

# HERMANN GENHART COLLECTION

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UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

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*Dr. Genhart rehearsing an Eastman orchestra. Photograph from ESPA 31-44 (8x10).*



*Dr. Genhart rehearsing the Eastman School of Music Chorus. Photograph from ESPA 2-48 (8x10).*

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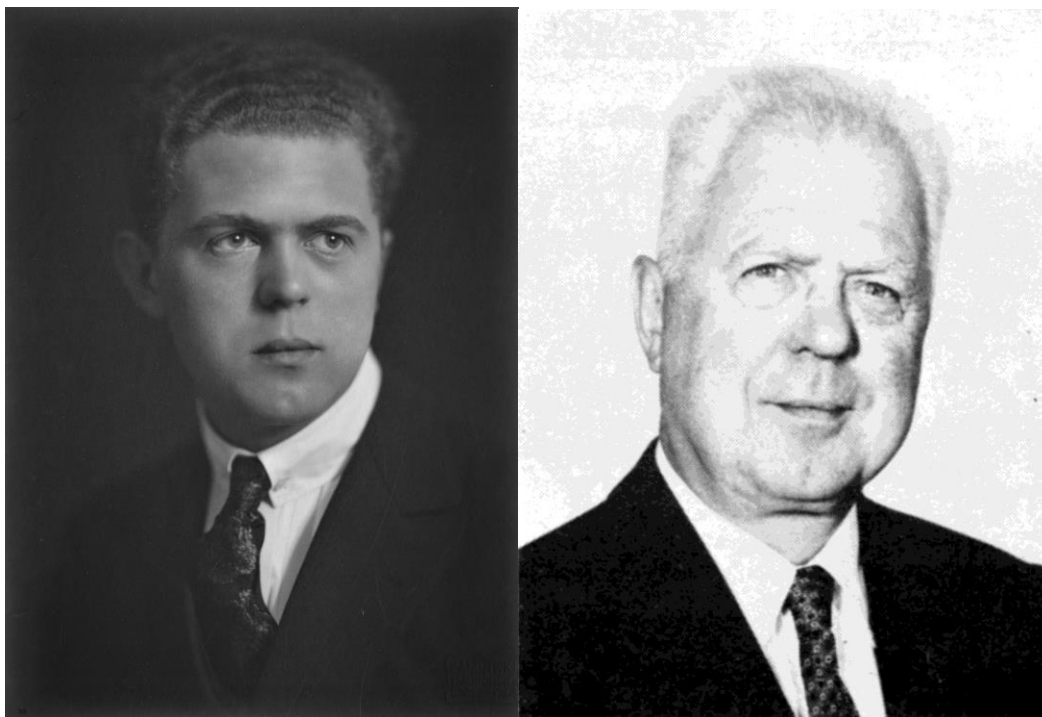
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## DESCRIPTION OF COLLECTION

Shelf location: C3B 5,1–2

Physical extent: 1.5 linear feet

### Biographical Sketch



*(L) Photograph by Kaminski, Munich [ca. 1920s], from Hermann Genhart Collection, Box 3, Folder 16 (photo 1); (R) Photograph from program for Teutonia Liedertafel concert of November 20, 1965 (p. 14), from Hermann Genhart Collection, Box 1, Folder 10.*

Hermann (or Herman) H. Genhart was born in St. Gallen, Switzerland, on May 23, 1899. His initial music education was on the piano and violin, but over the course of his studies, he turned increasingly to conducting. He attended the Zurich Conservatory of Music from 1917 to 1920 and received a diploma for the instruction of theory. He continued his training in Germany, first at the Academy of Music in Leipzig (1920–1921), where he earned a diploma as a concert and chamber pianist, and subsequently at the Academy of Music in Munich (summer 1921), where he attended a masterclass in piano with Joseph Pembauer. During his studies in Leipzig, he also trained as a conductor with Otto Lohse at the Leipzig Opera while also working as the opera's accompanist. His other conducting teachers included the Hungarian conductor Arthur Nikisch, the Swiss conductor and composer Volkmar Andreae, and Gottfried Haub. Later, he earned a doctorate of music from the New York College of Music (1938).

In October 1921, Genhart immigrated to the United States and was briefly employed as an assistant concertmaster for an orchestra in one of New York City's early moving picture palaces. From 1921–1922, he also taught at the New York College of Music and the American

Conservatory of Music. He moved to Rochester, NY, in 1922 at the invitation of Arthur Alexander, the director of the Eastman Theatre Orchestra, who had recruited Genhart as an assistant conductor.

In the early 1920s, Genhart's roles at the Eastman Theatre and the newly established Eastman School of Music expanded. He began teaching part-time at the Eastman School in 1923 and was appointed to a full-time faculty position in 1925. Additionally, Genhart was the conductor and chorus master of the American Opera Company in Rochester, a short-lived professional touring company that, at its founding in 1924, was based at the Eastman School. Over the duration of his 43-year-long career at Eastman, he served as choral and orchestra conductor, opera coach, and teacher. He retired in 1965.

Beyond his work at Eastman, Genhart was well-known in the Rochester community as a conductor and choir director. From 1935–1965, he directed the Teutonia Liedertafel, a German language chorus based at the German House in Rochester. Under Genhart's direction, the chorus presented formal concerts, participated in folk festivals and competitions, and performed in benefit concerts and various patriotic gatherings, including parades. Genhart also directed the choir at Salem Evangelical Church, a position he held for 20 years, and conducted the Elmira Symphony Orchestra. He participated in Opera Under the Stars, an outdoor summer opera series in Highland Park that had been founded by Leonard Treash. More broadly, Genhart participated in numerous music festivals across the country as a conductor and, similarly, adjudicated several vocal and instrumental competitions.

Dr. Genhart died on November 1, 1976, in his hunting cottage in South Bristol, New York. He was 77.

### **Provenance**

The collection was the gift of Mrs. Heidi Kuhn, the daughter of Hermann Genhart, and was received by Sibley Music Library on September 26, 2001.

### **Scope and Content**

The collection consists of concert programs that document Dr. Genhart's conducting and performing appearances; press clippings; papers, including publicity brochures, contracts and schedules, a banquet address given in honor of Dr. Genhart, choral adjudication remarks, a student credential file, awards, correspondence, photographs, and ephemera; and 15 scores. The range of Dr. Genhart's professional activities are represented, encompassing his education and performance career as a pianist, his association with the Eastman Theatre and the Rochester American Opera Company in the 1920s, his involvement at the Eastman School of Music as choral conductor and professor, his service as music director and conductor to several local organizations (e.g., Teutonia Liedertafel and Elmira Symphony Orchestra), and his participation in regional and national festivals and competitions.

## **Restrictions and Use**

There are no restrictions on the use of this collection; however, reproduction of collection materials will be provided to patrons only in accordance with the provisions of the United States Copyright Law (1976) and its revisions.

## **Associations**

The Ruth T. Watanabe Special Collections houses the papers of several other performing faculty members, including other former professors from Eastman's vocal department. The Leonard Treash Collection contains a large corpus of opera scores preserving the longtime ESM opera director's interpretive markings. The Josephine Antoine Collection, Jan DeGaetani Collections, and Tom Paul Collection preserve the papers of three noted vocalists who taught on the Eastman faculty.

The department also holds a fair amount of archival material documenting the activities of the American Opera Company, which Dr. Genhart directed. This material includes the professional papers of Ethel Codd Luening, Maria Silveira Reep, and Harry Kaufman, three ESM students who performed with the company while completing their undergraduate studies. The Maria Silveira Reep Collection is particularly notable as it contains numerous photographs that are, to date, the school's only extant photographic coverage of the company's performances and set designs. The Eastman Theatre Scrapbooks contain press clippings relating to performances and motion picture screenings at the Eastman Theatre from 1920–1928, including materials related to performances by the American Opera Company as well as the Metropolitan Grand Opera performances in Rochester. Additional news clippings relating to the company are present in the Rochester Scrapbooks, and concert programs from the company's performances at Kilbourn Hall are preserved among the materials in the Eastman School of Music Archives. In addition, RTWSC holds a collection of notes on the Rochester American Opera Company (1923–1930) written by former company member Charles Hedley.

Furthermore, given Dr. Genhart's 30-year association with the Teutonia Liedertafel, the Max Schaible Collection may be of interest to researchers; the Schaible Collection is comprised of various materials and documents relating to the activities of the Teutonia Liedertafel, including press clippings; photographs of the ensemble and its directors; and a limited amount of correspondence, publicity and organizational documents, and music.

## DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

The materials in the collection are arranged in four series according to material type as described below:

### **Series 1: Concert Programs**

The largest body of material in the collection is the sequence of concert programs, which comprises 15 folders. The concert programs have been organized according to performing organization (e.g., Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra) or venue (e.g., Eastman Theatre); within these sub-divisions, the programs have been arranged in chronological order. Most of the concert programs list Dr. Genhart as a conductor or performer, but there are also a few folders of programs that do not explicitly list Dr. Genhart; this includes one folder containing 66 concert and festival programs dating from Dr. Genhart's studies in Europe (1921–1923).

### **Series 2: Press Clippings**

This series is comprised of newspaper clippings and other press clippings, most of which document Dr. Genhart's professional activities. The press clippings have been divided by language (i.e., German and English) and then arranged in chronological order. Due to the various sizes of the press materials, this series includes six oversized folders housed in Box 4.

### **Series 3: Papers**

The series of papers contains a wide variety of documents generated and collected by Dr. Genhart over the course of his education and career. The materials include publicity brochures, contracts and schedules, a banquet address given in honor of Dr. Genhart, choral adjudication remarks, a student credential file, awards, correspondence, photographs, and ephemera.

### **Series 4: Scores**

This series is comprised of 15 items of music, including an MS repro score of Charles Fussell's *Michelangelo Songs*, a bound volume of choral music prepared for the Central New York Sängerbund's 15th Annual *Sängerfest*, and 13 choral octavos.

# INVENTORY

## **Series 1: Concert Programs**

### **Box 1**

- Folder 1 Buffalo Philharmonic, 1942–1946.  
4 concert programs on which Dr. Genhart appeared as guest conductor; dated summers 1942–1944, 1946.
- Folder 2 Eastman Theatre, 1923–1926.  
22 concert programs, [Dr. Genhart, assistant conductor]; dated July 1923–November 1926.
- Folder 3 Eastman School of Music, 1924–1929.  
39 concert and festival programs, most on which Dr. Genhart is listed as conductor; dated October 1924–May 1948.
- Folder 4 Eastman School of Music, 1950–1965.  
49 concert and festival programs on which Dr. Genhart is listed as conductor; dated March 1950–March 1965; 4 undated (1950s–1960s).
- Folder 5 Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra/Rochester Civic Orchestra, 1923–1964.  
11 concert programs and publicity materials on which Dr. Genhart is listed as pianist/keyboardist; dated November 1923–1964; 1 undated.
- Folder 6 Rochester American Opera Company, 1924–1927.  
9 concert programs on which Dr. Genhart is listed as conductor/chorus master; dated November 1924–April 1927; 2 undated (1920s).
- Folder 7 Elmira Symphony Orchestra, 1956–1960.  
15 concert programs on which Dr. Genhart is listed as conductor; dated December 1956–December 1960; 2 undated.
- Folder 8 Opera Under the Stars, 1953–1967.  
28 concert programs on which Dr. Genhart is listed as conductor/musical director; dated August 1953–July 1967; 3 undated.
- Folder 9 Teutonia Liedertafel, 1933–1949.  
12 concert programs (Dr. Genhart, director); dated November 1933–November 1949.
- Folder 10 Teutonia Liedertafel, 1952–1965.  
9 concert programs (Dr. Genhart, director); dated November 1952–November 1965; 2 undated.



## **Box 2**

- Folder 1 Frohsinn Singing Society  
9 concert programs (Dr. Genhart, director); dated November 1940–March 1950.
- Folder 2 Syracuse Liederkranz, 1937–1941.  
3 concert programs; dated November 1937–May 1941.

## **Box 3**

- Folder 1 Miscellaneous programs with Dr. Genhart performing or conducting.  
9 concert and festival programs; dated January 1916–June 1950.
- Folder 2 Miscellaneous programs (Dr. Genhart not listed on programs).  
8 concert and festival programs; dated January 1925–June 1953.
- Folder 3 Germany, 1921–1955.  
67 concert and festival programs; 66 programs dated 1921–1923, 1 program dated 1955.

## **Series 2: Press Clippings**

### **Box 3 [cont.]**

- Folder 4 German press clippings, 1920s.  
9 press clippings (including duplicates); dated 1922–1929.
- Folder 5 German press clippings, 1930s–1940s.  
3 press clippings; dated 1946; 1 undated (1930s).
- Folder 6 German press clippings, 1950s–1960s.  
12 press clippings; dated 1952–1965.
- Folder 7 German press clippings, date unknown.  
32 press clippings.
- Folder 8 English press clippings, 1920s–1930s.  
19 press clippings (including duplicates); dated 1925–1933.
- Folder 9 English press clippings, 1940s.  
9 press clippings (including duplicates); dated 1941–1948.
- Folder 10 English press clippings, 1950s.

22 press clippings (including duplicates); dated 1950–1959.

Folder 11 English press clippings, 1960s.  
15 press clippings and press releases (including duplicates); dated 1962–1966;  
2 undated.

Folder 12 English press clippings, date unknown.  
59 press clippings.

#### **Box 4**

Folder 2 Oversized German press clippings, 1920s–1940s.  
24 press clippings (including duplicates); dated February 1923–November  
1949. Bulk from the *Rochester Abendpost*.

Folder 3 Oversized German press clippings, 1950s–1960s.  
11 press clippings and full issues of the *Rochester Abendpost*; dated March  
1950–April 1962.

Folder 4 Oversized German press clippings, date unknown.  
5 press clippings.

Folder 5 Oversized English press clippings, 1920s–1930s.  
21 press clippings; dated November 1926–May 1931.

Folder 6 Oversized English press clippings, 1940s–1960s.  
18 press clippings (including duplicates); dated July 1940–November 1967.

Folder 7 Oversized English press clippings, date unknown.  
20 press clippings (including duplicates).

#### **Series 3: Papers**

##### **Box 2 [cont.]**

Folder 3 Publicity brochures.  
1 publicity brochure for Kent State University, with ESM alumni on faculty  
underlined; dated February 1968.  
1 publicity brochure for the Blossom Festival School, with Dr. Genhart listed  
as choral faculty; dated 1969.

Folder 4 Oberlaender Trust Fellowship.  
2 letters and 1 application form (with draft of responses in ink) for fellowships  
through the Oberlaender Trust; dated February 1934.

- Folder 5 Contracts and Schedules.  
Includes contracts, concert schedule, itinerary, and letters of appointment (6 items, total); dated 1932–1968.
- Folder 6 Banquet Address in Honor of Dr. Genhart.  
Script of banquet address given in honor of Dr. Genhart at Teutonia Liedertafel banquet; dated November 20, 1960. Typescript, primarily in German. 6 pp.
- Folder 7 Choral Adjudication Remarks.  
Remarks by Dr. Genhart, from unidentified choral festival or competition; dated April 26, 1941. Typescript. 9 pp.
- Folder 8 Charlotte Opera Association.  
Includes Annual Budget Request (1967) and 3 letters to Dr. Genhart/Mrs. Genhart from Mary Henderson (President, Charlotte Opera Association).
- Folder 9 Ephemera.  
Includes Dr. Genhart's passport and 15 copies of his personal bookplate.

**Box 3 [cont.]**

- Folder 13 Student Credential File.  
Includes grade reports, certifications of attendance, recommendation letters, and certificates from Dr. Genhart's studies at the Conservatory of Music in Zürich, the Conservatory of Music in Leipsic, and the Academy of Music in Munich (1918–1921).
- Folder 14 Awards and Recognitions.  
Includes banquet and reception invitations, certificate of election to the Sinfonia Fraternity (Alpha Nu Chapter), two Masonic certificates, and certificate for crossing the equator.

**Box 4**

- Folder 1 Certificate, Prince of the Royal Secret (Northern Masonic Jurisdiction).

**Box 3 [cont.]**

- Folder 15 Correspondence, 1923–1976.  
52 letters, cards, and telegrams, from various correspondents; dated March 1923–May 1976; 4 undated. Organized chronologically.

- Folder 16      Photographs (13 items).  
Portrait of Herman Genhart. Photograph attributed to Kaminski, Munich. 1 black and white photograph, 4.25" x 6", mounted on 5" x 7" mat board. 3 prints.  
Portrait of Herman Genhart. 1 black and white photograph, 7" x 9".  
Rochester Trio (Edwin Frost, violin; Herman Genhart, piano; George Finckel, cello); publicity photograph. 1 black and white photograph, 7" x 9.5".  
Herman Genhart conducting unidentified chorus and orchestra. 1 black and white photograph, 4" x 10".  
Four photographs of Herman Genhart conducting unidentified chorus and orchestra with vocal soloists. 4 black and white photographs, 4" x 10".  
Photograph of Herman Genhart conducting unidentified orchestra, outdoors, with caption ("Late Start — Late Continuation! ..."). From folder labeled "From Mr. Charles Fussell (1961)." 1 black and white photograph, 8" x 10".  
Portrait of Edwin Frost with violin, inscribed by Frost to Herman Genhart. Photograph attributed to Millsprague Studio (Elmira, NY). 1 black and white photograph, 8" x 10".  
Portrait of Eugene Goossens, inscribed by Goossens to Herman Genhart. 1 black and white photograph, 4.5" x 6.5".

- Folder 17      Miscellaneous papers.  
Includes manuscript notes (possibly notes for speech), contact information for orchestra members, various manuscript notes, typescript texts, "A Visitor's Itinerary Through the City of Quebec," 2 choral society newsletters, 1 banquet menu, and catalog of chorus music published by Associated Music Publishers.

## **Series 4: Scores**

### **Box 2 [cont.]**

- Folder 10      Choral Octavos (13 items).  
Bennet, Gwynn S., arr. "A Wooer Cam' to Our Town (Aikendrum)." For SSA chorus and piano. Verses by Allan Cunningham. New York: J. Fischer & Bro., c1939.  
Bortniansky, Dimitri. "Cherubim Song." Arranged by P. I. Tchaikovsky. Version for women's voices (SSA) by Arthur H. Ryder. English text adapted by W. A. F. Boston: Oliver Ditson Co., c1937. 4 pp.  
Brahms, Johannes. "The Hunter." For SATB chorus. Words adapted from the German by Paul England. London: Novello & Co., [s.d.]. 4 pp.  
Cain, Noble, arr. "Can't Stay Away." For SSA chorus and piano. New York: Belwin Inc., c1940. 5 pp.  
Haydn, Jos. "The Heavens are Telling." For SATB chorus and piano. New York: J. Fischer & Bro., [s.d.]. 18 pp.

- Holst, G. T., arr. "I Love My Love." For SATB chorus. New York: G. Schirmer, c1917. 8 pp.
- Lefèvre, Jacques. "Love me Truly, Shepherdess." For SATB chorus. Edited by Kurt Schindler. New York: G. Schirmer, c1916. 5 pp.
- Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus. "Alleluja." From the motet *Exsultate, jubilate*. For SSA chorus and piano. New York: Harold Flammer, c1939. 10 pp.
- Olson, Robert. "The Valiants." For TTBB chorus and piano. Words by Elizabeth Evelyn Moore. New York: ABC Music Corp., c1941. 13 pp.
- Palestrina, G. P. da. "Adoramus te." Motet for four voices (SATB). Edited by Frank Damrosch. New York: G. Schirmer, c1927.
- Palestrina, Giovanni Pierluigi da. "O bone Jesu." Four-part motet for mixed voices (SATB). Edited by H. Clough-Leigher. Boston: E. C. Schirmer Music Co., c1933. 3 pp.
- Purcell, Henry. "In These Delightful, Pleasant Groves." Chorus for mixed voices (SATB). Edited by Norwood Hinkle. Boston: Oliver Ditson Co., c1932. 7 pp.
- Tomkins, Thomas. "Oyez! Has Any Found a Lad?" For SATB chorus. Edited by Edmund H. Fellowes. London: Stainer & Bell, c1922. 7 pp.

- Folder 11 Central New York Sängerbund. *Festhöhe für das 15. Sängerfest*. New York: Music House Binzer, 1950.
- Bound volume containing 10 pieces for men's chorus (TTBB). 42 pp., total.
- Contents:
- (1) Stockmann, Al. "Heimkehr," Op. 96. Text by Herman Lingg.
  - (2) Schulken, Herman. "Sternennacht," Op. 38, No. 1. Text by Traute Bergmüller.
  - (3) Stix, C. "Mädchenlachen," Op. 185. Text by Johannes Trojan.
  - (4) Hochmuth, J. "Nur noch einmal." Text by O. E. Heck.
  - (5) Kromer, C. "Am Brünnelein im Walde," Op. 124. Text by Eugen Palmer.
  - (6) Speaks, Oley. "Morning." Arranged by Ralph L. Balwin. Text by Frank L. Stanton. New York: G. Schirmer, c1939.
  - (7) Foster, Stephen C. "Come Where My Love Lies Dreaming." Arranged by Max Spicker. New York: G. Schirmer, c1936.
  - (8) Pütz, Ludwig. "Die Grenadiere."
  - (9) Türk, C. „Wie könnt' ich dein vergessen," Op. 14. Text by Hoffmann v. Fallersleben.
  - (10) Uthmann, G. Ad. "Sturm!" Text by L. Lessen.

**Box 3 [cont.]**

- Folder 18 Fussell, Charles. *Michelangelo Songs*. For xylophone, guitar, timbales, and voice. Score. MS repro. 5 pp.