

**Collection #  
M 1313**

**INDIANAPOLIS OPERA COMPANY PAPERS,  
CA. 1980-1981**

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF  
COLLECTION: 1 manuscript box

COLLECTION  
DATES: 1980-1981

PROVENANCE: Kristen Grosz, Indianapolis, IN

RESTRICTIONS: None

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NOTES:

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Indianapolis Opera Company (IOE) was formed as an Indianapolis non-profit organization by Miriam Ranamaker of Indiana Central University (now University of Indianapolis) formed the Indianapolis Opera Company (IOE) in September 1975. The Indianapolis Opera Company worked with a small budget to fund 'The Telephone' by Gian-Carlo Menotti and 'The Devil and Daniel Webster' by Douglas Moore during their first season (1975-76). Over the next five years, the IOE impacted the Indianapolis music community by hosting a number of successful operas like 'Carmen', 'La Traviata', 'The Barber of Seville', 'The Bohème', and 'Aida'. The opera company faced a sudden financial collapse in 1981 after the IOE was accused of misappropriation of federal funds. A new board of directors was reorganized during the 1982-83 to prove that there was a large enough interest in Indianapolis to support an opera program.

During this time, Dr. Hanus Grosz (1924-2001), an Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry at the Indiana University School of Medicine and former Chief of Psychiatry Service at the Veterans Association Hospital in Indianapolis served on the Indianapolis Opera Company's Board of Directors. Dr. Grosz sat on Finance and Special Projects Committees for the IOE during the 1980 to 1982 opera seasons. Dr. Grosz was a prominent patron of the arts as a past president and founding member of the Ethnographic Arts Society (Indianapolis Museum of Art), and founding board member of the Eiteljorg Museum of Indian Heritage.

The mission of the Indianapolis Opera Company is to educate, inspire and entertain through the creation and presentation of musical storytelling for the Hoosier community. The current general director is David Craig Starkey, and Matt Mindrum is president of the board of directors.

### Sources:

"Dr. Hauns Jiri Grosz, psychiatrist, arts patron," *Jewish Post*, October 3, 2001  
<https://newspapers.library.in.gov/cgi-bin/indiana?a=d&d=JPOST20011003-01.1.5&srpos=1&e=-1980--2001--en-20-JPOST-1--txt-txIN-Hanus+Grosz----->

Fun City Finder, "Indianapolis Opera: From "Don Giovanni" to "Magic Flute," *Indianapolis Indiana News, Events, & Things to Do in Indianapolis* accessed 21 September 2017 <http://indianapolis-indiana.funcityfinder.com/indianapolis-opera/>

"Performance History," *Indianapolis Opera*. accessed 21 September 2017  
<http://www.indyopera.org/performance-history.html>

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection contains minutes correspondence, memos, agendas, reports, statements, press releases, and other miscellaneous papers related to Dr. Hanus Grosz, board member of the Indianapolis Opera Company. The bulk of the collection documents the Opera's 1980-1981 season and financial plans from 1981 to 1984.

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'Aida' Box Office and Production Reports, 1980	Box 1, Folder 3
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Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, June- October 1980	Box 1, Folder 5
Employment records of Elaine Morgan Bookwalter, 1980	Box 1, Folder 6
Press Releases, Newspaper clippings, July- August 1980	Box 1, Folder 7
Department of Labor Investigative Memo, February 17, 1981	Box 1, Folder 8
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, January- September 1981	Box 1, Folder 9
Miscellaneous papers; IOE organizational chart, proposed Opera Calendar 1981-83	Box 1, Folder 10
James Thayer Correspondence, 1980	Box 1, Folder 11

