

Be Ri 23.1

Frank Kasschau

By Emily Inserra
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Ridgewood Public Library: Bolger Heritage Center
125 North Maple Avenue
Ridgewood, NJ 07450
201-670-5600 x135
www.ridgewoodlibrary.org

Descriptive Summary:

Title: Frank Kasschau

Dates: 1910-1939

Quantity: (3 Flat Document Boxes)

Abstract:

This collection is on Frank Kasschau. Created by the Ridgewood Villager and member of the Orpheus Club Men's Chorus, the collection was presented to the Ridgewood Library in November 1988 by a member of the Ridgewood Choral, Marion Gates Faber. The collection consists of three scrapbooks that contain newspaper clippings, concert programs, pictures, and letters. The scrapbooks document Kasschau's career as a composer, piano instructor, organist, and lecturer of music appreciation at The Junior College of Connecticut. He was the organist for the Flatbush Congregational Church of Brooklyn starting in 1911. He became the choral director for singing groups throughout Nutley, Bridgeport, New York, and Newark. Along with these numerous accomplishments, he was also director of the Ridgewood Choral and the Orpheus Club.

Collection No.: Be Ri 23.1 Frank Kasschau

Language: English

Repository: Ridgewood Public Library: Bolger Heritage Center

History:

Frank Kasschau was an accomplished organist, piano instructor and composer. He was a member of the American Guild of Organists and became a lecturer in music appreciation at The Junior College of Connecticut. Kasschau was the organist at the Flatbush Congregational

Church of Brooklyn for over twenty years. He was also the choral director for groups throughout Newark, Bridgeport, New York, and Nutley, including the Bridgeport Oratorio Society, The Women's Choral of Nutley, The Banks Glee Club of New York City, the Rubenstein, and the Glee Club of Nutley. He was also the director of the Ridgewood Choral, conductor of the Orpheus Club from 1929-1944, and conductor of the Schumann-Heink Club. Kasschau was a piano instructor at his own studio, where his pupils were praised for their proficiency at numerous recitals.

Frank Kasschau was born about 1884 and started studying the piano at six years old. Due to his instructor continuously hitting his knuckles with a baton during his earlier years of learning, he did not enjoy the piano. At thirteen years old, the death of his father left him alone. He became an apprentice in the art department at Tiffany's for ten years where he met friends who helped him to realize the musical skills he possessed and help establish his love for music. At the age of 22, he began to study the pipe organ and at 24 began to study composition. He began assisting singers in 1909 after becoming associated with the Arlington Choral Society, and a stroke of luck in 1915 found him substituting as the pianist for the Newark Orpheus Society, who at the time, was conducted by Dr. Arthur Mees. From here, Kasschau began to attend all of Dr. Mees' rehearsals and eventually became his assistant. When Mees fell ill in 1923, Kasschau started the Bridgeport Oratorio Society's season, propelling him further into his work as a conductor. Frank Kasschau lived with his wife Edna Neuman Eschelman in Ridgewood and had four children, Howard, Kenneth, Virginia, and Norman. Frank Kasschau died in 1944. The Kasschau Memorial Shell was erected in 1958 at Veteran's Field in Ridgewood, New Jersey in memoriam to Frank and his accomplishments.

Subject Headings:

Scope & Content Note:

This collection is housed in three flat document boxes. The entire collection spans the years of 1910-1939. The collection contains three scrapbooks containing newspaper clippings, letters, concert and recital programs, and pictures. This collection is split up into three scrapbooks. The first scrapbook contains documents dated from 1910-1929. The second scrapbook contains documents dated from 1930-1934. Finally, the third scrapbook contains documents dated from 1935-1939.

- I. Frank Kasschau Scrapbook, 1910-1929
- II. Frank Kasschau Scrapbook, 1930-1934
- III. Frank Kasschau Scrapbook, 1935-1939

Arrangement Note:

Box

- 3. Frank Kasschau Scrapbook, 1910-1929
- 4. Frank Kasschau Scrapbook, 1930-1934
- 5. Frank Kasschau Scrapbook, 1935-1939

Administrative Information:

Preferred Citation:

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