



The New York Public Library  
Music Division

Guide to the

**Gertrude Wieder scrapbook**

1920-1933

JPB 14-10

Compiled by Matthew Snyder, 2014

## Summary

**Creator:** Wieder, Gertrude

**Title:** Gertrude Wieder scrapbook

**Date:** 1920-1933

**Size:** .25 linear feet (1 box)

**Source:** Donated by Laura Rosenstock in 1999.

**Abstract:** Gertrude Wieder (1893-1968) was an American contralto singer who performed in opera and solo recitals in the 1920s and early 1930s. Her scrapbook documents her career from 1920 to 1933.

**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>

**Conditions Governing Use:** For permission to publish, contact the Chief, Music Division, New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

**Preferred citation:** Gertrude Wieder scrapbook, JPB 14-10. Music Division, The New York Public Library.

**Processing note:** Compiled by Matthew Snyder, 2014 The scrapbook was unbound and divided into four sections of pages, each in its own folder. Original order was maintained.

## Creator History

Gertrude Wieder (1893-1968) was an American contralto singer. Born in Brooklyn, New York, she trained in New York City and began her career as a synagogue singer, most notably at Union Temple in Brooklyn and the Free Synagogue in Manhattan. She made her operatic debut in 1924 in a Civic Opera Association performance of *Aida* at the Polo Grounds, substituting at the last minute for Carmela

Ponselle as Amneris. The performance received strong reviews, and she went on to perform with other companies over the next few years, including the Pennsylvania Opera and the San Carlo Opera Company. Wieder made her New York recital debut at Town Hall at the end of 1930. She debuted in Boston a few months later (accompanied by Percy Grainger) before launching a European recital tour in the spring of 1931 which also received enthusiastic reviews. She continued to perform until at least 1933. Wieder died in 1968.

## **Custodial History**

The scrapbook was inherited by Gertrude Wieder's granddaughter, Laura Rosenstock, who donated it to the Music Division.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The Gertrude Wieder scrapbook dates from 1920 to 1933. It primarily contains clippings from New York, Boston, and European newspapers and magazines that review Wieder's performances or discuss her activities. It also holds a small amount of correspondence from Wieder's management, programs, publicity brochures, and photographs, including a 10.5 inch by 13.5 inch publicity print in excellent condition. The scrapbook as a whole is in fragile condition.

## **Key Terms**

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Black-and-white photographs  
Clippings (information artifacts)  
Programs (documents)  
Scrapbooks

### **Occupations**

Musicians  
Opera singers

### **Geographic Names**

New York (N.Y.)

### **Subjects**

Opera -- 20th century