Johanna  
Garrison, Mabel  
Garrotto, Annunciata  
Gerhardt, Elena  
Giesecking, Walter  
Gish, Lillian  
Glass, Philip  
Gluck, Alma  
Godowsky, Leopold  
Goodson, Katharine  
Gorin, Igor  
Guarneri String Quartet  
Hackett, James K.  
Hambourg, Boris  
Hamlin, George  
Haskell, Arnold  
Heifetz, Jascha  
Herbert, Victor  
Hofmann, Joseph  
Honegger, Arthur  
Horowitz, Vladimir  
Huehn, Julius  
Humphrey, Doris  
Hungarian Quartet  
Hutcheson, Ernest  
I Musici  
I Solisti Veneti  
Iowa String Quartet  
Iturbi, Jose  
Jagel, Frederick  
Jepson, Helen  
Johnson, Edward  
Johnson, Hunter  
Jonas, Maryla  
Julian Bream Consort  
Juliard String Quartet

Kaskas, Anna  
 Kindler, Hans  
 Koeckert Quartet  
 Koenen, Tilly  
 Koshetz, Alexander  
 Koussevitsky, Serge  
 Kroll Quartet  
 Kubelik, Jan  
 Kunwald, Ernst  
 La Forge, Frank  
 Langtry, Lillie  
 Laredo, Jaime  
 Laredo, Ruth  
 Levitzki, Mischa  
 Lehmann, Lottie  
 Lewis, Mary  
 Lhevinne, Josef  
 Lincoln, Leroy A.  
 Lindsay, Julie [Lillie]  
 Littlefield, Catherine  
 Ljungberg, Goeta  
 Loca, Adelaide De  
 London String Quartet  
 Lussan, Zelig De  
 McClosky, David Blair  
 McCormack, John  
 MacMillen, Francis  
 Mahler, Gustav  
 Maier, Guy  
 Markova, Alicia  
 Marlboro Trio  
 Martini, Nino  
 Mason, Edith  
 Masselos, William  
 Maynor, Dorothy  
 Melba, Nellie  
 Menuhin, Yehudi  
 Mercado, Angell J.  
 Mercado's Tipica Mexican Orchestra  
 Milgrim, Sally  
 Mestrovic, Ivan  
 Miller, Mitch  
 Mills, Walter  
 Mischakoff, Mischa  
 Mitropoulos, Dimitri  
 Monroe, Lucy  
 Monteux, Pierre

Mordkin, Michel  
New Art Wind Quintet  
New York String Sextet  
New York Woodwind Quintet  
Noble, Ray  
Novaes, Guiomar  
Oberhofer, Emil  
Oelheim, Helen  
Ozawa, Seiji  
Pachman, Vladimir de  
Paganini Quartet  
Paris Chamber Orchestra  
Parkening, Christopher  
Patti, Adalina  
Pattison, Lee  
Paulee, Mona  
Pavlova, Anna  
Perkins, Frances  
Pinza, Enzo  
Pons, Lily  
Pro Musica [New York]  
Quartetto Italiano  
Rachmaninoff, Serge  
Rambeau, Marjorie  
Rampal, Jean-Pierre and Robert Veyron-Lacroix  
Ravel, Maurice  
Reiner, Fritz  
Rhea, Hortense  
Richter, Gisela M.A.  
Ringwall, Rudolph  
Robson, Stuart  
Rodzinski, Artur  
Roma, Lisa  
Rose, Leonard  
Rubinstein, Anton G.  
Rubinstein, Artur  
Rumford, Kennerly  
Russell, Sol Smith  
Sabanieeva, Thalia  
Sabin, Florence R.  
Saint-Saens, Camille  
Salmond, Felix  
Samaroff, Olga  
Schelling, Ernest  
Schnabel, Artur  
Schneider, Edwin  
Schumann-Heink, Ernestine

Schuster, Joseph  
Seidl, Anton  
Sembrich, Marcella  
Senorita Sanchez  
Serkin, Rudolf  
Shawn, Ted & His Men Dancers  
Shearer, Norma  
Shure, Leonard  
Slavenska, Mia  
Slenszynski, Ruth  
Sokoloff, Nikolai  
Sothorn, Virginia Laura  
Sousa, John Phillip  
Sovereign, Alice  
Steber, Eleanor  
Stock, Frederick  
Stokowski, Leopold  
Stueckgold, Grete  
Swislawski, Jeno  
Sylvester, Robert  
Szigetti, Joseph  
Tauber, Richard  
Terry, Warren Lee  
Teyte, Maggie  
Thebom, Blanche  
Thomas, John Charles  
Tibbet, Lawrence  
Tokyo String Quartet  
Toscanini, Arturo  
Traubel, Helen  
Triggs, Harold  
Trio Di Bolzano  
Trio Italiano D'Archi  
Ukranian National Chorus  
Van Endert, Elisabeth  
Vermeer Quartet  
Vienna Octet  
Wagner, Charles  
Walsh, Blanche  
Warfield, David  
Warlich, Reinhold Von  
Warsaw Quintet  
Weisberg, Roslyn  
Werrenrath, Reinald  
Whiteman, Paul  
Willard, Edward  
Williams, Ralph Vaughan



Williamson, John Finley  
 Witherspoon, Herbert  
 Wullner, Ludwig  
 Youskevitch, Igor  
 Ysaye, Eugene  
 Zaratzion, Harry

## Separated Materials

**Zorah Berry's** seven volume scrapbook collection (Buffalo Stacks) spans June 1926 to September 1956. They include newspaper advertisements and articles for upcoming events, flyers, reviews of past performances, and other articles relating to Berry and the theaters and performers she worked with. Concert programs, 1927-1964, are also listed in the *Zorah Berry Index* card file arranged by composer, artist, and title of the piece.

**Marian De Forest** also donated typescripts of her plays which are now in the Rare Book Room collection:

RBR MSS. D44Z6 1900Z  
*The Zonta zoo, or, The vision of Noah*  
 De Forest, Marian, 1864-1935

RBR MSS. D44 M3 1900Z  
*Mary 39: A play in three acts and four scenes*  
 De Forest, Marian, 1864-1935

RBR MSS. D44 1900Z  
*Mister man: A comedy in a prologue and three acts* [manuscript]  
 De Forest, Marian, 1864-1935.

RBR MSS. D44 1930  
*Erstwhile Susan: A play in three acts*  
 De Forest, Marian, 1864-1935.

## Related Materials

For more information on artists and musicians that performed in Buffalo in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, see the *Famous Speakers and Visitors File* [card index] in the Grosvenor Room.

For further information on Marian De Forest, Mai Davis Smith, and Zorah Berry, see the following:

1. Buffalonia Music Vertical File (clippings, ephemera): De Forest, Marian
2. Buffalonia Music Vertical File (clippings, ephemera): Berry, Zorah

3. Buffalo Collection HQ1439.B8 K3 1992  
Kanes, Candace A. *Swornest chums: Buffalo women in business and the arts, 1900-1935*. M.A. Thesis. Buffalo: SUNY at Buffalo, [1992].

## **Search Terms**

### **Authors**

100 Berry, Zorah  
100 De Forest, Marian, 1864-1935  
100 Smith, Mai Davis

### **Subject terms**

600 Berry, Zorah  
600 De Forest, Marian, 1864-1935  
600 Smith, Mai Davis  
650 Musicians – 20<sup>th</sup> Century  
650 Composers – 20<sup>th</sup> Century  
650 Conductors – 20<sup>th</sup> Century  
650 Actors – 20<sup>th</sup> Century

### **Genre terms**

655 photographs