

FRANCES GREER PAPERS

Mss. 4713

Inventory

Compiled by

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Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections
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Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University

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SUMMARY

Size	1 linear foot
Geographic Locations	Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Conway, Arkansas; Helena, Arkansas; Kansas City, Missouri; Memphis, Tennessee; Nashville, Tennessee; New York City, New York; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; St. Louis, Missouri
Inclusive Dates	1917–2000, undated
Bulk Dates	1934–1962
Languages	English
Summary	Frances Greer was a soprano opera singer who graduated from Louisiana State University in 1938. She went on to perform in many companies, including the Metropolitan Opera and the Philadelphia Opera Company. The collection consists of her correspondence, programs from her performance, newspaper clippings, and photographs of her and other opera singers.
Access Restrictions	None.
Reproduction Note	May be Reproduced.
Copyright	For those materials not in the public domain, copyright is retained by the descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. Copyright law.
Related Collections	Frances Greer Oral History Interview, Mss. 4700.0902, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Citation	Frances Greer Papers, Mss. 4713, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries Special Collections, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack Location(s)	20:4, 43:65, OS:G

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Frances Jane Greer (January 12, 1917–June 28, 2005) was an American soprano singer, most recognized for her roles in the Philadelphia Opera Company, as well as the Metropolitan Opera. Greer was born in Piggott, Arkansas and attended Louisiana State University in the 1930s, where she was awarded three different scholarships. She was also a member of Phi Mu, a music sorority, and was active in Louisiana State University's Student Opera. Greer is most known for her role as Musetta in *La Bohème* by Giacomo Puccini, which she performed with both the Philadelphia Opera Company and the Metropolitan Opera. Later in her life, she began teaching at the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre and Dance. Greer became the first woman to be inducted in Louisiana State University's Hall of Distinction in 1982. She died in Ann Arbor Michigan at 88 years old.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists of Frances Greer's personal records including awards, programs, flyers, photographs, and correspondence. Greer's awards range from her high school diploma, to the Metropolitan Opera Auditions of the Air Award, to induction into LSU's Alumni Hall of Fame. All flyers and programs in this collection were productions that Greer was a part of. Greer's correspondence were mostly with Pasquale Amato, although they also contain correspondence from other opera professionals of the 20th century. The photographs in this collection is a mix of headshots of Greer and signed headshots of other opera singers Greer performed with.

NOTE ON SEPARATED MATERIALS: Some items from this collection have been separated and catalogued separately. They include: the book *Music of the World* by Kurt Pahlen, the book *President Clinton's Amazing Arkansas: 500 Fabolous Facts* by Ken Beck and Terry Beck, a CD of *La Bohème* with Frances Greer as Musetta, three untitled audio cassettes, one audio cassette labeled, "Frances Greer Tribute," and one vinyl LP record titled, *The Music Master: A Comic Opera* by Giovanni Pergolesi.

LIST OF SERIES AND SUBSERIES

Series I. Awards and Certificates, 1934–1960, undated

Series II. Printed Materials, 1935–2000, undated

Series III. Correspondence, 1936–1998, undated

Series IV. Photographs, 1917–1997, undated

Subseries 1. Frances Greer, 1917–1997, undated

Subseries 2. Headshots, 1928–1959, undated

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I. Awards and Certificates, 1934–1960, undated

This series consists of the awards and certificates Frances Greer earned throughout her career as a student and soprano opera singer. These awards include plaques from the Metropolitan Opera Auditions of the Air, a singing competition for young opera singers to encourage and promote their talent; Louisiana State University's Alumni Hall of Distinction; and the Arkansas Distinguished Citizen Award from Phillips County. Certificates consist of high school and college diplomas, Greek life certificates, and certificates for vocal performances.

Series II. Printed Materials, 1935–2000, undated

This series consists of any printed materials about Greer, including any newspaper articles or clippings, as well as flyers and programs for performances that Greer participated in. Newspaper clippings from 1941–2000 in the collection primarily revolve around Greer and her performances. An oversized full page spread from *The Commercial Appeal* from January 24, 1943 titled "A MidSouth Girl Makes Her Debut at the Met" shows photographs from Greer's debut season at the Metropolitan Opera in New York and is located at OS:G. Programs and flyers are from several different companies that Greer participated in, including Louisiana State University's Symphony Orchestra, the Memphis Open Air Theatre, the Metropolitan Opera House, the Philharmonic Symphony, and the Philadelphia Opera Company.

Series III. Correspondence, 1936–1998, undated

This series consists of correspondence that Greer received from 1936–1998. Most correspondence are letters from Pasquale Amato, an Italian opera singer who, through his letters, gave Greer advice on her career and acted as a mentor. Greer also received correspondence from Eugene Ormandy, August Belmont, Henry Souvaine, Bruno Zirato, and President Bill Clinton.

Series IV. Photographs, 1917–1997, undated

This series consists of two subseries: Subseries 1, which consists of photographs of Frances Greer, and Subseries 2, which consists of headshots of opera singers from 1928–1959. The photographs of Frances Greer range from her at six months old to photographs of her in 1997. Most photos of Greer are either publicity shots of her in costume for a performance or photographs of her during a performance. Subseries 2 consists of headshots/publicity photos of other opera singers, most of which are signed and dedicated to Greer.

INDEX TERMS

Materials relating to these people, places, and things can be found in the series indicated, as represented by their numbers.

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CONTAINER LIST

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		4	Articles about Greer, 1938–2000, undated
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20:4	1	5	Helena, Arkansas flyers and programs, 1937, 1942
		6	Louisiana State University flyers and programs, 1936–1938, 1982, undated
		7	Memphis, Tennessee flyers and programs, 1935–1946
		8	New York, New York flyers and programs, 1942, 1951, undated
		9	Philadelphia Opera Company flyers and programs, March 12, 1940–Dec 2, 1941
		10	Miscellaneous flyers and programs, 1935, 1942
Series III. Correspondence, 1936–1998, undated			
		11	Correspondence with Pasquale Amato, 1936–1962, undated
		12	Miscellaneous correspondence, 1942–1998, undated
Series IV. Photographs, 1917–1997, undated			
Subseries 1. Frances Greer, 1917–1997, undated			
43:65	2	1	Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1954, 1997
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		3	Louisiana State University, 1934–1938, 1952, undated
		4	Memphis Open Air Theatre, 1940–1960, undated
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<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
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		4	John Brown Lee, Signed, 1945, undated
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		17	Tussi Bjorling, Signed, 1956
		18	Martha Lipton, Signed, 1956
		19	Maria Meneghini, Signed, 1956
		20	Cesare Siepi, Signed, 1956
		21	Cedric Hardwick, Signed, 1959
		22	Licia Albanese, Signed, undated
		23	Lucine Amara, Signed, undated
		24	Marian Anderson, Signed, undated
		25	Ettore Bastianini, Signed, undated
		26	Lucrezia Bori, Signed, undated
		27	Dorothy Kirsten, Signed, undated
		28	Zinka Milanov, Signed, undated
		29	Robert Merrill, Signed, undated
		30	Mildred Miller, Signed, undated
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		32	Jan Peirce, Signed, undated
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		37	Risë Stevens, Signed, undated
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		39	Pia Tassinari, Signed, undated

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
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