

# SÁNDOR VAS PAPERS

Accession Nos. 991.3 & 2016/8/16

EASTMAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC ARCHIVES  
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UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

Revised by Colleen Fernandez  
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additional revisions by Gail E. Lowther  
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*Sándor Vas (front row center, seated) with group, in Germany. Photograph from Sándor Vas Papers, Box 2, Folder 2, Sleeve 7.*



*Sándor and Elizabeth Vas. Photograph from Sándor Vas Papers, Box 2, Folder 3, Sleeve 5.*

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## INVENTORY

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# DESCRIPTION OF THE PAPERS

Shelf location: A3A 8,1

Extent: 1 linear feet

## Biographical Sketch



*Photograph from the studio of Josef Schiff.  
From Sándor Vas Papers, Box 2, Folder 3, Sleeve 3.*

Sándor Vas was born on November 11, 1883, in Arad, Hungary (now part of Romania), and began studying the piano at age four. He also studied composition and cello in his early years. In 1906, he earned his diploma from the Royal Conservatory in Leipzig, Germany, where he studied with Alfred Reisenauer, who had been a pupil of Liszt, and Teresa Carreño. He also studied orchestral conducting with Arthur Nikisch for three years where he was a fellow student of Gabrilowitsch and Albert Coates. He continued his studies on cello with Julius Klengel.

After graduation, Vas distinguished himself not only as a teacher of piano but also as a concert artist and chamber musician, performing in recitals throughout the United States, Europe, Russia, and Canada. Vas served on the faculty of Fodor Conservatory in Budapest for five years before becoming a faculty member at the Eastman School of Music in 1923. Vas performed frequently as a soloist with the Rochester Philharmonic throughout the 1920s and 1930s. Mr. Vas was also the first to introduce the music of Zoltán Kodály to Rochester and helped to popularize

the works of Béla Bartók in the area. He served as faculty of the Eastman School of Music until he retired in 1954.

Mr. Vas died on December 24, 1972, at Genesee Hospital in Rochester, New York, aged 89.

### **Provenance**

This body of material is an amalgamation of two gifts to the Sibley Music Library, both comprised of personal and professional papers and related materials originally possessed by Sándor Vas.

The first deposit of papers, which is designated by the accession number 991.3, were received from Dennis Andal, who was the first recipient of these materials. He in turn gave some of them to the Sibley Music Library upon his retirement from the piano faculty of the Eastman School of Music.

The second deposit of papers, designated by the accession number 2016/8/16, were the gift of Mr. Jason Vincent. The gift was facilitated by Professor Vincent Lenti and rendered in the summer of 2016.

### **Scope and Content**

The collection contains various materials that document Mr. Vas's professional activities, including sheet music, concert programs, press clippings, and publicity materials. The collection also contains some personal papers, namely correspondence, a recipe book, and a sequence of family and personal photographs, many of which depict Sándor Vas and/or his wife, Elizabeth.

### **Restrictions and Use**

There are no restrictions on the Sándor Vas Papers.

### **Associations**

The Sándor Vas Collection is one of several collections documenting the professional activities and careers of Eastman School of Music performance faculty. Others among this number include the collections of Vas's fellow piano faculty members George MacNabb and Marie Erhart Pearson as well as the papers of John Celentano, Eileen Malone, Francis Tursi, and Zvi Zeitlin.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE SERIES

The Sándor Vas Papers are divided into two sub-groups, each of which represent a distinct deposit. The materials that comprise the two sub-groups are further divided into series and sub-series as indicated below:

### SUB-GROUP I: ACCESSION NO. 991.3

This body of papers is divided into the following five series according to material type:

#### Series 1: Sheet music

This series is comprised of published and manuscript music and related documents. One folder contains six manuscript items, specifically a transcription of exercises by Árpád Tóth, an untitled manuscript composition for piano, and several manuscript notes, including practice schedules. The second folder in this series contains one published volume, an inscribed copy of *The Child Bach* by Lottie Ellsworth Coit and Ruth Bampton.

#### Series 2: Programs

This series is comprised of solo recital programs as well as programs from performances in which Sándor Vas appeared as collaborative pianist. Many of the programs are in fragile condition.

#### Series 3: News clippings and press notices

This series consists of newspaper clippings and one publicity booklet. The majority of the clippings are facsimiles (photocopies).

#### Series 4: Photographs

This series contains nine photographs, including baby pictures (presumably family photos) and portraits of various individuals.

#### Series 4: Personal papers

This series is comprised of correspondence, a booklet of dessert recipes, an expenditure book, and two published volumes from Mr. Vas's library.

## SUB-GROUP II: ACCESSION NO. 2016/8/16

The second deposit of Sándor Vas's papers is comprised of two types of materials, namely photographs and personal papers; accordingly, these materials have been organized into two discrete series:

### Series 1: Photographs

This series contains photographs, both loose and those contained within photo albums. The photographs appear to be family and personal photographs, including several group photographs as well as individual photographs of Sándor Vas and his wife Elizabeth, including formal posed portraits. The photo albums appear to contain sequences of photographs from family trips. Only a few of the photographs have identifying information on the back (primarily in Hungarian), so most of the individuals in the photographs aside from Mr. and Mrs. Vas are unidentified.

### Series 2: Personal papers

Within this collection of Vas's personal papers are publicity materials, concert programs from the years 1931–1957, and correspondence.

# INVENTORY

## SUB-GROUP I: ACCESSION NO. 991.3

### Series 1: Sheet music

#### Box 1

#### Folder 1 Music manuscripts (6 items).

Árpád Tóth. *Training der virtuosität*. In ink. 11 pages.

Untitled piece. For piano. In ink. 2 pages. Sketch on reverse in pencil.

Notes. In pencil; one page. Exercises on reverse; one page.

*Vorwort*. In ink; two pages. Written by Árpád Tóth. 1922. *Juni 16*. Budapest.

Practice schedules. In ink; 4 pages.

Notes [pertaining to Árpád Tóth]; in Hungarian. In ink; 8 pages. Budapest. 1930. May 28.

#### Folder 2 Published music (1 item).

Coit, Lottie Ellsworth, and Ruth Bampton. *The Child Bach*. In series "Childhood Days of Famous Composers." Philadelphia: Theodore Presser Co., 1943. Inscription to Sándor Vas from Lottie Ellsworth Coit on inside cover in ink.

### Series 2: Programs

#### Folder 3 Programs without year (3 programs).

*Soirées Musicales*. Hotel plaza. Wednesday, January 31 [no year].

Violin recital by Georges Enesco. The Town Hall. January 22 [no year].

Program notes. In Hungarian. [no other information]

Folder 4 1904–1912, Europe. 62 programs (including facsimiles).

Folder 5 1913–1916, Europe. 60 programs.

Folder 6 1917–1920, Europe. 120 programs.

Folder 7 1921–1923, U.S.A. 43 programs.



Folder 8 1923–1940, Eastman School of Music and others. 79 programs.

**Series 3: News clippings and press notices**

Folder 9 Newspaper clippings and press notices. International. 1904–1936.  
One booklet with press reviews.  
40 pages of press clippings: 2 originals, 38 pages reproduction.

**Series 4: Photographs**

Folder 10 4 x 6" sleeves

1. Tamás. 5 months old. [Photograph shows woman holding infant; annotation on reverse in Hungarian.] B/W, 2.5" x 2.5". August 1932.
2. Tamás. B/W, 2.5" x 2.5". January 1933.
3. Tamás 11 months old. B/W, 2.5" x 2.5". February 1933.
4. Unknown. [Photograph of man and woman standing outdoors with mountains in the background.] B/W, 2.5" x 2.5". February 1933.

8 x 10" sleeves

5. Eugene Goossens performing at the piano. Photograph by Maurice Beck and Helen MacGregor, London. B/W autographed photo, 7" x 9.5".
6. Betty [unknown surname]. Inscription on reverse. Image from Studio P. Delbo, Paris. Print of B/W painting, 7" x 8.25".

11 x 14"

7. Charles W. Bybee. Portrait by Alexander Leventon. B/W photograph, 5.75" x 7.5", affixed to photo folder. Signed. Rochester, NY, 1928.
8. Unknown woman. B/W portrait, 6.5" x 9.25", printed on 9.75" x 13.25" mat board.
9. Ernst von Lengyel. Portrait by the Dover Street Studios. B/W portrait, 8.75" x 12".

**Series 5: Personal papers**

Folder 11 Correspondence (7 items).

Unsent postcard. *Winterfest. Conservatoriums der music, Leipzig*. Signed in pencil by Arthur Nikisch and Julius Klengel.

Unsent postcard. Eastman Theatre and Eastman School of Music.

Unsent postcard. Photo of Teresa Carreño, "Sándor Vas piano teacher" written on back in ink.

Postcard. The Budapest String Quartet. Addressed "To Mr. and Mrs. Sándor Vas" signed by all four members: Alexander Schneider, István Ipolyi, Mischa Schneider, Josef Roisman. March 18, 1933.

Letter. Addressed "To Sándor and Elisabeth." From Donald. 7 January 1942. In ink; one page.

*Telegraphie des Deutschen Reiches*. From Teresa Carreño. 24 December 1912. Leipzig.

Death announcement for Ernst von Lengyel. 24 November, 1914. Typescript; one page.

Folder 12 Dessert recipes, recorded in handmade booklet. In ink; 6 pages.

Recipes included:

Chocolate mousse

Cheese Filling

Pastry with cheese filling

Chocolate tart

Folder 13 Expenditure book.  
Small (2.25" x 4.25") notebook containing various notes about expenditures; 9 leaves with writing.

Folder 14 Bound books (2 books).  
Hannas, Ruth. *Thorns Are a Style*. [s.l.]: Henry Harrison, 1930. 78 pp. Inscription in front matter, "To Mr. and Mrs. Sándor Vas with profound esteem Ashley Pettis." In ink.

Gyula, Fodor. *Emlékkönyv a Fodor: zeneiskola huszonöt éves jubileuma alkalmából: 1903-1928*. Budapest: Athenaeum, 1928. 160 pp.

SUB-GROUP II: ACCESSION NO. 2016/8/16

**Series 1: Photographs**

Box 2

- Folder 1 Photographs (first of three, containing 61 prints)  
Forty-five 4 x 5" sleeves, twelve 4 x 6" sleeves and three 5 x 7" sleeves.  
  
*Primarily family and personal photographs, including group shots, individual photos of Sándor Vas and/or Elizabeth Vas, and photographs of various other individuals.*
- Folder 2 Photographs (second of three, containing 10 prints)  
Five 4 x 6" sleeves, one 5 x 7" sleeve, three 8 x 10" sleeves, and one 11 x 14" sleeve.  
  
*Includes photographs with Sándor Vas, a photograph of Mr. Vas's mother, and photos and portraits of various unidentified individuals.*
- Folder 3 Photographs (third of three, containing 14 prints)  
Nine 8 x 10" sleeves and two 11 x 14" sleeves.  
  
*Includes portraits of Sándor Vas and Elizabeth Vas, one aerial photo of a town, and a formal portrait of four unidentified men.*
- Folder 4 Photo albums (first of two, containing two small albums)  
Photo album, 3" x 4", containing 22 small (ca. 1.75" x 2.5") family and personal photographs.  
Photo album, 4.75" x 6", containing 25 small (ca. 1.75" x 2.5") family and personal photographs. Affixed to inside back cover of album: photograph of Sandor Vas with a cat, B/W, 2.75" x 3.5".  
Also in folder: portrait of [Elizabeth Vas], B/W, 2.25" x 3.25", with envelope.
- Folder 5 Photo albums (second of two, containing two small albums)  
Photo album, 5.5" x 8", containing 59 small (ca. 1.5" x 2.5") family and personal photographs.  
Photo album, 4.75" x 6", containing 25 small (ca. 1.5" x 2.5") family and personal photographs. Interleaved in album: 1 unsend postcard

**Series 2: Personal papers**

- Folder 6 Publicity: promotional brochure issued by *Konzertdirektion Reinhold Schubert* (3 copies of same).

Folder 7 Programs from the years 1931–1957 (contains 58 documents). Arranged in chronological order – first two programs without date.

Folder 8 Correspondence (contains 7 documents).

“Wanderers Nachtlied.” Text of poem. In ink; two pages.

Letter. Addressed to “Mr. Vas.” From Clair Van Ausdall. Undated. In ink; one page.

Business/calling card for Mr. and Mrs. Sandor Vas.

Letter. Addressed to “Mr. and Mrs. Vas.” From Elaine H. Clark. 3 March. In ink; two pages.

Christmas card with envelope. Addressed to “Sandor and Elizabeth Vas.” From Marie. 1938. In ink; one page.

Card. Addressed to “Mr. Vas.” From Margaret Scott. 12 June 1950. In ink; four pages.

Telefax. Addressed to “Mr. Sandor Vas.” From Joseph C. Cleland (MacMurray College). Date illegible. Typescript; one page.