



Champaign County Historical Archives

Compiled by: Janna Heuer, July 2013; Cassie Ward, November 2018

Creator/Corporate Name: Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra; Champaign-Urbana Symphony Guild

Inclusive Dates: 1960-2022

Physical Description: 4 boxes (2 linear ft.)

Language: English

Provenance:

The Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra collection materials were donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives in May 2009. Additional donations were made in 2017, 2018, and 2022.

Access:

These records are accessible to the public within applicable copyright restrictions and limited to use at the Champaign County Historical Archives of The Urbana Free Library.

Historical Note:

The Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra (CUSO) was originally founded as the Champaign-Urbana Civic Orchestra on February 13, 1960, to “provide cultural and educational musical concerts for the general public in and around the area of Champaign and Urbana, Illinois.” The Orchestra’s first performance occurred on October 20, 1960, conducted by Bernard Goodman in the Smith Music Hall. Goodman served as the CUSO’s first music director/conductor from 1960-1973. The Champaign-Urbana Symphony Guild was founded in May 1962 as a volunteer fundraising organization to support both the CUSO and music education through concerts for school children (which began during the Orchestra’s 4th season, 1964-65) and scholarships for the Illinois Summer Youth Music programs. The Guild holds annual balls or a dinner series as fundraisers. The CUSO began performing in the newly constructed Krannert Center during its 9th season, 1969-70. In 1974 the Orchestra acquired its second conductor/music director, Paul Vermel, who served until 1994. When Vermel retired, his position was taken up by Steve Larsen who served as the CUSO’s conductor/musical director until his retirement in 2012. Doctor Stephen Alltop is the current conductor/musical director. The CUSO celebrated its 25th anniversary season in 1985-1986 and its 50th season in 2009-2010.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection contains seasonally generated publications: including programs and special brochures, articles and reviews of concerts, and a commemorative 1970 Medallion. The bulk of the collection consists of the concert programs from each season, and various special concert brochures and ticket request forms. There are Symphony Guild annuals detailing the Guild membership lists, committee members, board members, etc., as well as a collection of flyers and brochures from Guild fundraisers. There is also an incomplete collection of newspaper clippings reviewing or discussing the concerts or artists involved in the productions from around 1974 to the present.

*Oversized flyers moved to Oversized Ephemera



Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra

Collection 54

Arrangement:

This collection is arranged by document type.

Subject Terms:

Symphony Orchestras

Names:

Champaign Urbana Civic Symphony Orchestra

Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra

Champaign Urbana Symphony Guild

Guild of the Champaign-Urbana Symphony

Container List:

Box 1

Envelope 1: Medallion, May 15, 1970

Folder 1: Advertisements, including 25th and 50th Anniversary, 1984, 1996, 2007-2009, 2013-2015

Folder 2: Annual Luncheon Programs, 1974-1977

Folder 3: Awards, 2022

Folder 4: Correspondence to Guild Members, 1975-1977

Folder 5: A Country Walk, Heart of the City, A Kitchen Walk, 1980, 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2008

Folder 6: Fanciful Fiddles Ticket Ordering, 2004

Folder 7: Floor Plan, undated

Folder 8: Financial Statements, 1977, 2007-2008

Folder 9: The Guild of the Champaign-Urbana Symphony, 2002-2016

Folder 10: Gift Instrument Endowment Form, 2013

Folder 11: Historical Information, 1996

Folder 12: Newspaper Clippings 1974-2001

Folder 13: Newspaper Clippings, 2002-2017

Folder 14: Soundings (CUSO Newsletter), 1976-1981

Folder 15: Sunday in the Park Materials, 1994

Folder 16: The Symphony Guild, 1963/64-1978/79

Folder 17: The Symphony Guild, 1979/80-1992/93

Folder 18: The Symphony Guild, 1993/94-1994/95, 1996/97-2008/09, 2010/11-2016/17

Folder 19: Symphony Guild Benefits, 1971, 1975-1976, 1978-1979, 1988, 2022

Folder 20: Symphony Guild Special Events, 1974, 1977-1979, 1981, 1988-1989, 2006, 2013

Folder 21: Symphony Guild Invitation Cards, 1974-1978

Folder 22: A Symphony of Homes Advertisements, 2013-2015

Folder 23: Symphony Guild News Clippings, 1976-1978, 1998, 2000, 2006

Box 2

Folder 1: Teacher's Guide for the Young People's Concert, 1966-1978, 1981-1984

Folder 2: Teacher's Guide for the Young People's Concert, 1985-1992

Folder 3: Teacher's Guide for the Young People's Concert, 1997, 2000-2001, 2003-2004, 2006 2008



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Folder 4: Ticket Ordering Forms, 1963/64, 1967/68-1994/95, 1997/98-2000/01, 2006/07-2008/09, 2013/14, 2015/16

Folder 5: Vintage Cars – A Symphony of Classics, 2005, 2007

Box 3

Folder 1: CUSO Concert Programs 1960/61-1971

Folder 2: CUSO Concert Programs 1971-1981

Folder 3: CUSO Concert Programs 1981 -1988

Folder 4: CUSO Concert Programs 1988-1991

Folder 5: CUSO Concert Programs 1991-1992

Folder 6: CUSO Concert Programs 1993-1995

Folder 7: CUSO Concert Programs 1995-1997

Folder 8: CUSO Concert Programs 1997-1999

Box 4

Folder 1: CUSO Concert Programs 1999-2001

Folder 2: CUSO Concert Programs 2001-2003

Folder 3: CUSO Concert Programs 2003-2004, 2006-2007

Folder 4: CUSO Concert Programs 2007-2009

Folder 5: CUSO Concert Programs 2009-2013 (2010/11 concert season missing)

Folder 6: CUSO Concert Programs 2013-2015

Folder 7: CUSO Concert Programs 2015-2017

Folder 8: CUSO Concert Programs 2018-2022

Folder 9: Family Concert Programs, 1987-1994, 2006-2008