

Lehigh University Music Festival 1949

*Held by Special Collections, Linderman Library
Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18015*

Call No.: SC Photo 0006

*2 Boxes
1 linear foot*



Abstract:

Lehigh University Music Festival Collection (1949) contains 96 photographs and a scrapbook primarily devoted to the 1949 festival, although several clippings describing the 1948 and 1950 festivals are also included in the collection. The festival was produced by the students and faculty of Lehigh University, with participation from students of local colleges and other performers. The photographs depict the process of developing and performing the production. The scrapbook consists mainly of newspaper clippings, a script, programs, tickets, forms, and other ephemera.

The collection was acquired by Lehigh University's Special Collections in July 2007.

Contact Information:

Special Collections
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Processed by:

Michael Keeperts

Repository:

Lehigh University, Linderman Library, Special Collections

Creator:

Herbert D. Kynor, Jr.

Title:

Lehigh University Music Festival 1949

Restrictions to Access:

This collection is open for research.

Preferred Citation:

[Identification of item], Lehigh University Music Festival Collection, SC Photo 0006, Special Collections, Linderman Library, Lehigh University, Bethlehem PA

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Historical Sketch:

In the spring of 1948 Ralph Schwarz, a student at Lehigh University with stage production experience gained in the Army, collaborated with William Schempf, Lehigh's music director, to produce an event that would take advantage of the many talents of the university's students. The school's marching band, glee club, Collegian dance band, and the Moravian College glee club, with the assistance of a great number of students and faculty, came together to perform the first Lehigh Music Festival in Grace Hall. The 1948 event was well received. In previous years, the university's glee club would simply perform on the stage of a local auditorium. Schwarz had a vision that included interpreting the music with, "lights, color, gymnasts, marching soldiers – a mood to express each score." To accomplish his objectives, he relied not only on the talents of his performers, but

also on the technological abilities of Lehigh's engineering students. Some examples of the technology employed in the 1948 production include the use of steam to create a "steam curtain" between the performers and the audience and the deployment of an 1,800 square foot rear projection screen dyed with a florescent medium that was produced by a local mill.

Coverage of the 1948 festival was featured in the national media and the school was determined to produce an even more elaborate production in 1949. Schwarz and Schempf each assumed their previous roles in the production. The festival was divided into three parts. The first part, titled "Bach to Bop," featured 21 songs in a variety of styles including the American debut of Romanian composer Niku Chircoulescu's *Boolia Bashka*. The second part, titled, "Glory of Lehigh," coupled 17 songs with the projection of photographs depicting different aspects of Lehigh history and academic life. The third part was titled "Man Would Be Free." This ambitious number, based on *Study of History* by Princeton University historian Arnold J. Toynbee, featured narration adapted from the work by Lehigh Associate Professor of History William A. Aiken. Schempf created a musical score to help interpret the historical and philosophical ideas of the work which, according to the program, examines "challenges to freedom in an attempt to discover what our answer should be to the struggle between East and West – between the U.S.S.R. and the U.S.A."

Some of the more notable technical features of the 1949 festival included adapting a large-scale projector with a cooling system which employed a blower from a vacuum cleaner and a water bath, developing a studio in Drown Hall to create slides for projection, and building a projection screen with pivoting panels that was capable of showing slides with a three-dimensional effect. Students also created a "nitrogen curtain" that sprayed liquid nitrogen from the ceiling to create a heavy mist timed to blend with other effects to enhance various parts of the program.

By all accounts the festival was a rousing success, entertaining thousands with a creative blend of music, photography, dance, narration, and special effects. Success, however, was not measured just by the audience's response to the production. The *Lehigh Alumni Bulletin* reported that, "The men of Lehigh had learned a lesson in cooperation and teamwork. They had found that each occupation has its appointed place in society and that each must function with the rest if any measure of success is to be achieved."

Biographical Sketch:

Ralph G. Schwarz produced and directed the 1949 Lehigh Music Festival at Lehigh University. Schwarz received a B.A. in mechanical engineering and international relations (1948) and an M.A. in history (1951) from Lehigh

University, and a Doctor of Humanities from Indiana State University in 1974. He also studied at the Sorbonne and the University of Vienna. During World War II he helped direct large-scale shows for the army and he directed a stage show in Paris to complete his dramatic course at the Sorbonne.

Schwarz also organized the 1948 Lehigh Music Festival during his senior year at Lehigh. After graduation, he was hired as an assistant on the staff of the dean to head the festival organization. He subsequently enlisted more than 1,000 Lehigh students and faculty to develop the 1949 festival.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection contains 96 8" x 10" black-and-white photographs and a scrapbook. Several of the photographs have the photographer's name, phone number, and address stamped on the back. Both photographers cited listed dormitory addresses. Herbert A. Kynor, Jr. was the director of still and motion picture photography for the festival and graduated from Lehigh in 1947. The second photographer, Donald De Lorenzo, graduated from Lehigh in 1953. The photographs depict the process of developing the festival including images of faculty, students, and other performers building the set, doing electrical work, operating photographic and stage equipment, directing, editing, rehearsing, and performing. The scrapbook consists mainly of local newspaper clippings, however it also contains articles from two national publications: *Educational Music Magazine* and *Musical Advance*. The scrapbook also contains several Lehigh University publications, a script, programs, tickets, forms, and other ephemera.

Organization of the Content:

The Lehigh Music Festival - 1949 collection, as originally received, contained three consecutively-numbered albums of photographs accompanied by a scrapbook. The photographs were removed from the albums, placed in protective sleeves, and organized by the order they were arranged in the first album, followed by the second album, and then the third. Each photograph is coded with the collection number, the original album number, and a consecutive number representing the original order. The scrapbook is housed separately.

Online Catalog Terms:

Music festival programs--Pennsylvania--Bethlehem
 Lehigh University – photographs.
 Lehigh University. Glee Club
 Theaters Stage – setting and scenery
 Stage machinery
 Schwarz, Ralph G.
 Aiken, William Appleton, 1907-1957

Rodale, Robert

Detailed Description of Collection:

Box 1:

This box contains 96 8" x 10' black and white photographs. The photographs were grouped in three binders and several of the photographs have the photographer's name and phone number stamped on the back (indicated).

- 006.01.001 Wrestling match in Grace Hall (Donald De Lorenzo)
- 006.01.002 Grace Hall gymnasium floor and bleachers (Donald De Lorenzo)
- 006.01.003 Stagehands building set
- 006.01.004 Stagehands building set
- 006.01.005 Vocal group practicing on unfinished set
- 006.01.006 Stagehands building set
- 006.01.007 Vocal group and instrumentalists practicing on unfinished set;
caption on back "Tuesday Night – Grace Hall" (Donald
De Lorenzo)
- 006.01.008 Half of panoramic view of set
- 006.01.009 Second half of panoramic view of set
- 006.01.010 Photograph 006.03.096 originally appeared in this position
- 006.01.011 View of set
- 006.01.012 View of set
- 006.01.013 Photographer staging shot of actors with horse and buggy in field
- 006.01.014 Stagehands building set
- 006.01.015 David Bacon working with projector backstage (Donald De
Lorenzo)
- 006.01.016 Head electrician Leonard Van Duyne and James Peterman setting up
transformer for motion picture projector (Herbert D. Kynor, Jr.)
- 006.01.017 Stagehand working on set lighting (Herbert D. Kynor, Jr.)
- 006.01.018 Camera operator John Traise with second man and motion picture
camera.
- 006.01.019 Director-producer Ralph Schwarz and camera operator Robert
Rodale with motion picture camera
- 006.01.020 Actor Dave Bedell being prepared by make-up artist to portray Asa
Packer (Donald De Lorenzo)
- 006.01.021 Actor Dave Bedell in costume as Asa Packer
- 006.01.022 Camera operator John Traise working with producer-director Ralph
Schwarz on composing a shot of Asa Packer, portrayed by Dave
Bedell
- 006.01.023 Man holding large lamp backstage (Herbert D. Kynor, Jr.)
- 006.01.024 Staged shot of Asa Packer, portrayed by Dave Bedell, on stage

- 006.01.025 Staged shot of four men in academic regalia in front of projected view of Lehigh campus building (Donald De Lorenzo)
- 006.01.026 Actor Betsey Zelesky in costume
- 006.01.027 Director-producer Ralph Schwarz with musical director William Schempf working with motion picture equipment
- 006.01.028 Coordinating director Raymond Congdon, director-producer Ralph Schwarz, and musical director William Schempf with motion picture projector
- 006.01.029 Group of performers with (L to R) director of still and motion picture photography Herbert D. Kynor, Jr., camera operator John Traise, director-producer Ralph Schwarz, and musical director William Schempf
- 006.01.030 Group of performers with John Traise operating motion picture camera
- 006.01.031 Director-producer Ralph Schwarz and second man adjust lights as performers look on
- 006.01.032 David Bacon and stagehands install equipment on set
- 006.02.033 Camera operator John Traise in window
- 006.02.034 Director-producer Ralph Schwarz lining up a shot
- 006.02.035 Men drinking beer
- 006.02.036 Director-producer Ralph Schwarz working with film reels
- 006.02.037 Men working on program
- 006.02.038 Men painting banner
- 006.02.039 Billboard for music festival
- 006.02.040 Men and women on lawn reviewing documents
- 006.02.041 Students dancing
- 006.02.042 Students dancing
- 006.02.043 Students dancing
- 006.02.044 Stagehands working on set
- 006.02.045 Man with record recorder or player (Donald De Lorenzo)
- 006.02.046 Stagehands working on set with technical director Albert Rights on left
- 006.02.047 Stagehands working on set with producer-director Ralph Schwarz looking upward (Herbert D. Kynor, Jr.)
- 006.02.048 Men in bleachers
- 006.02.049 Stagehands working on set
- 006.02.050 Stagehands discussing construction of set
- 006.02.051 Stagehand tightening bolts on set
- 006.02.052 Director of still and motion picture photography Herbert D. Kynor, Jr., photographing set construction
- 006.02.053 Technical Director Albert Rights (center) with stagehands,
- 006.02.054 Stagehand working on set
- 006.02.055 Stagehand connecting wiring on set

- 006.02.056 Stagehands working on set
- 006.02.057 Stagehands soldering wiring
- 006.02.058 Stagehand working on wiring
- 006.02.059 Stagehands unloading equipment from truck
- 006.02.060 Stagehands unloading equipment from truck
- 006.02.061 Stagehands working on wiring
- 006.02.062 Stagehands hoisting loudspeakers
- 006.02.063 Stagehands working on set using power drill
- 006.02.064 Stagehands with David Bacon (?) working on set
- 006.03.065 Stagehands working on set
- 006.03.066 Stagehands working on set
- 006.03.067 Dancers practicing on set
- 006.03.068 Group of men in studio (L to R) including technical director Albert Rights, coordinating director Raymond Congdon, unknown, musical director William Schempf, and professor of history William A. Aiken.
- 006.03.069 Men and woman (possibly Martha Lutz of Moravian College) grouped around piano (Herbert D. Kynor, Jr.)
- 006.03.070 Female vocalist (possibly Martha Lutz of Moravian College) on set (Herbert D. Kynor, Jr.)
- 006.03.071 Tim Dennis and Douglas Adams, composers of the music in The Beer Fantasy, at the piano
- 006.03.072 Band musicians practicing with Coca Cola machine in background
- 006.03.073 Band musicians practicing with conductor
- 006.03.074 Vocalists practicing
- 006.03.075 Vocalists practicing with musical director William Schempf conducting
- 006.03.076 Male trumpeter with Coca-Cola machine in background (Herbert D. Kynor, Jr.)
- 006.03.077 Portrait of director-producer Ralph Schwarz
- 006.03.078 Director-producer Ralph Schwarz on telephone
- 006.03.079 History professor William A. Aiken reading book with shelved books in background (Donald De Lorenzo)
- 006.03.080 Portrait of vocalist Ruth Eleanor "Candy" Anderson
- 006.03.081 Technical director Albert Rights on telephone (Donald De Lorenzo)
- 006.03.082 Director of still and motion picture photography Herbert D. Kynor, Jr. with Rolleiflex twin lens reflex camera, smoking pipe
- 006.03.083 Stagehands working on set
- 006.03.084 Stagehands working on set
- 006.03.085 Nancy Boyer performing as majorette
- 006.03.086 Technical director Albert Rights and student technician on telephone
- 006.03.087 Director-producer Ralph Schwarz on telephone with David Bacon (?)

- 006.03.088 Photographer John Traise on stand
- 006.03.089 Female vocalist Ruth Eleanor “Candy” Anderson performing
- 006.03.090 Musical director William Schempf conducting
- 006.03.091 Performers dancing
- 006.03.092 Audience members on the steps of Grace Hall
- 006.03.093 Audience members in lobby
- 006.03.094 Stagehands on ladder
- 006.03.095 Dancers, musicians, and vocalists performing
- 006.03.096 Dancers, musicians, and vocalists performing
- 006.03.097 Photographer John Traise and possibly director of still and motion picture photography Herbert D. Kynor, Jr., with photographic equipment

Box 2:

This box contains a scrapbook containing newspaper clippings, programs, a script, performance tickets, and other ephemera.