



M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives

Pessl-Sobotka, Yella; Collection ger073

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English

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Summary Information

Repository:	M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives
Creator:	Pessl, Yella, 1906-1991
Title:	Yella Pessl Papers
ID:	ger073
Date [inclusive]:	1918-1979
Physical Description:	13 cubic ft.
Physical Location:	The materials are located onsite in the department.
Language of the Material:	English
Language of the Material:	EnglishGerman
Abstract:	This collection documents the musical career of Yella Pessl, a harpsichordist, pianist and organist.

Preferred Citation

Preferred citation for this material is as follows:

Identification of specific item, series, box, folder, Yella Pessl Papers, 1918-1979. M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University at Albany, State University of New York (hereafter referred to as the Pessl Papers).

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Biographical History

Gabriella Pessl Sobotka was a harpsichordist, pianist and organist who performed under the name Yella Pessl. Born in Vienna, she had a musical career in Europe before immigrating to the United States in 1931.

Pessl was best known for her interpretations of Bach and was founder and director of the Bach Circle, a New York group specializing in lesser-known works of Bach and other Baroque composers. Pessl toured

extensively in the United States, performing in as a soloist and with orchestras. She also had her own radio program and was on the faculty of Columbia University.

Pessl died at the age of 85 in 1991 in Northhampton, Mass. Her husband, Dr. Harry Sobotka, predeceased her in 1970.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains Yella Pessl's correspondence, 1930-79; musical manuscripts, arrangements, and fingered sheet music, primarily of the keyboard works of J. S. Bach, undated; scrapbooks pertaining to her concert career, 1924-56; 78 commercial and private recordings of her performances on harpsichord and piano, primarily from the 1940s and 1950s; and printed materials.

The collection also contains 194 12-inch records, 39 10-inch records by Pessl. In addition, there are 50 12-inch records and 16 10-inch records either not by Pessl or unidentifiable.

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Arrangement of the Collection

The collection is not processed. Some boxes are described at the box level. Others are described at the item level.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives

Revision Description

Converted to EAD Encoded in EAD by Jodi Boyle 2015 December 2015

Processing Information

Processed in 2003 December by M. E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives, University at Albany, SUNY.

Acquisition Information

The M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives acquired this collection from Yella Pessl-Sobotka1978

Access

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Controlled Access Headings

- Music
- World War, 1939-1945 -- Refugees
- Women musicians
- Scores
- Correspondence
- Clippings

- Concert programs
- 78 rpm records
- Scrapbooks
- Pessl, Yella, 1906-1991

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Large navy scrapbook with clippings, programs. Numerous inserts <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1952-1956	Box 1 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 1
Beige scrapbook with clippings, programs <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1946-1947	Box 1 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 2
Large black and gold scrapbook with clippings, programs <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1945	Box 1 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 3
Large brown scrapbook with clippings <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1943-1944	Box 1 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 4
Large brown scrapbook with black design with clippings, programs <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1942	Box 1 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 5
Large manilla folder scrapbook with clippings, programs <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1941	Box 1 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 6
Large black scrapbook with clippings <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1940 July 15 - 1941 February 3	Box 1 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 7
Scrapbooks, loose clippings <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 2 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 1
Large black scrapbook with clippings, programs <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1940	Box 2 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 2
Black scrapbook with clippings, programs <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1939	Box 2 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 3
Clippings in manilla envelope, mainly duplicates of scrapbook clippings. <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1938-1939	Box 2 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 4
Large brown scrapbook with clippings, programs <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1938	Box 2 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 5
Black scrapbook with clippings, programs	Box 2 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 6

<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1936-1937		
Scrapbook with no cover. Clippings, some programs <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1935-1938	Box 2 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 7
Small gray/black mottled scrapbook. Programs, clippings <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1931-1932	Box 2 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 8
Small brown and tan scrapbook. Clippings, programs. 1924-1935. 60p. <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1924-1935	Box 2 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 9
Clippings until 1930. Clippings in brown manilla envelope <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1920s <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1930	Box 2 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 10
Miscellaneous clippings over many years <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 2 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 11
Clippings concerning Yella Pessl, Susanne Bloch and Carl Dolmetsch <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1936 March 17	Box 2 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 12
Miscellaneous clippings in manilla folder <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1937	Box 2 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 13
Miscellaneous programs <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1930s-1970s	Box 3 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 1
Program outlines. Columbia Broadcasting Systems <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1940-1941	Box 3 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 2
Austrian programs and concert reviews <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1930s	Box 3 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 3
Bach Circle programs <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1937-1947	Box 3 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 4
List of materials in collection, as compiled by Yella Pessl <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 4 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 1
Curriculum vita, autobiographical materials <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 4 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 2
2 small notebooks <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 4 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 3
Miscellaneous notes <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 4 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 4
Bach Circle correspondence, materials	Box 4 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 5

<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated		
Correspondence file J <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 4 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 6
Correspondence file L <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 4 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 7
Correspondence file M <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 4 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 8
Correspondence, concert season <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1944-1945	Box 4 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 9
Correspondence, management <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1946-1947	Box 4 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 10
Miscellaneous correspondence <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1930s-1970s	Box 4 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 11
Fan mail and other miscellaneous correspondence <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1940s	Box 4 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 12
Die Schule. Eine Komdie von Jella Pessl dem Vater zu seinem Geburtstag <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1918 November 23	Box 4 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 13
An Example of North-American Figured Bass Practices as Illustrated by the Notebook of Amy van Vleck. Also 3 reproductions from the notebook of Amy Van Vleck. <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 4 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 14
Articles by Pessl <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 4 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 15
Interview <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 4 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 16
Press book <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 4 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 17
Contracts <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 4 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 18
Photographs of Yella Pessl, some duplicates <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 4 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 19
Miscellaneous offprints, musical subjects <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 4 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 20
Summer resort advertisements	Box 4 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 21

<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated		
Miscellaneous forms <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 4 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 22
Miscellaneous materials <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 4 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 23
Etchings <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 4 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 24
Student papers <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 4 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 25
[Hyde, Fred]. "Mersenne's Role in the History of the Tempered Tuning of Instruments" <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 4 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 26
[Hyde, Fred]. "Chapter I: Mersenne, The Man; His Life." Also notes, presumably by Pessl <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 4 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 27
Miscellaneous catalogs <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 4 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 28
Music scores <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 5 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 1
Music scores <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 6 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 1
Music scores <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 7 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 1
Music scores <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 8 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 1
Music scores <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 9 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 1
Music scores <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 10 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 1
Music scores <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 11 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 1
Music scores <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 12 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 1
Music scores		

<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 13 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 1
Music scores <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 14 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 1
Music scores <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 15 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 1
Music scores <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 16 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 1
Music scores <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 17 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 1
Music scores <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 18 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 1
Music scores <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 19 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 1
Music scores <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 20 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 1
Scores, reel-to-reel tapes, microfilms, slides <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> Undated	Box 21 (Yella Pessl Papers)	Folder 1