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**New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center**  
**Music Division**

Guide to the  
**Gabriel Banat papers**  
ca. 1946-2007

Call number: JPB 12-16

Compiled by Bob Kosovsky, November 2012

## **Summary**

**Creator:** Banat, Gabriel

**Title:** Gabriel Banat papers, ca. 1946-2007

**Size:** 0.42 linear feet (1 box)

**Source:** Donated by Gabriel Banat, 2012

**Abstract:** The Gabriel Banat papers document the career and activities of violinist Gabriel Banat chiefly through correspondence, programs, reviews, and photographs.

**Access:** Collection is open to the public. Library policy on photocopying will apply. Advance notice may be required.

**Copyright information:** For permission to publish, contact the Chief, Music Division, The New York Library for the Performing Arts.

**Preferred citation:** Gabriel Banat papers, JPB 12-16, Music Division, New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

**Processing note:** Processing consisted of organizing files and refoldering.

**Related collections:** Materials concerning the New York Philharmonic strike and tour of 1973, JPB 11-21.

## Gabriel Banat Papers, JPB 12-16

### **Creator history**

Gabriel Banat is an American violinist who played for many years with the New York Philharmonic. He was born in Transylvania, Romania in 1926, eventually moving to Hungary. At the age of eight, he was discovered by Béla Bartók, who enabled him to be accepted at the Royal Academy in Budapest (now the Franz Liszt Academy of Music), where he won honors. In 1946 he moved to New York City where he toured with Georges Enesco, his mentor. He became a naturalized citizen in 1953. He toured in the United States, Europe and Japan, and was guest soloist with the London Philharmonic, Oslo Philharmonic, among others. In 1970 he joined the New York Philharmonic. He was a professor at Smith College where he led the violin department. His extensive research on Mozart led to publication in facsimile of Mozart's five violin concertos (Raven Press, 1986). His research on the Chevalier de Saint-Georges led to a biography (Pendragon Press, 2006) as well as numerous articles.

### **Scope and contents note**

The Gabriel Banat papers date from approximately 1946 to 2007, and document Banat's career as a violinist with the New York Philharmonic and as a solo performer or participant in chamber music concerts. These materials include correspondence (some items from well-known conductors and musicians), programs, clippings and photographs.

The collection also includes materials (mostly correspondence) documenting Banat's work editing his facsimile publication of Mozart Violin Concertos ("The Mozart Violin Concerti: A Facsimile Edition of the Autographs" [New York: Raven Press, 1986] and writing his biography of Joseph Bologne Chevalier de Saint-Georges ("The Chevalier de Saint-Georges: Virtuoso of the Sword and the Bow" [Hillsdale, NY: Pendragon Press, 2006]).

Sound recordings have been transferred to the Rodgers and Hammerstein Archives of Recorded Sound.

## Gabriel Banat Papers, JPB 12-16

### Arrangement

The Gabriel Banat papers are organized into the following series (each housed in a single folder):

Series 1: Correspondence

Series 2: Materials concerning the New York Philharmonic

Series 3: Festival Bahnhof Rolandseck

Series 4: Programs

Series 5: Clippings

Series 6: Miscellaneous

Series 7: Photographs

### Key terms

#### Names:

Banat, Gabriel

#### Occupations:

Violinists

Conductors

#### Special formats:

Black-and-white photographs

Clippings (information artifacts)

Color photographs

Personal correspondence

Programs (documents)

## Gabriel Banat Papers, JPB 12-16

### Series/Container list

- Folder 1      Series 1: Correspondence  
Contains letters from Leon Barzin, Leonard Bernstein, Pierre Boulez, Sergiu Comissiona, Eric Leinsdorf, Zubin Mehta, Yehudi Menuhin, Kurt Masur, André Kostelanetz, George Szell, and others. Includes thank you letter from Stephen Spielberg's Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation signed by Stephen Spielberg. Includes extensive letter to the Oestereichische Musik-Zeitung concerning the status of Jews in Nazi-occupied Hungary.
- Folder 2      Series 2: New York Philharmonic  
Correspondence, programs, clippings and other documents concerning Banat's career with the New York Philharmonic.
- Folder 3      Series 3: Festival Bahnhof Rolandseck  
Music Director Zubin Mehta chose Banat to lead members of the New York Philharmonic in their participation at the Festival Bahnhof Rolandseck in 1990-1991. Includes correspondence, clippings, programs and photographs.
- Folder 4      Series 4: Clippings  
The series of clippings cover Banat's solo career. They are subdivided in two sub-series:  
    A. American reviews  
    B. Non-American reviews
- Folder 5      Series 5: Programs  
Programs from his 1967 complete Mozart- and 1968 '20th Century' Sonata cycles at Library's Bruno Walter Auditorium, recitals and with orchestras in the U.S. and in Europe, and conducting his Westchester Conservatory Orchestra in White Plains and at New York's Cooper Union including several with first-chair colleagues from the New York Philharmonic as soloists.

## Gabriel Banat Papers, JPB 12-16

- Folder 6      Series 6: Miscellaneous  
Publications, lectures, Grammy Award. NY Times reviews of concerts with NY Phil. Chamber Ensemble at Asia Society, and 'Philharmonic En Famille' at Cooper Union; conducting the staged production of Mozart's Magic Flute in his English translation in White Plains with his WC youth orchestra (by Robert Sherman). Includes correspondence and publicity concerning publications on which Banat served as editor, "Masters of the Violin" (New York: Johnson Reprint, 1981-1982) and "The Mozart Violin Concerti" (New York: Raven Press, 1986). Also includes correspondence and publicity concerning Banat's biography of Chevalier de Saint-Georges ("The Chevalier de Saint-Georges: Virtuoso of the Sword and the Bow" (Hillsdale, NY: Pendragon Press, 2006).
- Folder 7      Series 7: Photographs  
Contains photographs of Banat alone, with various musicians (including Béla Bartók, Pablo Casals, Yehudi Menuhin), and in other situations. Autograph photographs include those of Leonard Bernstein (photo by Banat), Aaron Copland, Georges Enesco, and Zubin Mehta (photo by Banat).