



The New York Public Library  
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

**Ballet Society photographs**

1946-1948

\*MGZEB 21-0011

Processed by Nathan Evans in 2021.

## Summary

**Creator:** Ballet Society (New York, N.Y.)

**Title:** Ballet Society photographs

**Date:** 1946-1948

**Size:** .42 linear feet (1 box)

**Source:** The source of the collection is unknown.

**Abstract:** The Ballet Society is an educational institution and predecessor to the New York City Ballet that performed for private audiences from 1946 to 1948. The Ballet Society photographs document performances and rehearsals by the company.

**Access:** Some collections held by the Dance, Music, Recorded Sound, and Theatre Divisions at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts are held off-site and must be requested in advance. Please check the collection records in **the NYPL's online catalog** for detailed location information. For general guidance about requesting offsite materials, please consult:  
<https://www.nypl.org/about/locations/lpa/requesting-archival-materials>

**Preferred citation:** Ballet Society photographs, \*MGZEB 21-0011. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Processed by Nathan Evans in 2021.

## Creator History

The Ballet Society was founded in 1946 by George Balanchine and Lincoln Kirstein to promote lyric theater. It performed for subscription-only audiences in New York City for two years, introducing ballets primarily choreographed by Balanchine such as *Divertimento* and *Symphony in C*. Featured dancers at the company included Todd Bolender, Tanaquil Le Clercq, Francisco Moncion, and Maria Tallchief. Shortly after its first public performance in April 1948, the Ballet Society was incorporated into the New York City Ballet but continued to operate as a non-profit institution, publishing books, commissioning

performances, and sponsoring dance projects.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The collection contains black-and-white photographs and negatives of Ballet Society performances and rehearsals from 1946 to 1948.

Performances comprise the bulk of the collection and include *Divertimento*; *The Four Temperaments*; *Highland Fling*; *Orpheus*; *Renard*; *The Seasons*; *Sinfonia Concertante in E-flat Major for Violin, Viola, and Orchestra, K 364*; *Symphony in C*; and *The Triumph of Bacchus and Ariadne*. Rehearsals are mostly for *Symphony in C* and prominently feature Maria Tallchief. The latter are represented by negatives taken by Zachary Freyman, while the rest of the collection consists of photographs and negatives taken by Peter Campbell.

**Arrangement:** Arranged alphabetically by performance, with rehearsals ordered at the end.

## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

Ballet -- 20th century

Ballet companies -- Photographs

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Negatives (photographs)

Photographs

### **Names**

Ballet Society (New York, N.Y.)

## Container List

- b. 1 f. 1-2 *Divertimento* 1947
- b. 1 f. 3 *The Four Temperaments* 1946
- b. 1 f. 4 *Highland Fling* 1947
- b. 1 f. 5 *Orpheus* 1948
- b. 1 f. 6 *Renard* 1947
- b. 1 f. 7 *The Seasons* 1947
- b. 1 f. 8 *Sinfonia Concertante in E-flat Major for Violin, Viola, and Orchestra, K 364*  
1947
- b. 1 f. 9 *Symphony in C* 1948
- b. 1 f. 10 *The Triumph of Bacchus and Ariadne* 1948
- b. 1 f. 11 Various Performance Negatives
- b. 1 f. 12-13 Rehearsals 1947-1948