

ETHEL LEGINSKA (1886-1970)

Ethel Leginska (Ethel Liggins) was born in Hull, Yorkshire, England on April 13th, 1886. Her early performances as a child prodigy garnered attention and led to her being sponsored to study at the Hoch Conservatory of Music in Frankfurt, Germany. Her subsequent piano studies were with Leschetizky in Vienna. In keeping with other artists of her time who adopted Russian or Polish sounding names to advance their careers, she adopted the name Leginska. After her studies, her concert activities took her throughout Europe, and then to the United States, where she made her New York debut in 1913. Her many recital appearances over the next decade included numerous appearances at Carnegie and Aeolian Halls where she presented an eclectic repertoire. After studies in music theory and composition with Rubin Goldmark and Ernest Bloch, she composed chamber and orchestral works in the 1920s and 1930s that were performed by leading chamber and symphonic ensembles at a time when works by female composers were rarely performed. Her trailblazing career as a conductor began with a debut with the New York Symphony Orchestra in 1925, followed by engagements as a guest conductor with many of the world's most important orchestras. In addition to her engagements conducting symphonic repertoire, she was the first female conductor to establish a significant career conducting opera. Her career as a teacher began in New York City and continued after she moved to Los Angeles in 1939, where she established an important piano studio. Her students were presented in recital series that encompassed the major works of the piano repertoire, such as the complete Well-Tempered Clavier of Bach, the 32 Beethoven Sonatas, and the complete works of Chopin. Ethel Leginska died in Los Angeles on February 20th, 1970.

Series Description:

Series I- Scrapbooks

Series II- Photos, Books/Tributes

Series III- Correspondence

Series IV- Personal Music Collection

Series V- Recordings

Series VI- Other

Box 1: Leginska's Career Scrapbook (1905-1960)

1. 1905-1915
 - a. Press opinions (Greater London, England; NY, US; Germany)
 - b. Tours (Germany; France)
 - c. Concert Programs (Germany; NY and CT, US)
 - d. Posters (NY, US)
 - e. Newspaper (NY, US)
2. 1915-1916
 - a. Newspaper Cuttings with reviews, interviews, cartoons
 - b. Roll Record Pamphlet

- c. Picture
 - d. Concert Programs
 - e. Stage Map
 - f. NY, IL, OH, OR, MA, MI, PA, MO, ME
3. 1916-1917
- a. Concert Programs
 - b. Newspaper Reviews and Cuttings
 - c. Painting/print portrait of Leginska
 - d. Concert Posters
 - e. Letter with signatures
 - f. Telegram
 - g. NY, MA, MI, OH, SC, TX, OR, Cuba
4. 1917-1918
- a. Newspaper cuttings
 - b. Magazines
 - c. Programs
 - d. Reviews
 - e. Letters with signatures
 - f. List of concerts for the month of March 1917
 - g. Telegram
 - h. NY, D.C., KS, GA, Germany, MD, IL, PA, OH, MI
5. 1918-1919
- a. Programs
 - b. Newspaper Cuttings
 - c. Press notices and reviews
 - d. NY, RI, IL, MA, ME, D.C., PA
6. 1919-1922
- a. Concert programs
 - b. Signature
 - c. Newspaper clippings
 - d. Posters
 - e. Reviews
 - f. Pictures of Leginska and New York String Quartet
 - g. Posters of Leginska's pupils
 - h. MI, NY, GA, OH, PA, NV, D.C., MA
7. 1922-1924
- a. Programs, photo, newspaper articles for Leginska's pupil Evelione Taglione
 - b. Press and programs for Leginska's pupils
 - c. Newspaper clippings about Leginska's *compositions*
 - d. Programs
 - e. Concert Posters
 - f. Reviews and criticisms
 - g. Telegram

- h. Photograph of Leginska
- i. NY, MA, Germany, MO, NV, England, Italy
- 8. 1924-1925
 - a. Concert programs
 - b. Newspaper Reviews and Interviews
 - c. Telegraph and Radiograph
 - d. Press about *conducting*
 - e. Concert Posters
 - f. Photographs
 - g. 1923 article
 - h. Programs and posters of Phoebe Monvel
 - i. NY, Germany, France, England, London
- 9. 1925-1927
 - a. Reviews
 - b. Concert Programs: conducting London, LA, Boston, NYC Orchestras
 - c. Newspaper clippings
 - d. Telegram
 - e. Letter from The Woman's Symphony Orchestra of Chicago
 - f. Photograph
 - g. Envelope with The Boston Philharmonic Orchestra/Ethel Leginska, Conductor
 - h. NY, Germany, MA, VA, FL, NV, London, MI, OH
- 10. 1927-1929
 - a. Programs
 - b. Newspaper clippings
 - c. Pencil sketch of Leginska by Chicago concert listener
 - d. Magazine page
 - e. Poster
 - f. Concert Reviews
 - g. Card with picture of Leginska conducting Woman's Symphony Orchestra of Chicago
 - h. Press documents
 - i. Tour dates of conducting
 - j. Photos of Woman's Symphony Orchestra musicians
 - k. MA, NY, MO, PA, OH, MI, WI, VA, D.C., IL
- 11. 1929
 - a. Application for membership to Womans Symphony Orchestral Association of Chicago
 - b. Programs
 - c. Newspaper clippings
 - d. Transcripts
 - e. Photo of Leginska
 - f. Concert Poster
 - g. IL, MO, VA, AR, GA, TN, IN, KY, NY, MD, D.C.

12. 1930-1932
 - a. Concert programs
 - b. Newspaper clippings
 - c. Concert reviews
 - d. Concert Poster
 - e. Magazine article
 - f. Letter from Charles Wagner
 - g. IL, MA, Czechoslovakia, Austria, NY, England, Cuba
13. 1932-1940
 - a. Newspaper clippings
 - b. Concert Programs
 - c. Concert Reviews
 - d. Concert Poster
 - e. Steinway advertisement featuring Leginska
 - f. Photographs
 - g. Press transcripts
 - h. Press reviews
 - i. Crossword with Leginska's name as answer
 - j. Radiogram
 - k. Lessons advertisement
 - l. Magazine article
 - m. NY, MO, TX, Cuba, Canada, IL, D.C., CA

Box 2: Student Scrapbook (1939-1947)

1. 1939-1942
 - a. Newspaper advertisement for Leginska's studio
 - b. Student press comments
 - c. Newspaper Clippings
 - d. Leginska studio recital program
 - e. Handwritten letter
 - f. The Leginska Little Symphony Orchestra programs
 - g. Magazine pages
 - h. Concert posters
 - i. Photographs of the Campbell children
 - j. Ralph Pierce, Gloria Greene, Jacqueline and Eugene Campbell, Marguerite Baum, Beverly Carmen
2. 1942-1943
 - a. Press Reviews
 - b. Student programs
 - c. Student press reviews
 - d. Magazine clippings
 - e. Postcard to Leginska
 - f. Radiogram

- g. Program with Lucille Oliver's students
 - h. Ralph Pierce, Suzanne Johnson, Viana Bey, Suzanne Gayner, Daniel Pollack, Norma Gordon, Neysa Dickinson
3. 1944
- a. Student press reviews
 - b. Student programs
 - c. Student posters
 - d. Music competition press
 - e. Letter from Josephine Villa
 - f. Letter from Howard Swan
 - g. Letter from J.P. Hayes
 - h. Letter from Carrie Jacobs Bond
 - i. Photograph of Gloria Greene at the piano with Leginska and two men
 - j. Gloria Greene, Neysa Dickinson, Viana Bey, Ralph Pierce, George Cassady, Marguerite Baum
4. 1945
- a. Newspaper clippings
 - b. Student Programs
 - c. Student Poster
 - d. Press reviews
 - e. Letters regarding students' performances
 - f. Viana Bey, Gloria Greene, Virginia French, Marguerite Baum,
5. 1946-1947
- a. Radiogram
 - b. Letter from Charles Cadman
 - c. Christmas card from Charles Wakefield Cadman
 - d. Photograph of Josephine Rodriguez
 - e. Student Programs
 - f. Student Press Reviews
 - g. Viana Bey, Lucille Oliver, Marguerite Baum, Marilyn Neeley, Richard Ellis, Josephine Rodriguez, George Cassady

Box 3: Student Scrapbook

1. 1946-1947
- a. Letters to Leginska
 - b. Telegram
 - c. Carrie Jacobs Bond Memorial Service
 - d. Photo of Leginska
 - e. Student programs, posters, and press reviews
 - i. Marilyn Neeley
 - ii. Neysa Dickinson
 - iii. Josephine Rodriguez
 - iv. Viana Bey

- v. Ralph Pierce
 - vi. Barbara Dell Culver
 - vii. Lucille Oliver
 - viii. Gloria Greene
 - ix. John Pfalzgraff
2. 1947-1948
- a. Leginska Studio Reviews
 - b. Handwritten letter
 - c. Student programs, posters, and press reviews
 - i. Anne Louise Ware
 - ii. Barbara Dell Culver
 - iii. John Pfalzgraff
 - iv. Howard Lindholm
 - v. Marilyn Neeley
 - vi. Marguerite Heller
 - vii. Viana Bey
 - viii. Lester Donahue
 - ix. Ralph Pierce
 - x. Richard Ellis
 - xi. Gloria Greene
3. 1948-1949
- a. Newspaper Reviews
 - b. Leginska Little Symphony poster and programs
 - c. Letter from The Buffalo Philharmonic
 - d. Leschetizky article mentioning Leginska
 - e. Photographs of Leginska and students after Little Symphony Concert
 - f. Edward MacDowell newspaper tribute
 - g. Student programs, posters, and press reviews
 - i. Gloria Green
 - ii. Marianne Lewis
 - iii. Richard Ellis
 - iv. Lucille Oliver
 - v. Barbara Dell Culver
 - vi. Ralph Pierce
 - vii. Marguerite Heller
 - viii. Marilyn Dickie
 - ix. Lyle Kennedy
 - x. Neysa Dickinson
 - xi. Jack Moe
 - xii. Lillian Grove
 - xiii. Ronald McFarland
 - xiv. Adrienne Allert
 - xv. George Cassady

- xvi. Anne Ware
- xvii. Bruce Sutherland
- 4. 1949
 - a. Newspaper clippings
 - b. Lucille Oliver piano studio announcement
 - c. School Concert Fundraiser in newspaper announcements
 - d. AJ and Carrie Balaban
 - e. Letter to Leginska
 - f. Studio recital programs
 - g. Leginska Little Symphony Poster
 - h. Student programs, poster, press reviews
 - i. Marilyn Neeley
 - ii. Peggy Constance
 - iii. Marguerite Heller
 - iv. Bruce Sutherland
 - v. Alfred Purcell
 - vi. Marilyn Dickie
 - vii. Alexander Kosloff
- 5. 1950
 - a. Studio Recital program
 - b. Newspaper clippings
 - c. Ballet Variante
 - i. Mia Slavenska poster with autograph
 - ii. Henrietta Pelta letter and picture
 - iii. Richard Ellis
 - iv. Autograph of ballet dancer Nikita Talin
 - d. Letter from Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra
 - e. LA Breakfast club Magazine clipping
 - f. Hollywood Bowl Magazine
 - g. Student programs, poster, press reviews
 - i. Marilyn Neeley
 - ii. Ralph Pierce
 - iii. Richard Ellis
 - iv. Josephine Rodriguez
 - v. Anne Ware

Box 4: Photos, Books/Tributes

Photos

1. Photo: Leginska portrait (8x10)
2. Photo: Leginska hands on piano (8x10)
3. Photo: Lucille Oliver (student and friend) portrait (8x10)

4. Print Picture: Leginska with baton (biography on opposite side from Sound Waves: Hollywood Bowl Museum Catalogue)
5. Photo: Leginska on ship shaking hands with 2 men (8x10)
6. Note: Hedda Hopper to Leginska (1/18/1940), Postcard: to Leginska, Photos: 1 with Leginska on left, 1 with Leginska center, front-facing
7. Autograph: Cunard Line menu with W. Somerset Maugham's signature (9/27/1923)
8. Note: Louis Gruenberg to Leginska (10/15/1940)
9. Note: Gladys Lloyd Robinson to Leginska (6/24/1940)

Books and Tributes

1. Book: tribute to Leginska, pages 36-37 of Sound Waves: Hollywood Bowl Museum (March 1986)
2. Book: "A Gypsy Demon Possessed the Little Woman": Ethel Leginska, Chapter 6 in "Women Performing Music" by Macleod
3. Copy of "A Gypsy Demon Possessed the Little Woman": Ethel Leginska
4. Print: Press Opinions of Leginska "Mme Ethel Leginska: Piano Virtuoso, Orchestra Conductor, Composer, Piano Pedagogue"
5. Printer copy: Relaxation of the Keynote of Modern Piano Playing, quotes Leginska
6. Print: Los Angeles Philharmonic "Ethel Leginska: A Centennial Celebration"

Leschetizky (Leginska's Teacher)

1. Book: My Life and Music by Artur Schnabel, page 15 mentions Leschetizky
2. Book: Leschetizky As I Knew Him by Ethel Newcomb
3. Book: The Groundwork of the Leschetizky Method by Malwine Bree (2/24/1902)
4. Magazine: The Piano Teacher (Jan/Feb 1963) Impact of Leschetizky page 3
5. Poster: International Music Conservatory Theodor Leschetizky (1998)
6. Book: The Great Pianists by Harold Schonberg

Compositions

1. Sheet music: "3 Victorian Portraits" by Ethel Leginska (1959)

Box 5: Correspondence

Correspondence (Letters/postcards/telegrams)

1. James (Jimmie) Lynch to Leginska
 2. Leginska to Joanna Hodges
- 1a. Postcard: sent from Florence, Italy on July 13
 - 1b. Postcard: picture of Venezia Palazzo Vendramin
 - 1c. Letter: from Lily M. []
 - 2a. Letter: from The British Broadcasting Corporation on 2/19/1936
 - 2b. Letter from Mrs. J. Henry Orme (President, MacDowell Club of Allied Arts, 11/13/43)

- 3a. Postcard: from Florence, Italy on March 31, 1935 to Ethel and Lucile
- 4a. Letter: from W. J. Thorold, managing director of The British National Trust Limited, 4/27/1923
- 5a. Letter: from Mary Cheriton, 2/18/1937
- 6a. Letter: from Lady Swaythling, 30.3.30
- 7a. Envelope: from Mrs. C.V. Barton in New York
- 7b. Letter: from Jessie C. Barton on 3/12/1918
- 9a. Letter: from Mildred H.
- 9b. Letter: Blythe Hall Ormskirk Lancashire to Leginska
- 10a. Letter: Ida [Mamhel] on 6/9/1903
- 11a. Letter: from Edith E. Ohlson on 2/27/1936
- 11b. Letter: from Florence, Italy on 6/10/1933
- 12a. Letter: from Cedric Villiers Whithorne to mother on 5/15/1918
- 13a. Envelope: addressed to Leginska on 10/21/1921
- 13b. Letter: from Boris Hambourg 15/1/02 with Beethoven sonata in A dur written at the top
- 14a. Letter: from Madelon on 10/20/1921
- 15a. Letter: from Boris Hambourg from The Strathmore
- 17a. Letter: from Robert Keger on 20.21.61
- 18a. Letter: University of California Department of Music Luke Foy 10/25/1961
- 18b. Letter: Walter Damrosch on 11/4/1921
- 19a. Copy of Divorce Letter: from Tolles, Hogsett, Ginn & Morley to Frank A.K. Boland 7/12/1917
- 21a. Letter: from Tobey sent on Tuesday
- 21b. Postcard: from Florence, Italy on 4/7/1935
- 23a. Letter: from Landon Ronald from The Guildhall School of Music and Drama on 1/31/1936
- 24a. Letter: from Lilian Baylis on 11/12/35
- 25a. Letter: from Josef Hof[] on 12/30/1919
- 27a. Note: with sketch of staff from Ernest Schelling

- 27b. Postcard: Fannie Bloomfield Zeisler 1/18/1922 with pictures of medal
- 29a. Letter: 20/7/62 from Rober Keger
- 30a. Letter: from H. Bauer from The Beethoven Association, 4/11/1945
- 31a. Letter: Conservatoire Americain [L. Philipp] on 28 of April
- 31b. Autograph on rectangular paper
- 32a. Letter: Frederick A. Stockliff on 9/20/1928
- 33a. Envelope: addressed to Leginska
- 33b. Letter: G.M. Beckett, Secretary to Director of Music at The British Broadcasting Corporation on 4/21/1936
- 34a. Letter: Fannie Bloomfield Beisler on 6/3/1926
- 35a. Telegram: Amy Johnson to Ethel Leggins
- 36a. Postcard: 5/2/1916 from San Antonio, Texas
- 36b. Postcard: from Suffolk from Lucie W. with Grand Piano on front
- 37a. Note: Ritz-Carlton Hotel 11/1/1923
- 39a. Note: Edward Royce 6/23/1918
- 40a. Postcard: 1934 Carlo Wein[berg]
- 41a. Telegram: 2/1/1925 from Miss Edna Hoffman
- 41b. Postcard: picture of street scene on front
- 42a. Note card: 2/23/1957 with picture of a woman at the piano
- 43a. Note: Mrs. George Brewster Mathews 2/15
- 43b. Note: 6/28 "We were delighted to hear from you..."
- 45a. Note: April 3 Chicago, Illinois
- 47a. Letter: R.L.B. Wimbush, 3/31/1930
- 48a. Letter: 10 March 1901 with blue ink
- 49a. Letter: from Julius Hartt from The Hartford Times
- 51a. Postcard: Florence, Italy 9/3/1930
- 51b. Postcard: 9/1/1922 from Christine and Daddy, with picture of Leginska's father's home
- 52a. Letter: 2/27/1930 with flag stamp in top left corner
- 53a. Letter: from Cedric Villiers Whithorne to his mother on 9/27/1917

- 55a. Letter: from Christine, 4 pages front and back
- 56a. Envelope: addressed to Leginska from Liggins
- 56b. Newspaper clipping: Obituary of Mr. T.E. Liggins, 24/1928
- 57a. Letter: Addressed to Daisy, 8/23
- 58a. Envelope with a signature
- 59a. Postcard: to Ethel Liggins from Boris Hambourg
- 59b. Letter: from Edith E. Ohlson on 2/9/1936
- 61a. Letter: 6/15/36 from Broadway, Worcestershire
- 62a. Letter: from Sergei Klibansky 7/28
- 63a. Letter: 4 pages from Mildred H.
- 63b. Postcard: from Daddy to Ethel, 8/18/1927
- 64a. Magazine clipping: Emerson Whithorne portrait, photo by Aime Dupont
- 65a. Envelope: Urgent at top in pencil, addressed to Miss Leginska
- 66a. Card: 1918 Christmas card "to the great Leginska"
- 66b. Note: 23 Elm Park Gardens Chelsea S.W.10 London
- 67a. Letter: Mildred H. in Chicago
- 67b. Newspaper clipping: 11/24/1917 "Whithorne's Music Winning Favor"
- 69a. Envelope: Leopold Stokowski to Leginska
- 69b. Letter: from Katharine Browne from Boston Spa, Yorkshire 30.1.33
- 71a. Letter: typed from dictation on May 14, 1937
- 73a. Letter: from [] Scott, from Parkside, Wykeham Road, Worthing
- 74a. Postcard: Mrs. Roy Whithorne signed K.D.
- 74b. Postcard: from [] Marie on 4/3
- 74c. Envelope: addressed to Miss Leginska
- 75a. Letter: From Lilian Baylis 19/3/36
- 76a. Postcard: Salzburg 8/7/1937
- 76b. Postcard: Boris Hambourg 2/8
- 77a. Letter: 27/12/17 from [] Louie

- 79a. Envelope: addressed to Leginska from London
- 79b. Letter: 3/8/22 from Beatrice D.
- 81a. Letter: From M. Stinson, Secretary to Mr. Julius Rosenwald of Sears, Roebuck and Co.,
11/2/1928
- 82a. Letter: Blue ink 6/1/1901
- 82b. Letter: 4/23/1902 signed E.[J.]
- 83a. Letter: from Lillian Hart Trefon 11/8/1923
- 85a. Postcard: from Florence, Italy 8/28
- 85b. Postcard: signed C.V.W (Cedric Villiers Whithorne)
- 85c. Booklet: Clara Sohy signature inside
6/28/1901
- 86a. Letter: from Tobey 2/24/1936
- 86b. Postcard: picture of The Doge's palace in Venice on front
- 87a. Leginska holding a baton. Autograph addressed to John B. Signed in 2/10/1970

Photocopies of correspondence

1. Letter: from Josef Hof[] on 12/30/1919
2. Letter: to Ethel Liggins from Leopold Godowsky
3. Letter: from Leschetizky to Ethel, 11/29/1900
4. Letter and Envelope: from Benners 7/12/1922
5. Letter and Envelope: from Bruno Walter 1924
6. Letter: typed from Dr. Bruno Walter 7/31/1961
7. Letter: sent from Piccadilly Hotel on 3/29/1939
8. Letter: from Myrna Hess, sent from The Saint Hubert
9. Letter: in French written 3/30/38
10. Letter: in French written 3/10/38
11. Letter: in French written 4/11/1925 (2 copies)
12. Letter: from Gustav Holst in 3/10/1922
13. Letter: from Arnold Bax in 6/27/22
14. Letter: in 1920 from Ernest Bloch
15. Postcard and Envelope: from Ernest Bloch from New Hampshire
16. Letter: from Ernest Bloch in 7/27/1920
17. Letter: from Pierre Monteux on 12/24/1923
18. Letter: from Darius Milhaud
19. Letter: with staff and notes on 4/23/1901
20. Letter: from Ernest Bloch on Saturday
21. Letter: from George Eastman on 1/7/1925

22. Registration Certificate: Ethel Whittern with picture and signature
23. Letter: from Maurice Ravel in 12/7/21

Box 6: Personal Music Collection (scores, books)

1. Schubert - Sonaten II (Peters)
2. Schumann - Works for the Pianoforte (Schirmer)
3. Chopin - Works for the Pianoforte (Schirmer)
4. Albeniz - Leyenda (The Boston Music Company)
5. Czerny - Schule der Geläufigkeit, Op. 299 (Peters)
6. Liszt - Rapsodie No. 17 (G. Ricordi & Co.)
7. Brahms - Concerto in D minor for the piano, Op. 15 (Schirmer)
8. MacDowell - Second Concerto in D Minor for Piano, Op. 23 (Schirmer)
9. MacDowell - 3rd Sonata for Pianoforte, Op. 57 (Schmidt)
10. Brahms - Concerto in D minor for Piano and Orchestra (Peters)
11. Etude: the music magazine (7/18/1750)
12. Debussy - The Sunken Cathedral (Durand)
13. Mozart – Concerto in A Major
14. Liszt – Etudes d’execution transcendante (Durand)
15. Bach - Partitas Book II (Schirmer)
16. Chopin – Fugue in A minor (Metzler)
17. Cavalleria Rusticana (Schirmer), Opera Score

Recordings

Records

1. (a) Etude in F sharp major (Arensky), (b) Shadow Dance (MacDowell)
2. (a) Etude in F Sharp Major, (b) Shadow Dance
3. Masterworks Schubert impromptus, Op. 142 for Pianoforte by Ethel Leginska (Columbia Records)

CD

1. Ethel Leginska: The Complete Columbia Masters

Music Roll

1. The Blue Danube played by Leginska (Ampico Record, 53927-K, Shulz-Evler)

Cassette Tapes (Box 4)

1. Leginska teaching Lisa Sityar Fugue in B flat major from W.T.C. Book 1
2. Leginska 2nd and 3rd movement of Beethoven’s Sonata, Op. 2 #2 AND 1967 Leginska performing her own compositions gargoyles of Notre Dame and Scherzo [...]
3. Leginska teaching Chopin/Beethoven to student

Other

1. Conductor Batons
2. Pedal Extension (Leginska's design)
 - a. See its use in newspaper article 1948 in 2nd student scrapbook
3. Leginska's Personal Career Scrapbook (1905-1940)