

**THE EASTMAN SCHOOL ARCHIVES**  
**Eastman School of Music**  
**Rochester, New York**

**ETHEL CODD LUENING PAPERS**

**INTRODUCTION**

These papers were transferred from the basement of the old Sibley Music Library to the current library building upon its opening. Unfortunately, the date the papers were originally acquired is unknown.

Accession No. ~~9938~~ 000.65

Linear Feet of Shelf Space Occupied: 0.5

## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE: ETHEL CODD LUENING (1925 - 1979)**

Ethel Codd Luening was born December 25, 1906 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. She entered the U.S. at age nine and attended grade school and high school at Leavenworth in Washington State. At age sixteen, she returned to Canada for several years. After starring in a production of "The Pirates of Penzance," given by the Brandon Opera Company on June 1, 1925, she was offered a full, three-year scholarship to attend the Eastman School by Vladimir Rosing, who was at that time the director and producer of the Rochester American Opera Company.

In 1928, after receiving a certificate in Opera from Eastman with an emphasis in Theory, and French and German Studies, Mrs. Luening appeared in solo recitals and operas throughout the U.S. and Canada, and also in Cologne, Germany. From 1929 to 1941, she performed at such places as Carnegie Hall and Town Hall in New York City, the Conservatory Club of Saskatoon, the Yaddo Music Festival, the Orpheum Theatre at Prince Albert, and the Bennington Festival at Bennington College in Vermont. She performed with such notable musicians as harpsichordists Ralph Kirkpatrick and Ernst Victor Wolff, composer and pianist Aaron Copland, and flautist, pianist, composer, and conductor Otto Luening, who was also her husband. She was a leading soprano in performances of Mozart operas under conductors such as Eugene Goossens, Guy Fraser Harrison, and her husband Otto Luening.

From 1934 to 1944, Mrs. Luening taught voice on the faculty of Bennington College, where she became head of the voice department. She also made recordings for Musicraft Co., New Music Recordings of New York, and Yaddo Recordings.

During the last years of her life, Mrs. Luening took up painting, her favorite subject being scenic views.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection includes programs from solo recitals and operas, copies of performance and recording reviews, press photos and advertisements, copies of newspaper articles, letters of correspondence, and color reproductions of some of Mrs. Luening's paintings. One unique aspect of this collection is the inclusion of her handwritten providing commentary on events associated with her programs, reviews, and paintings.

These papers will be useful to those interested in either the Eastman School or its graduates, in notable Canadian or American singers, or in the history of the Rochester American Opera Company. Material on Mrs. Luening's influential connections is also significant, including Vladimir Rosing, founder and director of the Rochester American Opera Company, Eugene Goossens, composer and conductor of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra (then the Rochester Civic Orchestra), Ralph Kirkpatrick, Aaron Copland, (document 7, folder 3), Otto Luening, and Henry Cowell (photo, document 1, folder 8).

## **ARRANGEMENT**

This collection is arranged by document type and subject. The items within each folder are arranged in chronological order.

|           |                                   |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| Folder 1  | Biographical Information          |
| Folder 2  | Programs 1930-43                  |
| Folder 3  | Reviews 1925-39                   |
| Folder 4  | Photos                            |
| Folder 5  | Press Fliers, Advertisements      |
| Folder 6  | Catalogues, Reviews of Recordings |
| Folder 7  | Art and Poetry by ECL             |
| Folder 8  | Articles about ECL and Otto       |
| Folder 9  | Articles about Students of ECL    |
| Folder 10 | Letters from Students, Teachers   |