Kansas City/Local Area Fine Arts Programs Collection

This collection contains fine arts programs from numerous sources in the metro Kansas City area. It is an open collection and new programs are added as they become available.

**Descriptive Summary**

**Creator:** Missouri Valley Special Collections  
**Title:** Kansas City/Local Area Fine Arts Programs collection  
**Dates:** circa 1880-  
**Size:** 60+ linear feet, boxes and bound volumes  
**Location:** SC66

**Administrative Information**

**Restrictions on access:** Unrestricted access.

**Acquisition information:** Artificial collection, parts acquired at various times.

**Custodial history:** Many of the bound programs came from the library's Reference Department, many loose programs came from the department's vertical files, received individual donations over the years. Some accession numbers include: #1998-46, #2001-12, #2001-47, #2003-01.

**Citation note:** Kansas City/Local Area Fine Arts Programs collection (SC66), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

**Collection Description**

**Scope and content note**

The Fine Arts/Theatre programs assembled for this collection are contained, at the time of re-processing, in 66 pamphlet boxes, 27 oversize boxes, and 109 bound volumes. The collection is designed to be added to as additional programs are acquired through donation and department acquisition.

At the time of processing, an effort was made to gather all the programs presently found in the Main branch of the Kansas City Public Library. These included classed, primarily bound programs found in the Central Reference department as well as in Special Collections. The vertical files found in Special Collections were also checked and a few programs were also found in the department’s area of unprocessed special collections.

The programs have been arranged alphabetically by theater name, theater group name, or sponsoring fine arts series. Within these groupings, the programs are arranged chronologically. For those programs in which no date could be determined, a “n.d.” folder(s) has been placed at the end of each category’s dated programs. Those undated programs for theater plays have been placed in an alphabetical arrangement by play title and placed at the end of that category’s dated programs.

An alphabetical index of the three above named groupings is available with “see” and “see also” entries. When “see also” has been used with an entry, it means...
see the other categories listed for additional programs. This has been done especially for fine arts groups who played in various theaters or locations in the area. The dates are given in the index with each category name. When programs are housed in the oversize boxes, this is also noted in the index. There is no indexing of play titles, actors or actresses, writers, producers, etc.

The bulk of the programs cover the twentieth century. There are a few late nineteenth century ones, as those for the Coates House, Gillis House, Warder Grand, etc. A great deal of time was devoted to determining the exact year/date for the programs. Many of the early ones gave the month and day but not the year. With the help of a perpetual calendar, many dates were determined.

Most all of the programs in this collection are for Kansas City events, but there are additional programs for events in the metropolitan area including such areas as Independence, Missouri and Leavenworth, Kansas, and as far as Saint Louis, Missouri. Many of the early musical concerts were held in local churches and high school facilities and these have been included, arranged usually by church or school name. The programs in this collection are in no way all-inclusive but do provide good coverage of the major fine arts events. Some categories may include only 1 or 2 programs.

The Fritschy concert series programs have been left as a single category. Walter A. Fritschy was a local concertmaster who promoted his series, which brought to this area big name national and international talent during the circa 1906-1950s time period. He provided his concerts at reasonable prices and thus gave many in the area the opportunity to attend. They were held at various locations in Kansas City over the years. Another popular series was the Ruth Seufert Concerts and these may be found in the “Music Hall” category.

Most of the Special Collections department’s fine arts related material has now been placed in the SC 66 series. SC 66-1, 2, etc. contain primarily scrapbooks dealing with the arts and owned and maintained by various people. They were donated to the library over the past years. These scrapbooks supplement the loose programs found in SC 66 and should be consulted in order to gain a more thorough understanding of the fine arts scene in Kansas City over the last hundred plus years.

Collection Inventory

Theater Programs

Arranged alphabetically by theater, theater group, or place of performance, Inclusive dates are many times incomplete

Accent Theatre—n.d.

See also: Oversize: n.d.


See also: Oversize: 2005

See also: Kansas City Spotlight Magazine - 1987-1997

See also: Oversize, n.d.
See also: Fritschy Concert Series, Junior League- Follies, Kansas City Civic Grand Opera, Kansas City Drama League

See also: Horner Institute

(Listing of program presenters as follows: Conservatory of Music, Kansas City Concert Orchestra, Kansas City WPA Concert Orchestra, various sororities, Stephens College Faculty Quartet, Nora LaMar Moss, Chamber Orchestra, and Ouray Quartet)

The Auditorium Theatre—1890, 1893, 1897, 1900-1901, 1904-1907, 1910
See also: Oversize, 1893?
See also: Kansas City Music Club, Kansas City Symphony Orchestra, Kansas City Theatre

The Auditorium-RLDS—See RLDS-Auditorium

Ballet Productions—1934-1944
Bound (includes both local programs and New York programs)


Battenfield Auditorium—n.d.


Bellerive Hotel—1943

Benedictine College—1971-1974

Black Friars Little Theatre—See Little Theatre

Cathedral of Immaculate Conception—1971-1972, 1999

Capri Theatre—1971

Carleson Center—See: Johnson County Community College

Catholic Community Service—1958-1960


Central Junior High School—1930, 1934

Chanticleer Players—1924-1926, n.d.
See also: Oversize, 1924-1926
Chickering Hall—n.d.

Chorale Arts Ensemble of Kansas City—1985-1986

Circle Cabaret—See: Circle Theatre

Circle Theatre (at Union Station)—1962-1966, n.d.

City in Motion Dance Theatre—1991
See also: Folly Theatre

City Stage (at Union Station)—2000

Civic Choral Club (Kansas City, Kansas)—1926

Coach House Players—1965, n.d.

Coates Opera House—1877, 1879-1880, 1881, 1890, 1893, 1898-1900, n.d.
See also: Oversize, late 1800’s
See also: Kansas City Symphony Orchestra

College Faculty Players—n.d.

Community of Christ Auditorium - See RLDS Auditorium

Community of Christ, Dome and Spire Series—2006-

Community Christian Church—2005

Concert For Champions—See: American Royal

See also: Atkins Auditorium

See also: Oversize, 1926, “The Miracle”
See also: Fritschy Concert Series, Kansas City Philharmonic Orchestra, Kansas City Symphony Orchestra

Corbin Theatre Company—2005

Coterie Theatre—2000, 2008-2010
See also: Oversize: 1995

Country Club Christian Church—1971

Crown Center Friday Nite Concerts—1989

Cultural Education Center - See Johnson County Community College

Dempsey Piano School (St. Louis) - 1924
Dramatic League of Kansas City—1931-1932
Exposition Music Hall (St. Louis) – 1895-1896
First Baptist Church—1938, 1958
Ford's Theatre – 2009
Friends of Chamber Music—1989-1990
Bound, 1984-1993
See also: Oversize, 1996-1998, 2000-
Garden Theatre—1916
The Gayety—1920
Gem Theater—1998
Gorilla Theater Productions—2002-2003
Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral – 2008
Grace Episcopal Church - 1913
See also: Kansas City Symphony Orchestra
Heart of America Community Opera—1934
Heartland Men’s Chorus—2000, 2004-2005
Helen S. Thomes School of Dancing – See Ivanhoe Temple
Horner Institute of Fine Arts (Kansas City-Horner Conservatory)—1922, 1925-
1926, ca 1930’s; See also: Ivanhoe Temple
Independence Symphony Orchestra—1956-1959
See also: Oversize: 2002
Interpretive Talks on Modern Drama (Miss Maude Morrison)—1914-1915
See also: Fritschy Concert Series, Horner Institute, Kansas City
Symphony Orchestra, Kansas City Theatre
Jenkins Auditorium—1945
Includes voice pupils of Nora LaMar Moss and Kansas City Guild of
Music and Allied Arts Teachers recital
Jewish Community Center—2008-2009
See Also: Resident Theatre

See also: Stage Left Series
KC Spotlight Magazine 1987-1997

Johnson County Parks and Recreation Department—1974

Junior College of Kansas City—n.d.

Junior League-Follies—1920, 1925

Junior League-Children’s Theater—n.d.

Kansas City Art Institute (Epperson Hall)—1939, 1955, 1957


Kansas City Chamber Choir—1972, 1974

Kansas City Chamber Consort—1973
See also: Third Thursday Concert Series

Kansas City Chamber Orchestra— 1991-1992
See Also: Atkins Auditorium

See also: Oversize, 1997, 1999, 2009

Kansas City Circle Theatre—See Circle Theatre

See also: The Auditorium Theatre

See also: Oversize, 1961-1985

Kansas City Club—1891 (MISSING)

Kansas City (W.P.A.) Concert Orchestra—See Atkins Auditorium

Kansas City Drama League—1928

Kansas City Friends of Opera Association—1940

Kansas City Grand Opera Company—See Kansas City Civic Grand Opera Company

Kansas City Harmony—2005

Kansas City-Horner Conservatory—See Horner Institute
Kansas City Little Symphony Orchestra—n.d.

Kansas City Lyric Theatre—See Lyric Opera of Kansas City

Kansas City Metro Men’s Chorus – n.d.


Kansas City Parks and Recreation – n.d.

See also: Bound, 1933-1974
See also: Oversize, 1937-1988

Kansas City Playbill—1984

Kansas City Public Library-Third Thursdays Concert Series—See Third Thursday Concert Series

Kansas City Repertory Theatre – 2004-2012
Formerly the Missouri Repertory Theatre

Kansas City Singers – 2002


Kansas City Symphony Orchestra (first)—1895-1905, 1911-1918, 1921-1924, 1926-1927
See also: Oversize, 1927
See also: Ivanhoe Temple

See also: Bound, 1984-1985, 1985-1986 seasons
See also: Oversize, 1988-

Kansas City Theatre—1922-1925, n.d.

See also: KMBC Auditorium

Kansas City Young Matrons Club—1944, n.d.


Kimo Theatre—n.d.

Late Night Theatre—ca. 2000

Liberty Performing Arts Theatre—2004


Liberty Theatre—ca 1920
Limelight Theatre—1973  
See also: Oversize, 1973?

Linwood Methodist Church—1939, 1943

Little Theatre—1917, 1931

Loew’s Midland Theatre—1927, 1959

Loose Memorial Park—1942, 1957

LoveInc - 2007

Lyceum Hall—1895-1896

See also: Bound, 1980-1988, 1992  
See also: Oversize, 1959-1989

Lyric Theatre (old)—1912


Mark Twain Follies—n.d.

Mary Evans School of Dance—1950

Metropolitan Ensemble Theatre – 2009

See Also: KC Spotlight Magazine 1987-1997  
Theater League

Miscellaneous—n.d.

Missouri Repertory Theatre—1971, 1994-2004  
Currently the Kansas City Repertory Theatre  
See also: Bound, 1982-1986  
See also: Oversize, 1980-1996, 1999-

Missouri Theatre—1926, n.d.  
See also: Junior League-Follies

Moss, Nora LaMar—See Jenkins Auditorium and Kansas City Art Institute

Mount Saint Scholastica—1971

See also: University of Kansas City-Missouri

See also: Fritschy Concert Series, Kansas City Friends of Opera, Kansas City Philharmonic Orchestra, Performing Arts Foundation of Kansas City, William Jewell Harriman Arts Series

Music Lovers Committee of One Hundred—See Ararat Temple (Oversize)

National College—1961

National Council of Jewish Women—n.d.

Neo Play House – See: Chanticleer Players

New Theatre - See: KC Spotlight Magazine

Nordica Operatic Concert Company—n.d.

Northgate Community Theatre—1991

Northland Actors Ensemble—1998-1999


Oratorio Society—See Convention Hall

See also: Oversize, 1936-1937

Pantages—n.d.

Parade of Champions Quartet - 1952

Park University International Center for Music—2005-2008

Pembroke-Country Day School—1954

Philharmonia of Kansas City—1999, 2006

Philharmonic Society—1886

Pla Mor Ice Palace—1940

Playergoers League—See Music Hall

Playhouse—n.d. [1955]


RLDS Auditorium—1962, 1971-1974
See also: Oversize 1986, 1992


Rockhurst University—*Musica Sacra*: 1994-

Ruth Seufert Concerts—See Music Hall

Saint Mary College – 1968-1969


Scottish Rite Temple—1931, 1939

Second Presbyterian Church—1970-1972, n.d
See also: Oversize, 1958-1959

Seufert, Ruth Concerts—See Music Hall

See also: Oversize, 1910-1934
See also: Fritschy Concert Series, Horner Institute, Kansas City
Civic Grand Opera Company, Kansas City Musical Club,
Kansas City Symphony Orchestra, Kansas City Theatre

Stage Left Series—1997, 2000

Standard Theatre—n.d.


See also: Bound, 1951-1979 (incomplete)

State Ballet of Missouri—1998-1999
See also: Oversize, 1987-1988

Temple Auditorium (9th and Grand)—See Fritschy Concert Series

Theater in the Park—2001

Theater in the Park (Gladstone)—1996, 2001-2002


Third Thursdays Concert Series—1971


Union Station - See: Circle Theatre, City Stage

Unitarian Coach House Singers—See Coach House Singers

University Club of Kansas City – 1936

University of Kansas—1929, 1970-1972, 1974
See also: Oversize, 1969


See also: Oversize, n.d.

University of Kansas City – University Players/Varsity Players – 1934, 1936-1937

University of Missouri – Kansas City - See Conservatory of Music

UMKC Summer Repertory Theatre—1967

UMKC Theatre - 2006

Van Horn High School Auditorium—See Independence Symphony Orchestra

Vassar Girls—n.d.


Waldo Astoria Dinner Playhouse—n.d.

Warder Grand (Opera House) Theatre—1888, 1891
See also: Oversize, 1887

West Side Christian Church – n.d.

Westport Avenue Presbyterian Church - 1915

Westport Ballet—See Folly Theatre


Wichita Symphony Orchestra – 1942-1943

Wickes, Elbert A. Company – n.d.

See also: Kansas City Symphony Orchestra

Yardley Hall - See: Johnson County Community College


Young Men’s/Women’s Hebrew Association Auditorium
(Y.M.H.A.) / (Y.W.H.A.)—See Horner Institute, Ivanhoe Temple

REV. 11/27/2010 (S. Julien)
Oversize Theatre Programs

Actor's Ensemble – n.d.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater - 2008

American Guild of Organists, Greater Kansas City Chapter – 2005, 2007

Ararat Temple—n.d.

The Auditorium Theatre—ca. 1893

Avila College--1966-67, 1974

Bach Aria Soloists – 2008-2009

Barry Christian Church - 2007

Chanticleer Players—1924-1926

Choral Arts Ensemble of Kansas City –

Coach House Players – ca. 1966

Coates Opera House—late 1800’s

Community of Christ Auditorium - See RLDS: The Auditorium

Connoisseur Concert Programs—1968-1969

Conservatory of Music - 2006 (100th Anniversary)

The Convention Hall—1926, "The Miracle"

Coterie Theater – 1995, 2009-2010

Country Club United Methodist Church – 2009

Educational Programs Analyzed (Hans C. Feil)—1925

Fine Arts Chorale—2006 (MISSING)


Gilliss Opera House—n.d. (early)
Grace and Holy Trinity Church – 2006

Grand Avenue Temple - 1983

Heart of America Chorus—1999

Heart of America Shakespeare Festival – 2002, 2008

Ice Capades—1941-1943
(also includes programs for Holiday on Ice of 1952, and Skating Vanities of 1949)

Independence Symphony—2002

Kansas City Chamber Music Society—1922-1923


Kansas City Civic Ballet – 1969-1971

Kansas City Civic Orchestra—1961-1966, 1985

Kansas City Lyric Theatre—See: Lyric Theater


Kansas City Repertory Theater—2004
See: Missouri Repertory Theater

Kansas City Singers—2003-2006

Kansas City Symphony (first)—1927


Liberty Symphony Orchestra—1999-2010

The Light Opera Association of the University of Kansas City – n.d.

Limelight Theatre—1973


Mark Playhouse—1963-1964

Medical Arts Symphony Orchestra—1971


Municipal Auditorium Theatre - 1938

Musical Theater Heritage – 2010-2011

Octarium – 2009

Orpheum Theatre—1936-1937

Ovation Magazine—See Kansas City Symphony

Performing Arts Foundation of Kansas City—1965-1968, 1970


Second Presbyterian Church—1958-1959

Shubert Theatre—1910, 1933-1934. n.d.

Society Hall (St. Louis) - 1879

Spring for Jazz—1968


State Ballet of Missouri—1987-1988

Summer Singers of Kansas City—2006

Summerfest—2003-2010, 2012

University of Kansas—1969

University of Kansas City Playhouse—1955, n.d.

University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music (UMKC) - See:
Conservatory of Music 2006 (100th Anniversary)

Visitation Church - 2007

Warder Grand Opera House—1887


William Jewell College—2001-

(Last revised: January 7, 2011)

Initially processed by Special Collections Librarian Sara Nyman and Library Assistant Adrian Knotek, Summer 1997 - Fall 1998.

Additional processing and revisions to finding aid by Special Collections Library Associate Shannon Julien, Winter 2011.