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**Inventory of the G. Theodore
Wichmann Papers, 1904-1966**

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Descriptive Summary

Title:	G. Theodore Wichmann papers
Date(s)	1904-1966
Creator:	Wichmann, G. Theodore, 1886-
Abstract:	Theodore Wichmann (1886-1966) founded the Charleston Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra and taught music lessons in Charleston, South Carolina. This collection includes Wichmann's writings on Mozart, Bizet, Rossini, Beethoven, and Ambroise Thomas, printed programs, and business and personal correspondence for the Orchestra and Wichmann's school music lessons.
Extent:	2.5 linear feet (3 document boxes, 1 oversize box)
Repository:	Special Collections, College of Charleston Libraries 66 George Street Charleston, SC 29424 Phone: (843) 953-8016 Fax: (843) 953-6319 URL: http://archives.library.cofc.edu
Call Number:	Mss 0075
Language of Material:	Materials in English

Biographical Note

Theodore Wichmann (1886-1966) graduated from the Chicago Musical College in 1922 and in 1925 he founded the Charleston Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra. He organized the Charleston High School Orchestra, the Charleston High School Band, the Public School Orchestra, and the Brass and Reed Choir. He also gave private music lessons.

Collection Overview

The collection consists of four approximately equal parts: writings on music and miscellaneous, correspondence, printed programs, and other materials including ephemera, clippings, receipts, photographs, and an oversize student folio.

The writings include short essays on Mozart, Bizet, Rossini, Beethoven, and Ambroise Thomas. An oversized folio lists private students, the dates of lessons, and payments from 1921-1928. The photographs are of the Symphony Orchestra, students at the Chicago Musical College circa 1922, and teachers at the Musical College. Wichmann's 1922 diploma and a 1942 playbill for the Symphony Orchestra are also oversized.

The correspondence consists mainly of letters from fellow musicians and letters with high praise from numerous supporters of the Symphony Orchestra. The principal correspondents include Carl Strehle, a teacher of harmony from Leipzig, Germany who taught Wichmann; Carl Behr, a conductor writing from Asheville, North Carolina; Donn Mills, conductor of the ballet orchestra in Winnipeg, Canada, and also writing from elsewhere; Herland W. Cleaveland, a music teacher at Taylor University, Upland, Indiana; Louis Levine, a Charleston supporter of the Symphonic Orchestra; and H. Leon Larisey of Meggett, South Carolina, a father determined to help Wichmann turn his reluctant son into a musician. A 1912 letter to the American Federation of Labor details problems encountered in trying to unionize Charleston's musicians (nearly 13 pages).

Most of the printed programs date from 1926-1931 with one from 1940. The earlier programs for performances for the Symphony Orchestra in Hibernian Hall are extensive.

Other materials include ephemera relating to Wichmann and his musical career (1915-1960), clippings regarding the Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra (1925-1929), notes and receipts for events and expenses (1924-1928), Philharmonic Society of Charleston photographs (1925), Wichmann's Chicago Musical College diploma (1922), and an award given to Wichmann by the Charleston Real Estate Board (1966). Also includes one oversize student folio (1921-1928), which lists Wichmann's private students, lesson dates, and payment schedules.

Collection Arrangement

This collection is arranged in four series. Correspondence is arranged alphabetically by author and then by date. Programs are arranged by date.

1. Writings, undated
2. Correspondence, 1904, 1912-1965
3. Programs, 1926-1931, 1940, 1942
4. Other materials, 1913-1960, undated

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

This collection is open for research.

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Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person, family, or organization, by topical subject, by place, and by types of material.

Names

Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus, 1756-1791
Bizet, Georges, 1838-1875
Rossini, Gioacchino, 1792-1868
Beethoven, Ludvig van, 1770-1827
Thomas, Ambroise, 1811-1896
Wichmann, G. Theodore, 1886-
Charleston Symphony Orchestra (Charleston, S.C.)

Subjects

Music--South Carolina--Charleston
School music--South Carolina--Charleston

Places

Charleston (S.C.)

Types of Material

Theater programs
Correspondence
Black-and-white photographs
Holographs (autographs)
Typescripts

Administrative Information**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], G. Theodore Wichmann papers, College of Charleston Libraries, Charleston, SC, USA.

Acquisitions Information

Donated by Emily Peterson Deluca, March 1998.

Processing Information

Originally processed by Special Collections staff, date unknown.

Reprocessed by Cara McHugh, March 2013.

Encoded by Cara McHugh, March 2013.

Reviewed and uploaded by Martha McTear, April 2013.

Detailed Description of the Collection

1. Writings, undated

Materials include holographs and typescripts.

Box 1	Folder 1	"Symphony in G Minor--Mozart"
Box 1	Folder 2	"Philharmonic Concert"
Box 1	Folder 3	"Philharmonic Concert" notes and draft
Box 1	Folder 4	"Ambroise Thomas and his Opera of Mignon"
Box 1	Folder 5	"The Development of the Symphony"
Box 1	Folder 6	"The Carmen Suite"
Box 1	Folder 7	"Rossini Operas"
Box 1	Folder 8	"Ludwig von Beethoven"
Box 1	Folder 9	"Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart"

2. Correspondence, 1904, 1912-1965

Includes holographs and typescripts.

Box 2	Folder 1	Barry, E.M., 1912 December 19
		Written to the American Federation of Labor regarding the unionization of Charleston's musicians.
Box 2	Folder 2	Behr, Carl, 1925 January 27
Box 2	Folder 3	Cleaveland, Harland W., 1922 October 24
Box 2	Folder 4	Larisey, H. Leon, 1909 October 19
Box 2	Folder 5	Levine, Louis, 1924-1928
		7 letters.
Box 2	Folder 6	Mills, Donn, 1963-1964
		4 letters.
Box 2	Folder 7	Strehle, C.A., 1904 September 2
		Also includes a recital program for Cleaveland's performance at Taylor University, 1922 October 11.
Box 2	Folder 8	Unknown, 1904 April 20
		Wishing Wichmann a happy 18th birthday. Signed "George Nick Fitt[en?], Chris Fitt[en?], Midget, Lulu and George T. Also Tom Cat. Also the Cracker Boxes."

Box 2 Folder 9	Personal thank yous, 1921-1927, 1941, 1944
Box 2 Folder 10	Business thank yous, 1922-1929, 1947-1965
	For performances, donations, and a small number of other topics.
Box 2 Folder 11	Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra, 1925-1930
	Includes letters sent with payments for season tickets.
Box 2 Folder 12	General business correspondence, 1925-1930, 1945
	Regarding payment for lessons, scheduling for the orchestra, praise for his professional work.
Box 2 Folder 13	Charleston High School Band and Orchestra notes and correspondence, 1928-1931, 1948
Box 2 Folder 14	Posthumous, 1966
	Contains letter to Mrs. Wichmann from William H. McDaniel, president of the Charleston Rebel Honor Band Parents' Association and a program from a memorial concert for Wichmann.

3. Programs, 1926-1931, 1940, 1942

	Primarily programs for the Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra of Charleston, with one for a concert Wichmann conducted for the Charleston Public School Orchestra (1926).
Box 3 Folder 1	Miscellaneous, 1924 March [1?], undated
	Includes typescript programs for "Concert Program Sunday night 6.30 to 9.30 Francis Marion Hotel" and "Wichman's Symphony Orchestra."
Box 3 Folder 2	Charleston Public School Orchestra, 1926 May 20
Box 3 Folder 3	Annotated programs, Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra
	Include brief notes for Wichmann, possibly regarding performers' payment.
Box 3 Folder 4	Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra, 1926-1927
Box 3 Folder 5	Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra, 1927-1928
Box 3 Folder 6	Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra, 1928-1929
Box 3 Folder 7	Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra, 1930-1931
Box 3 Folder 8	Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra, 1940
Box 3 Folder 9	Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra, 1925-1928 and related
	Water damaged programs for Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra (1925-1928), Charleston Musical Society, and Memminger High School (1926).
Box 4	Playbill, Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra, 1942 April 27
	(Oversize)

Advertised as the final concert of the season.

4. Other materials, 1913-1960, undated

Box 1 Folder 10

Ephemera, 1915-1960

Envelopes, voter registration certificates, Charleston Lodge memorial service programs, blank Wichmann's Orchestra letterhead, and a small number of other items.

Box 1 Folder 11

Clippings, 1925-1929, undated

Primarily about the Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra.

Box 1 Folder 12

Notes and receipts, 1924-1928

Miscellaneous handwritten expense notes and receipts for use of the Music Hall Art Club, programs, music books, and instrument parts.

Box 4

Photograph of Philharmonic Society of Charleston, original

(Oversize)

Original 1925 photograph.

Box 1 Folder 13

Photograph of Philharmonic Society of Charleston, reproduction

1998 reproduction of original 1925 photograph and an annotated photocopy.

Box 1 Folder 14

Photographs, undated

Includes photographs of Harold B. Maryott and Max Fischel.

Box 1 Folder 15

Recommendation, [19]13 February 14

Letter from The St. John by C.R. Fegus, Mgr., recommending the Wichmann Orchestra after their performance at the St. John Hotel.

Box 4

Wichmann diploma, Chicago Musical College, 1922 August 8

(Oversize)

Box 4

Award, Charleston Real Estate Board, 1966 May 26

(Oversize)

Distinguished service award given to Wichmann posthumously.

Box 4

Student folio, 1921-1928

(Oversize)

Lists Wichmann's private students, the dates of lessons, and payments.