

A. Winifred Sankey Collection, 1948-1992, n.d.

RG. 16

Creator: Winifred A. Sankey

Extent: 1.1 m (4 ¼ boxes) textual records

54 b&w photos

40 col. photos

Abstract:

The textual materials of the A. Winifred Sankey Collection fonds includes clerical records, photographs, clippings and various other materials that document the activities of the St. Catharines Civic Orchestra/Niagara Symphony Orchestra.

Materials:

Photographs, clippings and correspondence

Repository:

Brock University Archives

Processed by:

Anne Adams

Finding Aid:

Anne Adams

Last Updated:

March 2018

Terms of Use:

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Citation:

RG 16 A. Winifred Sankey Collection, 1948-1992

Acquisition Info:

Files remained in the possession of A. Winifred Sankey, former Historian of the Niagara Symphony Orchestra until 1993. They were donated by Mr. James Curtis of the Niagara Symphony on April 30, 1993

Administrative History:

A. Winifred Sankey (nee Wallace) was born on July 10, 1904 in Granby, Quebec. Her family owned a dairy farm and she worked on the farm during her high school years while most men were overseas during World War I. After high school, she obtained a teaching diploma from MacDonald College, which is now part of McGill University. She got a teaching position in Montreal and taught for 15 years in total. In 1933, she married J.E. (Ted) King and they had a son, George. Her husband died 3 years after their marriage and she returned to teaching.

In 1938, she married Dr. Charles A. Sankey of St. Catharines, Ontario. Dr. Sankey was a research engineer, research director and vice-president research at the Ontario Paper Company, Thorold. He was one of the founding members of Brock University and a Chancellor at Brock from 1969-1974. They had 3 children: John, Grace and Janet. Winifred played the piano and viola. Mrs. Sankey set up a group in St. Catharines called "Junior Musicians" in order to let children perform and hear each other play. She was a founding member of the St. Catharines Civic Orchestra as a performer and a board member. Mrs. Sankey was also the Symphony historian. Three of her children played in the symphony. She was a treasurer of the Music of Youth Committee and she helped to establish instrumental music classes in the public schools. She specialized in teaching very young children, and continued to do so up until her 80th birthday.

Mrs. Sankey was also involved with Rodman Hall, the Lincoln County Music Festival, the Music Teachers' Association of St. Catharines, the Community Concert Association, the Niagara Youth Orchestra, the Unitarian Services Committee, the St. Catharines Church of the Unitarian Fellowship and Brock University. Mrs. Sankey died on January 2, 2002.

In 1948, The St. Catharines Civic Orchestra was founded by Jan Wolanek who was also the first conductor. Initially, this was a community orchestra and in 1963 its governing body assumed the name St. Catharines Symphony Association. In 1978 the name was again changed to The Niagara Symphony Association to reflect regional responsibilities. Wally Laughton was named Assistant Conductor in 1952/53. R.C. Clarke took over the orchestra for an interim period after Wolanek left in 1957. In 1958 Leonard Pearlman became the Music Director. It was under his direction that the Niagara Symphony Chorus came into existence in 1963. Milton Barnes succeeded Pearlman in 1964 and he was responsible for directing the symphony's first opera production. He also made a concerted effort to attract younger people to symphonic music. In 1972 Leonard Atherton became the Music Director. He started the Cantata Choir and the Madrigal Singers. It was under his tenure that the orchestra became professional. When

Atherton left in 1980, there were three seasons of guest conductors, the most notable of these conductors was Uri Mayer. In 1981 James Vincent Fusco was appointed as composer in residence and in 1983 Ermanno Florio became the Music Director. He retained this position until 1995 when Michael Reason took over.

Daniel Swift was appointed as Music Director and Conductor in 1999 and the Niagara Symphony Orchestra became the orchestra in residence at Brock University. Laura Thomas was appointed as Associate Conductor in 2004. Daniel Swift's resignation in 2008 began a search for a new Music Director. Bradley Thachuck was appointed as Music Director Designate and Principal Conductor in 2010.

The orchestra is a fully professional, charitable institution with 52 members. The orchestra has also been led by Victor Feldbrill and Howard Cable. A junior symphony was first formed under Leonard Pearlman in 1960/61, but it wasn't until 1965 that The St. Catharines Youth Orchestra was founded. The orchestra has consistently been an award winner in music festivals. The musicians range in age from 12 to 18 years. The highlight of the 1973-74 season was the orchestra's participation in the first Canadian Festival of Youth Orchestras at The Banff School of Fine Arts. The St. Catharines Youth Orchestra has evolved from the St. Catharines School String and Brass Ensembles to a full scale symphony under the direction of conductor Paul van Dongen. In 1974 the Symphony House music program came into existence. It was 1976 when Richard Grymonpre was hired as the principal violinist of the St. Catharines Symphony Orchestra and conductor of the St. Catharines Youth Orchestra. Tak Ng Lai took over the position as conductor in 1978. Laura Thomas is currently the Music Director of the Niagara Youth Orchestra.

Source: Niagara Symphony, Orchestra in Residence, Brock University website and notes from Niagara Symphony files.

Organization:

The records are arranged into 3 series.

Series I – Clerical records, 1966-1979, n.d. (non-inclusive)

Sub-Series A. Correspondence, 1966-1979 (non-inclusive)

Sub-Series B. Programs and Flyers, 1966-1975 (non-inclusive)

Sub-Series C. Orchestra Personnel, 1966-1968

Series II – Photographs, 1960-1961, 1965, n.d.

Series III – Scrapbooks, 1948-1992

Inventory:

Series I – Clerical Records, 1966-1979 (non-inclusive)

Sub-Series A. Correspondence, 1965-1979 (non-inclusive)

- 1.1-1.3 Business related correspondence related to the booking of venues and the arrangement of concerts. Some minutes are also included, 1966-1979 (non-inclusive)
- 1.4 Correspondence regarding the planning of Carl Maria Von Weber's *Der Freischutz*, 1965-1966
- 1.5 Correspondence regarding the Junior Strings, 1968-1969

Sub-Series B. Programs and Flyers, 1966-1975 (non-inclusive)

- 1.6 Programs and flyers, 1966-1975 (non-inclusive)

Sub-Series C. Orchestra Personnel, 1966-1968

- 1.7 Orchestra personnel, 1966-1968

Series II – Photographs, 1960-1961, 1965, n.d.

- 1.8 Most photographs are of performers. Included are: Tina Yanchus and James Hibbard; Frank Phelan with children: Christine Bald, Lorraine Tytaneck, Patricia Rybski, Janet Langley and Kathie Tytaneck; Hendrik Westera showing a violin that he made to Ianna Swann; Sandra Pohran; a group of students who were part of the Young Canada Works program; Nickolaus Kaethler; the Symphony led by Milton Barnes; Mari-Elizabeth Morgen; Leonard Atherton; Dora Goerzen and Ella Dick, 11 b&w photos, 2 col. photos, 1960-1961, 1965, n.d.

Series III – Scrapbooks which contain programs, flyers; clippings (most of which are written by E.H. Lampard); fundraising efforts including: the Designer's Showcase, antique shows and book sales; historian's reports and photographs. All scrapbooks are hardcover. Photographs and clippings are glued or taped into the pages. [2.1 is cracked and taped along spine], 1948-1992

- 2.1 Mischa Mischakoff, violinist, was featured in a November 1948 concert. William Thompson, pianist was also featured in 1948. There is a *Saturday Night* magazine cover autographed by George Haddad, pianist, who was featured in a concert in May of 1949. The first concert of the 1949-50 season featured Ruggiero Ricci, violinist. Joan Rowland, pianist was featured in 1950. In 1951, George D'Anna, percussionist; Glenn Gould, pianist and Boris Hambourg, cellist were featured. The 1952 concerts featured Bernard Johnson, baritone; Reginald Godden, pianist and Artur Garami, violinist. In 1953, Lauralee Burke, harpist; Aladar Ecsedy, pianist and Halina Biloshefski, violinist were

featured. The 1954 featured artists were: Mary Syme, pianist; James Milligan, vocalist and Gordon Manley, pianist. In 1955 the symphony featured Mary Schmon, soprano; Mischa Mischakoff, violinist and Roland Pack, cellist. 1956's featured artists were: Roy Cairns, baritone; Beatrice Bennett, pianist and Maureen Forrester, contralto. In 1957 Albert Pratz was a featured violinist; Alexander Uninsky, pianist and the Mary Schmon Singers were also featured. Charles Himann, baritone; Gordon Manley, pianist; Marion Ross, pianist; Joseph Umbrico, trumpet player and Teresa Stratas, soprano were all part of the 1958-59 season. Dr. F.R. Clarke conducted some of the concerts in 1957 and 1958 until Leonard Pearlman was given the post of conductor. The 12th season of the Symphony (1959-1960) featured Alta Mayer, cellist; Anahid Alexanian, pianist and Barbara Strathdee, soprano. Terry Monaghan, soprano was featured in the 1960-61 season as well as Mary Elizabeth Brookes, pianist and Deryck Aird, violinist. 1954-1956 lists of the Board of Directors are included. Photographs include: Jan Woloneck; Boris Hambourg; Symphony rehearsals; Roy Lampard; Wallace Laughton; Don Walker; Ruggiero Ricci; William Hose, concertmaster; Joe West, orchestra manager; Owen Glendon, cellist; Mrs. Bonkalo; John Sankey; Martha Bakker and Shirley Ashdown. Charles Rowntree, CBC producer and Rowland Pack are included in the photographs. Young People's Concerts are also featured in this album, 17 b&w photos, 1948-1961

- 2.2 Featured in 1961, was Michel Dussault, pianist. In 1962 featured performers were: Anahid Alexanian, pianist; The Mary Schmon Singers; Tania Rudensky, violinist and Rodney Pierce, oboist. There was a great deal of focus on young people and the Young People's Concerts. Leonard Pearlman took part in the International Conductors' Competition in England. Included are 3 photos of the National Youth Orchestra. Victor Feldbrill is shown conducting. Albert Huibers, tenor was featured in a folk tunes program and Guy Caputo was a solo clarinetist. Carlina Carr, pianist opened the 1962-63 season. Tania Rudensky was the violinist at a January 1963 concert. Contralto, Doris Brown sang in an April 1963 concert. The Symphony's 16th season included Genevieve Perrault, mezzo; Carrol Anne Curry, soprano; Tito Dean, baritone and Thomas Clerke, tenor. A vocal quartet from the Canadian Opera Company was featured in the October 1963 concert. Hyman Bress, violinist played in the January 1964 concert. At the end of the 16th season, Erica Goodman, harpist entertained. Milton Barnes was named as the new conductor in 1964. The lineup for 1964 included: Allen Sigel, clarinetist; Erica Goodman, harpist and Mary Simmons, soprano. A concert at Drummond Hill Presbyterian Church, Niagara Falls featured: Albert Huibers, tenor; Terry Pothier, soprano; Charles Himan, baritone and Clive Jacklin, organist. A photograph of Dr. Albert Jarvis, Professor Ezra Schabas, John Proctor and Sarah Shannon shows them discussing symphony policy, 4 b&w photos, 1961-1965
- 2.3 The 1965-66 season featured Nadia Koutzen, violinist; Sheila Henig, pianist; and Robert Aitken, flautist. A highlight of 1966 was *Der Freischutz* by Carl Maria Von Weber. There was no scenery or acting involved, but it was held together by narration in English. The

principals were: Helly Sappinski, John Heidebrecht and Rosalie Geller. The Junior Strings of St. Catharines made their debut during this season. In 1966, Jeannette Zarou, soprano performed. In 1967, Andrew Dawes, violin; Ireneus Zuk, pianist and Takako Nishizaki, violinist were featured. Photographs are of: Dr. Albert Jarvis, Donald C. Aitken, Milton Carmant, Professor Ezra Schabas as well as Conductor Jacob Groob leading the young string players. Joanna Myhal, mezzo-soprano opened the 20th season. The 21st season featured Rose Bandi, soprano; William Pengelly, pianist and Judy Fisher, 2 b&w photos, [1965], 1966-1968

- 2.4 In October of 1968, William Pengelly, pianist was the guest artist. The *Messiah* featured Margaret Zeidman, Colleen Morrison, Arthur Wall and William Wagner. Members of the symphony visited local schools. Judith Fisher, clarinetist was featured in March of 1969. Guitarist Martin Polten opened the 22nd season. Featured artists in this season were: Adele Armin, violinist; Mari-Elizabeth Morgen, pianist with Wallace Laughton as the concert master. Burt Jarvis, Judy MacLachlan, Milton Barnes, Helly Sapinski, John Heidebrecht and Rosalie Geller are in the photographs. Seven young men of St. Catharines and district were chosen for the National Youth Orchestra. Jack Silverstein and his son Mark were the first father and son combination in the St. Catharines Symphony. Brock University's Fine Arts Series started with the Symphony and the Chorus which included: Velmer Headley, Rose Bandi, James Whicher and Carl Wolff. Brock's first professor of music was Dr. Ronald Tremain. There is a photograph of Jacob Groob and Ed Lacey. Judy Fisher was the clarinet soloist at the second Symphony concert of the season. The St. Catharines Youth Orchestra and Brass Choir teamed up with the City Muffin Boys of Toronto for a rock concert. Sandra Pohran, oboist and Donald Plum, French horn, played a recital at Rodman Hall. Adele Armin, violinist and Ireneus Zuk, pianist performed in April of 1971. Mari-Elizabeth Morgan, pianist was featured in October of 1971. The Young People's Concert featured the stories of *Peter and the Wolf* and *Tubby the Tuba*. Tina Yanchus, pianist performed in February of 1972. The final concert of the season featured Robert Aitken, flautist. Leonard Atherton was appointed to lead the symphony in its 25th season, 3 b&w photos, 1968- 1972
- 2.5 October of 1972, Stuart Laughton, trumpet and Dodie Layton, flautist, performed in a concert. In November of 1972, Malcolm Lowe, violin and Bruce Plumb, viola performed. November also included a concert by Tina Yanchus and James Hibbert, pianists. There is an article on Steven Pettes who played Haydn's Trumpet Concerto at a Young People's Concert. The Langley siblings set a record by being the first family with 3 members (Janet, John and Jean) in the National Youth Orchestra. The *Messiah* featured Velmer Headley, Rose Bandi, Catherine Robbin and James Bechtel. Kathleen Solose, pianist returned to the Niagara Peninsula from Rome to play in a concert in February of 1973. Ivanka Myhal, mezzo-soprano was featured in a concert. A special 25th anniversary concert featured the world premiere of Milton Barnes' Psalms of David featuring Lynn Blaser, soprano and Gary Relyea, baritone. The final concert of the season

featured Joyce Redekop-Fink, harpsichordist. A photo featured Judy Nesbitt, Deryck Aird and Howard Phillips, 1 b&w photo, 1972-1973

- 3.1 Featured in this book are: a concert in which the music of Ralph Vaughan Williams and Sergei Prokofieff was played. The solo violinist was Deryck Aird (former concert master of the orchestra). The baton of Ralph Vaughan Williams was on permanent loan to musical director, Leonard Atherton and was used in the concert. James Bechtel was the featured vocalist. A photograph and article feature Shimon Burstyn and Philip Bass as the manager and concertmaster of the orchestra. A shortened version of the *Messiah* featured alto soloist Peter Giles, counter-tenor of Canterbury Cathedral, England. Stuart Laughton was sent to Italy to play principal trumpet with the orchestra of La Scala Opera. A concert of madrigals, motets and a dramatic cantata was presented. The St. Catharines Symphony Orchestra Association played host to the Ontario Federation of Symphony Orchestras, Feb. 1974. The Symphony presented a concert featuring pianist Mari-Elizabeth Morgen. There is an article about the Women's Committee of the St. Catharines Symphony Association of which, Marlene Finora was the president. The Youth Orchestra headed to Banff. There is also an article about the Laughton Family, 1 b&w photo, 1973-1974
- 3.2 In this season, Javier Calderon, guitarist of Bolivia was featured in a concert; the Symphony premiered one of Ronald Tremain's works, *Seven Medieval Lyrics* featuring Michael Purves-Smith on oboe and tenor, Velmer Headley; *Bach's Oratorio* featured Velmer Headley, Rose Bandi, Joyce Hunter and James Bechtel; the oratorio, *The Creation* by Haydn was performed, Mar. 1975; *Scottish Night* featured Thomas Whiteside, Michael Tansley, Joyce Hunter and Norman Harding and The Symphony Pops Concert was a presentation of *Peter and the Wolf* by Prokofieff. An article featuring Christine McIvor, administrative director of the Symphony Orchestra is included. Derek Plumb, an alumnus of the St. Catharines Youth Orchestra accepted a post at Duke University in North Carolina. A reunion concert was held by the Youth Orchestra, 1974-1975
- 3.3 Featured in this book are: the St. Catharines Madrigal Singers; The St. Catharines Youth Orchestra was featured in a production of *Anne of Green Gables*, directed by Alan Lund; a *Scottish Night* featured Joyce Hunter and Thomas Whiteside; The symphony played Italian opera music featuring Jill Pert, Velmer Headley and Penny Speedie; There was a Centennial Concert saluting St. Catharines' 100th Anniversary. The concert featured Maureen Forrester, Terri Pothier, Michael Purves-Smith, Shannon Purves-Smith, David Smith, Marian Sebestik, Christine Harvey and Valerie Tryon, 1976. Paul Van Dongen retired as the head of the Youth Orchestra. The Youth Orchestra was invited to a festival in Scotland, 1 b&w photo, 1975-1976
- 3.4 Featured in this scrapbook are: an article about a CBLT television production featuring musicians and community members who contributed to the growth and development of the St. Catharines Symphony Association; the St. Catharines Symphony was broadcast

on Thursday evenings on CKTB; *A Christmas Fantasia* was performed; the production of a St. Catharines Symphony Association centennial cookbook was sold as a fundraiser; there was a harpsichord recital by Joyce Fink; an organ-trumpet concert featuring David Marsden and Steven Pettes. There was a radio telethon to raise memberships and funds for the symphony and a clarinet recital by Jo Ellen Harris. Also included is an article about Richard Grymonpre who was appointed as the conductor for the Youth Orchestra and an article on Daniel Domb, cellist, 1976-1977

- 3.5 Featured concerts in this book are: a concert dedicated to Dr. Albert Jarvis (a biography of Dr. Jarvis is included) by Monica Gaylord, Oct. 1977; Beethoven's Concerto no.5 in E flat major with pianist Arthur Ozolins; Beethoven's Violin Concerto in D major, op.61 with violinist Lea Foli; a Southern Accents concert with Ron Simpsons' Dixie Allstars and Rose Bandi, Jan. 1977; *Fire and Water* Pop Concert featuring the Student Band of the Beamsville and District Secondary School; Sinfonia Chamber Concert featuring violinist Jerry Weiss and a Scottish concert at the Shaw Theatre. The Youth Orchestra had a concert which featured violinist Erika Enns. Also included are articles about the Youth Orchestra in Banff and an article on John Langley bass-trombonist, 1977-1978
- 3.6 Featured concerts in this book are: *Pirates of Penzance*, Oct. 1978; John Butler as pianist in *Noches en los Jardins de Espana*; *Latvian Afternoon*, Nov. 1978; Niagara Festival Brass Quintet, 1978; *Scottish Night*, Jan. 1979; Madrigal Singers performed in Cambridge, Jan. 1979; *Verdi Requiem* featured Rose Bandi, Velmer Headley and Terri Pothier; Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* featured Rose Bandi, Terri Pothier, Leonard Atherton, Velmer Headley and Edgar Murdoch; Oscar Peterson performed in June 1979 and Dinah Christie and John Butler also presented a concert. Also included are articles about Stuart Laughton, Tak ng Lai, Christopher Adey, Wallace Laughton and Tim Phelan, 1 b&w photo, 1978-1979
- 4.1 In the 32nd season, 1979-1980, the Master Series presented: Arthur Ozolins, pianist; Shulamit Mor, pianist; and Michael Tansley, baritone. The Celebrity Series featured: Susan Brinkman; Eleanor Braun, flautist; and Rose Bandi, soprano. The Pops Series included: Climax Jazz Band; Monica Gaylord; Velmer Headley and Terri Pothier, soprano. There were unfounded rumours that the Symphony was folding, 1979-1980
- 4.2 The *H.M.S. Pinafore* was presented in October of 1979. The Messiah of 1979 featured Rose Bandi, soprano; Catherine Robbin, mezzo-soprano; James McLean, tenor and Joel Katz, baritone, 1979-1980
- 4.3 Jerry Weiss, violinist was featured in a December 1979 concert. A Symphony Trio was made up of Jerry Weiss; Marsh Moffitt, cellist and Shulamit Mor, pianist. Conductor Howard Cable conducted Broadway hits in January of 1980. *Peter and the Wolf* and *Tubby the Tuba* were narrated by Don McCullough in the same month. The Niagara Youth Orchestra concert featured Madhu Natarajan on piano, 1979-1980

- 4.4 The Niagara Youth Orchestra went to Alberta to participate in a festival. Victor Feldbrill was a guest conductor in a Brahms presentation which was dedicated to Vincent Needham who had been the President of the Niagara Symphony Association and former Director of the Niagara Regional Library System, 1979-1980
- 4.5 In the 33rd season, 1980-1981, the Great Masters Series presented: Anton Kuerti, pianist; Eleanor Braun, flautist; Alta Mayer, cellist and Rivka Mandelkern, violinist. The Celebrity Series featured: Marlene Dankiw, viola; Jerry Weiss, violinist; the Niagara Symphony Chorus; David Burstyn, horn and Stuart Laughton, trumpet. The Pops Series featured Howard Cable conducting show tunes; the Clan McFarlane Pipe Band with Joyce Hunter and Robert Graham; Pennie Speedie, soprano and *Fiedler's Favourites*. Special events included: Fred Willett and his Concert Band; Handel's *Messiah* featuring Rose Bandi, Terry Pothier, Velmer Headley and John Fanning. In May, the symphony showcased Bach's *Mass in B Minor* featuring Velmer Headley. Ian Spraggon became the new Symphony manager and Uri May was appointed as conductor the Niagara Symphony Orchestra in May of 1981, 1980-1981
- 4.6 In the 34th season, 1981-1982, the Pops Series included: *Carmen* with Roberto de Clara conducting; *Evening in Paris* with Glen Fast as the conductor; *Around the World*, conducted by Tak ng Lai; Peter Appleyard and *Gershwin's Greats* which featured Rose Bandi and John Fanning. In the Choral Concerts, a Christmas Choral Concert was held, as well as Mendelssohn's *Elijah*. The Symphony was told that it would have to turn professional in order to get any funding from the Canada Council. James Vincent Fusco debuted his *Symphonies in the Wilderness*. Uri Mayer is shown in a photograph and Symphony rehearsals are the focus of other photos, 13 b&w photos, 1981-1982
- 4.7 The 35th season, 1982-1983, included: Pops Series, *A Night at the Opera* conducted by Roberto de Clara; *The Wonderful World of Disney's Music* conducted by Dale Fawcett; *Big Band is Back* featuring the Bob Carpenter Orchestra; *The Proms – A British Tradition* conducted by Ermanno Florio and *On Broadway* conducted by Roberto de Clara. A Christmas Choral Concert was presented with Roberto de Clara conducting. Uri Mayer conducted the Great Masters Series which featured soloists: Douglas Finch, Stuart Laughton, Paule Prefontaine, violinist and Carmen Or. Lynn Blaser, soprano and David Fawcett, tenor were featured in the opening concert of the Pops Series. The final concert of the 1982-1983 series featured vocalist Donna Ellen Trifunovich, soprano. Ermanno Florio became the new music director and conductor of the symphony. James Fusco became the first Canadian composer to fill a whole program with his music at Carnegie Hall, 1982-1983
- 4.8 The 36th season, 1983-1984, included: Lev Berenshteyn, violinist; Katja Cerovsek, pianist and Adam Fellegi, pianist. The Seagram's Pops Series featured: *A Little Night Music* with Naomi Oliphant on piano; *Hooray for Hollywood*; *The Good Old Days* with the Treblaires and *Music of the Dance* with Donna Ellen Trifunovich, soprano. The Jazz/Big Band Series

featured the Rob McConnell Quintet, the Bob Carpenter Orchestra and Niagara College Jazz Band. The Symphony Orchestra is shown in the photograph, 1 col. photo, 1983-1984.

- 5.1 The 37th season, 1984-1985, included: the Masters' Series featuring: Valerie Weeks and David Zafer; Seagram's Pops included: *Pops Go Latin*; *Winter Wonderland*; *Music of Vienna* and *Best of Broadway* which was conducted by Howard Cable. Choral Concerts included *Music for the Four Seasons*; *Handel's Messiah* and *A Bach Celebration*, 1984-1985
- 5.2 The 38th and 39th seasons, 1985-1986 and 1986-1987, are included in this album. In the 38th season the Master's Series featured: Stuart Laughton, trumpet; Robert Aitken, flautist; and Martin Beaver, violinist. Seagram's Pops presented: *Pirates of Penzance*; *A Portrait of George* featuring Julie Hayes, pianist; *Swing-On Pops* featuring Rose Bandi-Spraggon, soprano and *A Musical Trip Around the World*. Choral Concerts were: *A Celebration of Christmas "Christus Natus Est"* and *Lovers Love the Spring*, both conducted by Ian Grundy. A Fusco work was premiered, *For an Immortal Beloved* in which Robert Aitken was the guest soloist. *Mozart's Requiem Mass* was dedicated to the memory of Robert Thompson who was a member of the Niagara Symphony Chorus for 24 years. A Niagara Symphony quiz is included. The 39th season included: Michael Rusinek, clarinetist and Hilbrand Borkent, fortepiano in the Great Masters Series. Seagram's Pops featured: *Autumn Serenade*; *A Christmas Wonderland*; *A Walk Through the British Isles* with Clan McFarlane and *Gotta Dance!* The Choral Concerts which were conducted by Ian Grundy included: *Rejoice in the Lamb*, *Durufle's Requiem* and *Ode to Joy*. Two city students: Heather Legg, harpist and Peter Solysiak, violinist were chosen for the National Youth Orchestra. Photographs feature a jazz quartet and a symphony display at Fonthill Library, 3 col. photos, 1985-1987
- 5.3 The 40th anniversary season of 1987-1988, presented the Seagram's Pops Concerts including: *Fiedler's Favourites*; *On with the Show* with soloists Ross Spraggon and John Fanning; *Spring Fever in January* and *H.M.S. Pinafore* with soloists from the Niagara Symphony Chorus. The Great Master's Series featured Alexandra Pohran, oboist; Corey Cerovskek, violinist and Deryck Aird, violinist. A commemorative supplement of the Niagara Symphony's 40th anniversary is enclosed. Bach's St. John Passion was presented in April and it featured Kathy Domoney, Anne McWatt, Thomas Goertz, Albert Greer and Michael Shade, 1987-1988
- 5.4 The 41st season, 1988-1989, featured: works by Rossini, Handel, Fusco, Sibelius, Mozart, Vaughan Williams, Bach, Beethoven, Haydn, Brahms and Tchaikovsky in the Great Master's Series. Featured were: Valerie Weeks, harpsichordist; Deryck Aird, violinist and Douglas Miller, flautist. In February 1989, Daniel Swift conducted *Flights of Fantasy* and in March of 1989, Jerome Summers conducted the *Wild West* as part of the Seagram's Pops Concerts. In April of 1989, Adrienne Pieczonka, soprano and Erik Oland,

baritone were featured in a Masters Concert. The Zephyr Wind Quintet and the Tempest Trio were in the Children's Carpet Concerts which were *La Bamba*; *Tempest in a Teapot* and *Peter and the Wolf*. The Seagram's Pops Concerts featured the Mantini Sisters. John Barnum conducted *A Wee Bit O' Burns* with the Clan McFarlane. Paul van Dongen, violinist was featured in an article about the Symphony. Choral Concerts consisted of: *O How Glorious!* and *A German Requiem*, 1988-1989

- 5.5 The 42nd season, 1989-1990, included: Choral Concerts: *Brass and Jubilation*, Spring Choral Concert and Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Requiem* all conducted by Robert Cooper. The Children's Carpet Concerts included: a singalong of *the Wizard of Oz*, a *Whirlwind Musical Tour of the World* and the *Sorcerer's Apprentice*. Great Masters Concerts featured Angela Hewitt, pianist and Ronald Richards on oboe. The Pops Concerts included: Don Harron and Catherine McKinnon; a *Family Pops Christmas*; *Music and the Erotic* and *All the World's Onstage*. The Designer's Showcase is featured in this album. The Youth Orchestra is shown in photographs, 16 col. photos, 1989-1990
- 5.6 The 43rd season, 1990-1991, included the performers Ofra Harnoy, cellist and Shannon Peet on the bassoon in the Great Masters Series. The Seagram's Pops Series consisted of: John Arpin on piano; *Bingo*, *Blue Eyes*, *Berlin* and *Buddies* and *Nights in the Gardens of Spain* with Daniel Swift as the conductor. The Family Concert Theatre presented: *Carnival of the Animals*; Bob Schneider and the Rainbow Kids and *Gulliver's Travels*. Robert Cooper directed the Choral Concerts *Sailing Away* and the *Creation*. The Flying Carpet Concerts consisted of: *Moby Dick*; *Peter and the Wolf* and the *Sorcerer's Apprentice*. *Don Quixote*, the *Nutcracker* and *Garfield* were listed as special events. The Symphony paid tribute to Jack Silverstein for 35 years of loyalty and service, 1990-1991
- 5.7 The 44th season, 1991-1992, The Great Masters Concerts featured: Christina Petrowska, pianist and Douglas Miller, flautist. The Pops Series included: New Orleans Connection, *Christmas Pops* and *British Invasion*. The Family Concert Theatre Series presented *The Reluctant Dragon* featuring The Gents and Monica Gaylord, pianist; *Hans Christian Anderson Stories and Delights* and *'Twas the Night before Christmas*. This season featured *The Five Hearts: A romantic musical* by James Vincent Fusco. In the Flying Carpet Series, *Gulliver's Travels* and *Carnival of Animals* were presented. The Niagara Symphony Chorus and Orchestra presented *Saint Nicholas* by Benjamin Britten with soloist Keith Boldt, tenor. Faure's *Requiem* was also performed. The Niagara Brass Ensemble did a broadcast on CBC. Photographs featured a post-concert reception for *The Five Hearts* and photographs of the Youth Orchestra, 18 col. photos, 1991-1992

Related Material:

RG 390 Niagara Symphony Orchestra fonds, 1926, 1948-2004, n.d. in Archives and Special Collections

RG 429 Carl M. Wolff fonds, 1933-1995, n.d. in Archives and Special Collections