

Collection #
M 1162
OM 0582

INDIANAPOLIS OPERA COMPANY AND GUILD MATERIALS, CA. 1975-92

[Collection Information](#)

[Historical Sketch](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Contents](#)

[Cataloging Information](#)

Processed by

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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript box, 1 folder color photographs, 6 folders black and white photographs, 1 oversized manuscript folder

COLLECTION DATES: ca. 1975-1992

PROVENANCE: Miriam E. Ramaker, Indianapolis, IN

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2005.0306

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Although the city of Indianapolis supported a variety of arts organizations over the years, from the symphony to the theatre, the city did not have an opera company until Miriam Ramaker (1921-2008) organized the Indianapolis Opera Company in 1975. Ramaker came from a vocal and theatre background, with degrees from Stephens College, Eastman School of Music and Butler University and time studying at Goldovsky's Opera Institute. While organizing the Opera Company, Ramaker was also working as a vocal instructor at Indiana Central University (now University of Indianapolis). Ramaker networked with the musical community in Indianapolis, and the Company was able to put on two different performances during the first 1975-76 season, 'The Telephone' by Menotti and 'The Devil and Daniel Webster' by Douglas Moore. Initially, the Indianapolis Opera Company used the Ransburg Auditorium at Indiana Central University, but later the Company also performed 'Die Fledermaus' at the Murat Temple and 'Amahl and the Night Visitors' was a traveling show. For the 1976-77, the Company took on the more ambitious projects of 'Die Kluge', 'Amahl and the Night Visitors' and 'Carmen', and in 1977-78, 'Die Fledermaus' and 'Madame Butterfly'. While at the helm of the organization, Ramaker spent a lot of time not only on directing, producing and securing funding performances, but also on opera education for young people. Ramaker developed curriculum for music specialists and then put on special performances for young students.

The Indianapolis Opera Guild was formed in 1976 as a fundraising arm of the Indianapolis Opera Company and a source of volunteer work for administrative tasks. The Guild held fundraisers such as fashion shows, home tours and cocktail parties and also assisted with tasks in the Opera offices. To keep Guild members informed of Opera activities, the Guild also published a newsletter called *Aria*.

Sources:

Materials in the collection

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains correspondence, photographs, newspaper clippings, financial reports, performance programs and educational materials relating to the founding years of the Indianapolis Opera Company, under the direction of Miriam Ramaker. The bulk of the collection documents the first season of the Opera in 1975 until the end of the third season in 1978 and the materials are arranged chronologically.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Constitution and By-laws, Indianapolis Opera Guild, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 1
Articles of Incorporation and By-laws, Indianapolis Opera Company, ca. 1975	Box 1, Folder 2
Early Organizational Documents, Indianapolis Opera Company, 1975	Box 1, Folder 3
Lighting Plot for 'The Devil and Daniel Webster', 1975	OMB 0582 Folder 1 of 1
Correspondence, First Season of Indianapolis Opera, 1975-76	Box 1, Folder 4
Correspondence, Opera Education, 1975-76	Box 1, Folder 5
Headshot, Bernice Fraction, ca. 1976	Photographs, Folder 1 of 6
Snapshot, Miriam Ramaker and Scott McKenzie, ca. 1976	Photographs, Folder 4 of 6
Music Specialist Guide for 'The Devil and Daniel Webster', 1976	Box 1, Folder 6
Program, 'The Devil and Daniel Webster', 1976	Box 1, Folder 7
Set and Lighting Notes, 'The Devil and Daniel Webster' and 'Telephone', 1976	Box 1, Folder 8
Advertisement, 'Die Kluge', 1976	OM 0582 Folder 1 of 1
Cast Headshots, 'Die Kluge', 1976	Photographs, Folder 2 of 6
Funding Proposal, 'Die Kluge', 1976	Box 1, Folder 9
Music Specialist Guide for 'Die Kluge', 1976	Box 1, Folder 10
Program, 'Die Kluge', 1976	Box 1, Folder 11

Snapshot, Bernice Fraction and Ted Wylie, 1976	Color Photographs, Folder 1 of 1
Production Shot, 'Amahl and the Night Visitors', 1976	Photographs, Folder 3 of 6
Correspondence, 'Amahl and the Night Visitors', 1976-77	Box 1, Folder 12
Correspondence, Production of 'Carmen', 1976-77	Box 1, Folder 13
Production Shots, 'Carmen', 1976-77	Photographs, Folder 5 of 6
Financial Reports, 1976-77	Box 1, Folder 14
Clippings, 1976-92	Box 1, Folder 15
Biographical Information, Miriam Ramaker, ca. 1977	Box 1, Folder 16
Program, 'Carmen', 1977	Box 1, Folder 17
Correspondence, Performance of 'Die Fledermaus', 1977	Box 1, Folder 18
Proposal to Indianapolis Foundation for 'Die Fledermaus', 1977	Box 1, Folder 19
Portrait, Vera Scammon Rosalinda, 1977	Photographs, Folder 6 of 6
Financial Reports, 1977-78	Box 1, Folder 20
Opera Education Proposal to Lilly and Company Foundation, 1977-78	Box 1, Folder 21
Correspondence, Indianapolis Opera Guild, 1977-89	Box 1, Folder 22
Newsletters, Indianapolis Opera Guild, 1982-89	Box 1, Folder 23

CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog:
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2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 1162).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.