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Finding Aid - Irving Guttman collection (RBSC- ARC-1752)

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Irving Guttman collection

Table of contents

Summary information	3
Administrative history / Biographical sketch	3
Scope and content	3
Notes	4
Access points	4
Series descriptions	4
, Operatic Singer/Conductor Autographed Photographs, 1930-2009	4
, Rehearsal, Preparation, Production, and Leisure Photographs, 1947-2007	5

Summary information

Repository: University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections

Title: Irving Guttman collection

ID: RBSC-ARC-1752

Date: 1930-2009 (date of creation)

Physical description: [ca. 780 photographs] -- 1 invitation -- 6 mounted letters

**Dates of creation,
revision and deletion:**

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Irving Allen Guttman, born the 27th of October 1928, was a revered Canadian opera director. Known as “the father of opera in Western Canada,” Irving Guttman mentored and developed many famous singers, and directed numerous operas in Canada and overseas.

Irving Guttman’s contributions to the opera in Canada are vast. He established himself as artistic director of the Vancouver and Edmonton operas in 1960 and 1965 respectively, and serving in these roles congruently; became artistic director of the Manitoba opera in 1977; and lastly served as the founding artistic director of the Saskatchewan opera in 1999.

Although Mr. Guttman retired in 2003, he continued to mentor young opera students at the University of British Columbia until 2010.

Mr. Guttman received the Canadian Centennial Medal (1967), the Canada 125 Medal (1992), and the Queen’s Golden (2002) and Diamond Jubilee Medals (2012). He was a member of the Order of Canada (1988), and the Order of British Columbia (2002), and was inducted into the Canadian Opera Hall of Fame in 1995.

Mr. Guttman died on December 7th, 2014 in Vancouver, B.C.

Scope and content

The Irving Guttman Collection is a large collection of photographs of different people and places in the opera world. There are two different parts of this photographic collection: The first part of the collection includes pictures of Mr. Guttman directing and coaching opera performers, or posing with opera enthusiasts from across the globe. A large bulk of these first photographs are of Mr. Guttman's production of the operas, Norma, Tosca, Traviatta, and Aida. However, other operas such as Madam Butterfly, Daughter of the Regiment, Othello, Carmen and more are included in the Collection.

The second part of the collection consists of autographed portraits of opera performers, and other operatic stakeholders. The list of operatic singers, conductors, composers and directors, includes but is not limited to: Luciano Pavarotti, Placido Domingo, Leonard Bernstein, Joan Sutherland, Cristina Deutekom, Montserrat Caballé, John Alexander, Tracy Dahl, Marilyn Horne, Linda Roark-Strummer, Huguette Tourangeau, Renata Tebaldi, Clarice Carson, Regina Resnik, Mary Costa, Irene Salemka, Cecilia Bartoli, Judith Forst, Ermanno Mauro, and Sylvia Sass.

Lastly, there is a collection of congratulatory letters to Mr. Guttman for his 25th anniversary as artistic director of the Edmonton Opera.

Notes

Title notes

Related material

Irving Guttman was at one point custodian of the Mme. Pauline Donalda collection: RBSC-ARC-1728.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** published

Access points

- Graphic material (documentary form)

Series descriptions

Operatic Singer/Conductor Autographed Photographs

Date: 1930-2009 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series primarily contains autographed portrait photographs of operatic singers and conductors who at sometime worked with Irving Guttman. The series also contains a few signed photographs of Mr. Guttman, either working or socializing, with various operatic singers, conductors and other stakeholders.

Physical description: [ca. 430 photographs] -- 1 invitation

Access points:

- Graphic material (documentary form)

File / item list				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1752-1-1	File - Autographed Photographs	1946-1972		
RBSC-ARC-1752-1-2	File - Autographed Photographs	1950-1977		
RBSC-ARC-1752-1-3	File - Autographed Photographs	1946-1962		
RBSC-ARC-1752-1-4	File - Autographed Photographs	1950-1965		
RBSC-ARC-1752-1-5	File - Autographed Photographs	1950-1985		
RBSC-ARC-1752-1-6	File - Autographed Photographs	1950-1981		
RBSC-ARC-1752-2-1	File - Autographed Photographs	1947-1990		
RBSC-ARC-1752-2-2	File - Autographed Photographs	1946-1990		
RBSC-ARC-1752-2-3	File - Autographed Photographs	1945-1964		
RBSC-ARC-1752-2-4	File - Autographed Photographs	1930-1969		
RBSC-ARC-1752-2-5	File - Autographed Photographs	1948-1991		
RBSC-ARC-1752-2-6	File - Autographed Photographs	1949-1985		
RBSC-ARC-1752-3-1	File - Autographed Photographs	1947-1984		
RBSC-ARC-1752-3-2	File - Autographed Photographs	1948-1987		
RBSC-ARC-1752-3-3	File - Photograph of Robert Lasasony	1940		
RBSC-ARC-1752-3-4	File - Autographed Photographs	1946-1992		
RBSC-ARC-1752-3-5	File - Autographed Photographs	1935-1975		
RBSC-ARC-1752-3-6	File - Autographed Photographs	1947-1977		
RBSC-ARC-1752-3-7	File - Autographed Photographs	1957-2009		
RBSC-ARC-1752-4-2	File - Images of Regina Resnick, a production of Nabucco, and opera singers	1962-1996		
RBSC-ARC-1752-4-3	File - Autographed Photographs	1952-2002		
RBSC-ARC-1752-4-4	File - Autographed Photographs	1965-2009		
RBSC-ARC-1752-4-6	File - Autographed Photographs	1951-1999		
RBSC-ARC-1752-7-2	File - Autographed Photographs	1949-1972		
RBSC-ARC-1752-7-3	File - Autographed Photographs	1947-1984		

Rehearsal, Preparation, Production, and Leisure Photographs

Date: 1947-2007 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series contains photographs of Irving Guttman coaching, directing, and socializing with operatic singers and other stakeholders in the opera scene. Prominently featured in the series are photographs of the opera Norma, which Mr. Guttman directed at least four times; Tosca, which Mr. Guttman directed at least three times; and the operas Aida and Traviatta, which Mr. Guttman directed at least twice each. The series also contains photographs from Irving Guttman directed productions of Madam Butterfly, Daughter of the Regiment, The Barber of Seville, Carmen, Boheme, Faust, Manon, Tales of Hoffman, Hansel & Gretel, Lucrezia Borgia, Othello, and The Merry Widow.

Physical description: [ca. 350 photographs]

Access points:

- Graphic material (documentary form)

File / item list				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container

RBSC-ARC-1752-4-1	File - Production of the opera Norma	1963-2000
RBSC-ARC-1752-4-5	File - Production of multiple operas and leisure	1952-1995
RBSC-ARC-1752-4-7	File - Productions of the operas Aida and Tosca	1956-1996
RBSC-ARC-1752-4-8	File - Rehearsals and productions	1953-1997
RBSC-ARC-1752-5-1	File - Multiple runs of the opera Norma	1947-1991
RBSC-ARC-1752-5-2	File - Productions of the operas Norma and Faust	1952-1970
RBSC-ARC-1752-5-3	File - Productions of the operas Carmen and Traviatta	1961-1977
RBSC-ARC-1752-5-4	File - Production of the opera Tosca	1985
RBSC-ARC-1752-5-5	File - Rehearsals and productions	1952-2007
RBSC-ARC-1752-5-6	File - Rehearsals and productions	1948-1975
RBSC-ARC-1752-5-7	File - Productions of the operas Norma and Manon	1952-2006
RBSC-ARC-1752-5-8	File - Rehearsals, productions and leisure	1947-1997
RBSC-ARC-1752-7-1	File - Rehearsals, productions and leisure	1958-1986
RBSC-ARC-1752-7-4	File - Rehearsals and productions	1960-1982
RBSC-ARC-1752-7-5	File - Productions, rehearsals and preparation	1954-1983
RBSC-ARC-1752-7-6	File - Productions, rehearsals and leisure	1963-2000
RBSC-ARC-1752-7-7	File - Productions, rehearsals and leisure	1966-2007
RBSC-ARC-1752-6-1	File - Letters of congratulations	1991