

Minnesota State University, Mankato,  
Memorial Library, Southern Minnesota Historical Center.  
Mankato Symphony Orchestra Association. Collection, 1910 - 2019.  
SMHC Manuscript Collection 1221

**Mankato Symphony Orchestra Association. Collection, 1910 – 2019. SMHC Manuscript Collection 1221. 5 Archives Boxes, 2 Hollinger boxes, 3 oversized boxes, 10 cubic feet.**

**ABSTRACT:**

The Mankato Symphony Orchestra (MSO) collection documents the administrative records and artistic contributions to the greater Mankato community. The collection is divided into several series consisting of administrative, marketing, personnel, and historical MSO materials along with a series of programs dating from 1950 until 2019.

**HISTORICAL NOTE:**

The MSO grew out of several musical organizations in Mankato and organized in 1950 with John Dennis as conductor and Guy Flanagan as president. It incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1952. A board of directors, consisting of community members and at least one musician, oversees the administration and strategic direction of the MSO. Professional staff, led by an Executive Director, conduct the day-to-day operations of the MSO. The orchestra is primarily composed of musicians from the greater Mankato community, Minnesota State University, Mankato, and the Mankato high schools and features guest musicians from across the United States.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT:**

The MSO collection is divided into several series.

**Administrative Records:** This series includes the official records of the MSO including articles of incorporation, by-laws, board meeting agendas and minutes, financial records, membership records and fundraising materials. Some newsletters are included as part of the yearly organizational material. Concert organization, specifically the Rockin' in the Quarry series, is included in some of the modern materials. The series is arranged chronologically.

**Marketing Materials:** This series consists of marketing and promotional materials created to advertise the concerts and programs of the MSO. Materials include brochures, mailers, posters, fliers, and miscellaneous memorabilia. The series is arranged chronologically.

**Personnel:** The personnel series includes photographs and biographical material about the conductors and some of the musicians of the MSO. There are lists, in various arrangements, of soloists, players and board members. The series is arranged alphabetically.

**History:** This series consists of materials related to the history of the MSO. The materials include booklets, scrapbooks, manuscripts, oral history interviews, newspaper clippings and written histories about the organization. There are also lists, arranged in various ways, of programs and concerts that document the performers and music performed during the concerts.

**Concert Programs:** The concert program series includes programs dating from 1950 until 2019. Most of the program are original, although there are few photocopies of early programs. The series is arranged chronologically by season (Fall YYYY until Spring YYYY) and then date.

**RESTRICTIONS:**

There are **SOME** restrictions on use of this collection for research purposes. The researcher assumes full responsibility for observing all copyright, property, and libel laws as they apply.

**COLLECTION CITATION:**

This collection should be cited as:

Mankato Symphony Orchestra Association. Collection, 1910 – 2019. SMHC Manuscript Collection 1221, Southern Minnesota Historical Center, Memorial Library, Minnesota State University, Mankato.

**ACQUISITION:**

Dr. Herbert Owen donated the original collection in April 1976. Other portions of the collection were donated in 1990 by an anonymous donor. Mary Huntley, on behalf of the Mankato Symphony Orchestra, donated several batches of materials from 2015 until 2019.

**PROCESSED BY:**

Karin Thiem processed this collection in December 1976.  
Finding aid revised by Robert Russell October 2000.  
Adam Smith reprocessed the collection in December 2021.

**OCLC AND RLIN:**

After checking the OCLC and RLIN national databases in October 2000, it has been determined that there are no similar manuscript collections about the Mankato Symphony Orchestra Association available elsewhere.

**LCSH SUBJECT HEADINGS:**

Mankato (Minn.)—Symphony orchestra.

**RELATED COLLECTIONS AT MSUM:**

Mankato Youth Symphony Orchestras, Inc., Papers, 1965 – 1974. SMHC Manuscript Collection 1222, Southern Minnesota Historical Center, Memorial Library, Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Mankato Symphony Guild, Collection, 1965-2015. SMHC Manuscript Collection 1236, Southern Minnesota Historical Center, Memorial Library, Minnesota State University Mankato.



| <b>SMHC Manuscript Collection 1221</b>  | <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> |
|---|------------|---------------|
| <b>Administrative Records</b>   |            |               |
| Posters, circa 1950-1957  | 7          | 4             |
| Board Member Lists, 1951-2016   | 1          | 2             |
| Constitution and By-Laws, 1952-1993   | 1          | 4             |
| Membership and Teacher Roster, undated  | 1          | 5             |
| Membership Letter, 1955   | 1          | 6             |
| Membership Letter, 1957-1959  | 1          | 7             |
| Newsletter, 1957-1958   | 7          | 13            |
| Agendas, Minutes, Organizational material, 1959-1960                                      | 1          | 8             |
| Agendas, Minutes, Organizational material, 1960-1961                                      | 1          | 9             |
| Financial Records, 1961-1966  | 1          | 10            |
| Agendas, Minutes, Organizational material, 1961-1962                                      | 1          | 11            |
| Agendas, Minutes, Organizational material, 1962-1963                                      | 1          | 12            |
| Minutes, Organizational material, 1963-1964   | 1          | 13            |
| Minutes, Organizational material, 1964-1965   | 1          | 14            |
| American Symphony Orchestra League response to National Arts Foundation Legislation, 1965 | 1          | 15            |
| Minutes, Organizational material, 1965-1966   | 1          | 16            |
| Minutes, Organizational material, 1966-1967   | 1          | 17            |
| Financial Records, 1966-1968  | 6          | 3             |
| Minutes, Organizational material, 1967-1968   | 1          | 18            |
| Financial Records, 1967-1968  | 6          | 2             |
| Checks, 1967  | 7          | 14            |
| Correspondence and bills paid, 1967-1971  | 6          | 1             |
| Minutes, Organizational material, 1968-1969   | 1          | 19            |
| Financial Records, 1968-1969  | 6          | 4             |
| Minutes, Organizational material, 1969-1970   | 1          | 20            |
| Minutes, Organizational material, 1969-1970   | 1          | 21            |
| Minutes, Organizational material, 1970-1971   | 1          | 22            |
| Minutes, Organizational material, 1971-1972   | 1          | 23            |
| Minutes, Organizational material, 1972-1973   | 1          | 24            |
| Minutes, Organizational material, 1973-1974   | 1          | 25            |
| Agendas, Minutes, Organizational material, 1974-1975                                      | 1          | 26            |
| Articles of Incorporation, 1975   | 7          | 11            |
| Annual Dinner Tickets, 1977-1978  | 1          | 27            |
| Membership, Fundraising lists, 1978-1979  | 1          | 28            |
| Fundraising lists, 1981-1982  | 1          | 29            |
| Fundraising drive, 1982-1983  | 1          | 30            |
| Minutes, Performer Biographies, 1983-1984   | 1          | 31            |
| Minutes, 1984-1985  | 1          | 32            |
| Newsletter, 1987-1988   | 1          | 33            |
| Financial (Treasurer's book), 1988-2006   | 1          | 34            |

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| Long-Term Planning Committee Report, 1988-1989                    | 1 | 35 |
| Newsletter, Ticketholders, 1989-1990                              | 1 | 36 |
| Board Members Information Sheets, 1990-2011 (restricted)          | 1 | 1  |
| Newsletter, Organizational documents, 1991-1992                   | 1 | 37 |
| Organizational documents, 1992-1993                               | 1 | 38 |
| Phone-a-thon information, 1993-2006 (restricted)                  | 1 | 39 |
| Ticket Ordering information, 1993-2006                            | 1 | 40 |
| Minutes, 1993-1994  | 1 | 41 |
| Fundraising materials, 1994-2008                                  | 1 | 42 |
| Agendas, Minutes, Organizational material, 1994-1995              | 1 | 43 |
| Minutes, Organizational material, 1995-1996                       | 1 | 44 |
| Newsletter, 1995-1996   | 7 | 3  |
| Scholarship Recipients, 1996-2003 (restricted)                    | 1 | 45 |
| Agendas, Minutes, Organizational material, 1996-1997              | 1 | 46 |
| Concertmaster, 1996-1997 (restricted)                             | 1 | 47 |
| Minutes, Organizational material, 1997-1998                       | 1 | 48 |
| Orchestra Biographies, 1998                                       | 1 | 49 |
| Agendas, Minutes, 1998-1999                                       | 1 | 50 |
| Rockin' in the Quarry, 1999                                       | 1 | 51 |
| Rockin' in the Quarry, Photographs, 1999                          | 7 | 1  |
| Rockin' in the Quarry, Sign, 1999                                 | 7 | 7  |
| Rocking in the Quarry contracts, 1999-2005 (restricted)           | 1 | 52 |
| Website information, 1999-2009                                    | 1 | 53 |
| Agendas, Minutes, Organizational material, 1999-2000              | 1 | 54 |
| Financial statements, 1999-2000                                   | 1 | 55 |
| Board Member Retirements and Resignations, 2000-2006 (restricted) | 1 | 3  |
| Rockin' in the Quarry, 2000                                       | 1 | 56 |
| Rockin' in the Quarry, 2001                                       | 1 | 57 |
| Rockin' in the Quarry, Sign, 2001                                 | 7 | 8  |
| Agendas, Minutes, Organizational material, 2000-2001              | 2 | 1  |
| Agendas, Minutes, Organizational material, 2001-2002              | 2 | 2  |
| Rockin' in the Quarry, 2002                                       | 2 | 3  |
| Minutes, Organizational material, 2002-2003                       | 2 | 4  |
| Rockin' in the Quarry, 2003                                       | 2 | 5  |
| Rockin' in the Quarry, 2003                                       | 7 | 9  |
| Minutes, Organizational material, 2003-2004                       | 2 | 6  |
| Rockin' in the Quarry, Sign, 2004                                 | 7 | 2  |
| Concert Equipment Letters, 2004-2006                              | 2 | 7  |
| Minutes, Organizational material, 2004-2005                       | 2 | 8  |
| Rockin' in the Quarry, Sign, 2005                                 | 7 | 6  |
| Minutes, Organizational material, 2005-2006                       | 2 | 9  |
| Organizational material, 2006-2007                                | 2 | 10 |
| Rockin' in the Quarry, 2007                                       | 2 | 11 |
| Rockin' in the Quarry, Sign, 2007                                 | 7 | 12 |
| Party on the Rocks, Fundraiser, 2007                              | 2 | 12 |

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| Governance, 2007-2008   | 2  | 13 |
| Party on the Rocks, Fundraiser, 2008                                      | 2  | 14 |
| Rockin' in the Quarry, Sign, 2008   | 7  | 10 |
| Minutes, Organizational documents, 2008-2009                              | 2  | 15 |
| 60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book Project, Organizational Materials, 2010 | 2  | 16 |
| Betsy-Tacy Event planning, 2010-2011                                      | 2  | 17 |
| Letter to the Editor, "La Traviata," 2011                                 | 2  | 18 |
| Newsletter, 2011-2012   | 2  | 19 |
| Contracts, Surveys, 2011-2012 (restricted)                                | 2  | 20 |
| Music on the Hill, 2011-2015  | 2  | 21 |
| Agendas, Minutes, Organizational material, 2012-2013                      | 2  | 22 |
| Concert Materials, "To Be Certain of the Dawn," 2012 (restricted)         | 2  | 23 |
| Contracts, 2012-2013 (restricted)   | 2  | 24 |
| Concert Materials, "Ain't Necessarily So," 2013 (restricted)              | 2  | 25 |
| Concert Materials, "Don Quixote," 2013 (restricted)                       | 2  | 26 |
| Agendas, Minutes, 2013-2014   | 2  | 27 |
| Minnesota Music Hall of Fame Induction, 2015                              | 2  | 28 |
| Copies of Posters made for MN Music Hall of Fame Induction, 2015          | 10 | 10 |
| Greater Mankato Growth, Visit Mankato award, 2016                         | 2  | 29 |
| Symphony Gala, 2017   | 2  | 30 |
| Surveys, 1994-2005  | 2  | 31 |
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| <b>Marketing Materials</b>  |    |    |
| Brochure, 1961-1962   | 2  | 32 |
| Bumper Sticker, 1971  | 7  | 5  |
| Promotional Poster, 1971-1972   | 10 | 2  |
| Bumper Stickers, circa 1968-1973  | 2  | 33 |
| Brochure, 1973-1974   | 2  | 34 |
| Brochure, 1974-1975   | 2  | 35 |
| Promotional Poster, 1974-1975   | 10 | 14 |
| Brochure, 1975-1976   | 2  | 36 |
| Brochure, 1976-1977   | 2  | 37 |
| Brochure, 1977-1978   | 2  | 38 |
| Brochure, 1980-1981   | 2  | 39 |
| Brochure, 1981-1982   | 2  | 40 |
| Brochure, 1982-1983   | 2  | 41 |
| Promotional Mailer, 1984-1985   | 2  | 42 |
| Promotional Mailer, 1985-1986   | 2  | 43 |
| Promotional Mailer, 1986-1987   | 2  | 44 |
| Promotional Mailer, 1987-1988   | 2  | 45 |
| Promotional Mailer, 1988-1989   | 2  | 46 |
| Promotional Mailer, 1989-1990   | 2  | 47 |
| Promotional Mailer, 1990-1991   | 2  | 48 |
| Promotional Mailer, 1991-1992   | 2  | 49 |
| Promotional Mailer and Marketing Material, 1992-1993                      | 2  | 50 |

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| Promotional Mailer, 1993-1994  | 2  | 51 |
| Promotional Mailer and Marketing Material, 1994-1995   | 2  | 52 |
| Promotional Mailer and Marketing Material, 1995-1996   | 2  | 53 |
| Promotional Mailer and Marketing Material, 1996-1997   | 2  | 54 |
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| Promotional Mailer, 1998-1999  | 2  | 56 |
| Promotional Mailer, 1999-2000  | 2  | 57 |
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| Promotional Mailer and Marketing Material, 2003-2004   | 2  | 61 |
| Promotional Mailer, 2004-2005  | 2  | 62 |
| Promotional Mailer and Marketing Material, 2005-2006   | 2  | 63 |
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| Promotional Mailer, 2007-2008  | 2  | 65 |
| Promotional Posters, 2007-2009   | 10 | 3  |
| Promotional Mailer and Marketing Material, 2008-2009   | 2  | 66 |
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| Promotional Mailer, 2010-2011  | 2  | 68 |
| Promotional Posters, 2010-2011   | 10 | 5  |
| Promotional Mailer and Marketing Material, 2011-2012   | 2  | 69 |
| Promotional Posters, 2011-2012   | 10 | 6  |
| Promotional Mailer and Marketing Material, 2012-2013   | 2  | 70 |
| Promotional Posters, 2012-2013   | 10 | 7  |
| Promotional Mailer and Marketing Material, 2013-2014   | 2  | 71 |
| Promotional Posters, 2013-2014   | 10 | 8  |
| Promotional Mailer and Marketing Material, 2014-2015   | 2  | 72 |
| Promotional Posters, 2014-2015   | 10 | 9  |
| Promotional Mailer and Marketing Material, 2015-2016   | 2  | 73 |
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| Promotional Posters, 2016-2017   | 10 | 12 |
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| Promotional Posters, 2017-2018   | 10 | 13 |
| Marketing Materials, undated   | 2  | 76 |
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| <b>Personnel</b>   |    |    |
| Berg, John, 2013   | 4  | 42 |
| Biographies, Conductors, 1950-2007   | 4  | 12 |
| Crawford, Clarence L., undated   | 4  | 44 |
| Dennis, John, Biography material, 1950-2003  | 4  | 46 |
| Dennis, John, Photographs, 1954-1957   | 2  | 77 |
| Dennis, John, "Music in the Grades" and "Outstanding Young Man of Mankato Award", CD, 1955-156 | 4  | 45 |



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| Dickau, David  | 4 | 47 |
| Faust, Randall   | 4 | 48 |
| Flanagan, Guy, 1954-1960   | 4 | 49 |
| Gertjensan, Kenneth, 2013  | 4 | 50 |
| Halling, Elias J.  | 4 | 51 |
| Herz, Herman   | 4 | 52 |
| Herz, Herman, Photographs, undated   | 2 | 78 |
| Hesla, Arden   | 4 | 53 |
| Lantz, Jere, 1982-1983   | 4 | 54 |
| Lloyd, H.J.  | 4 | 55 |
| Michael, George, Photographs, 1953   | 2 | 81 |
| Owen, Herbert  | 4 | 56 |
| Parlova, Alexis  | 4 | 58 |
| Patterson, Mary, 1913-1933   | 4 | 57 |
| Performers and Board Members, undated  | 2 | 83 |
| Personnel, Arranged Alphabetically, 2006   | 4 | 27 |
| Personnel, Arranged by Instrument, 1988  | 4 | 25 |
| Pope, Dianne, 1983-2006  | 4 | 59 |
| Pope, Dianne, Photographs, undated   | 2 | 84 |
| Ross, Harold Orvis, 1925-1929  | 4 | 60 |
| Sanford, Kenneth, 1968-1970  | 4 | 61 |
| Scheurer, Rolf, 1959-1968 and 1981-1982  | 4 | 62 |
| Shepard, John, 1957-1959   | 4 | 63 |
| Soloists, Arranged Alphabetically, 1951-2006   | 4 | 37 |
| Soloists, Arranged Alphabetically, 1951-2010   | 4 | 38 |
| Soloists, Arranged by Conductor, 1951-2003   | 4 | 36 |
| Soloists, Minnesota, 1953-2006   | 4 | 35 |
| Soloists, United States and World, 1956-1997   | 4 | 34 |
| Strom, Bernice, 1950-1974  | 4 | 64 |
| Taylor, Mary, 1924-1955  | 4 | 65 |
| Van Sickle, Howard   | 4 | 66 |
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| <b>History</b>   |   |    |
| Big Nine Music Festival, History, 2010   | 4 | 2  |
| Booklet #1, <i>Conductors</i> , 2010 (2)   | 4 | 3  |
| Booklet #2, <i>Musical Mankato, From Singing Societies to Symphony</i> , 2010                    | 4 | 4  |
| Booklet #3, <i>Stringed Instrument Education to Inspire Youth</i> , 2012                         | 4 | 6  |
| Booklet #4, <i>Soloists, Composers and Performers with the Mankato Symphony Orchestra</i> , 2015 | 4 | 7  |
| Booklet #4, Editing Correspondence   | 4 | 8  |
| Concerts, 1950-1988  | 4 | 10 |
| Concerts, 1950-1992  | 4 | 11 |
| Early Mankato Music History, undated   | 4 | 39 |

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| Herman Herz and Orchestra Rehearsal, Negatives and Photographs, undated         | 2  | 79 |
| Handel's <i>Messiah</i> History in Mankato, 1922-1985                           | 4  | 15 |
| Mankato Harmonia Society and Harmonia Hall, 1972-1883                           | 4  | 16 |
| Mankato Orpheus Club, 1919-1936   | 4  | 18 |
| Mankato Philharmonic Society, History, 1978                                     | 4  | 17 |
| Mankato Symphony Orchestra, News clippings and written interviews, 1873-2004    | 4  | 41 |
| Mankato Symphony Orchestra, News clippings, 1925-1928                           | 4  | 19 |
| Mankato Symphony Orchestra, History, Anderson, Helen, 1980                      | 4  | 1  |
| Mankato Symphony Orchestra, History, Dennis, John, 1950-1957                    | 4  | 13 |
| Mankato Symphony Orchestra, History, Gertjejansen, Ken, 2010                    | 4  | 14 |
| Mankato Symphony Orchestra, Newspaper Articles, 1922-1959                       | 4  | 24 |
| Mankato Symphony Orchestra, Reminiscences about origins, c. 1970                | 4  | 26 |
| Mankato Symphony Orchestra, Scrapbook, 1925-1928                                | 4  | 20 |
| Mankato Symphony Orchestra, Scrapbook, 2005                                     | 8  | 2  |
| Mankato Symphony Orchestra, Season numbering, correspondence, 2010              | 4  | 22 |
| Mankato Symphony Orchestra and Mankato orchestra groups, Photographs, 1910-1955 | 2  | 80 |
| Manuscript, Mankato Symphony Orchestra, History, 1983-2006                      | 4  | 21 |
| Manuscript, <i>Musical Mankato, From Singing Societies to Symphony</i> , 2010   | 4  | 5  |
| Manuscript, Players with the Mankato Symphony Orchestra, 2012                   | 4  | 28 |
| Music and Youth Education in Mankato, Correspondence, 2011                      | 4  | 23 |
| Newspaper Clippings, 1922-2015  | 9  |    |
| Oral History, Karl Burch, 1972  | 4  | 43 |
| Oral History, Howard van Sickle and Robert Junge, 1972                          | 4  | 40 |
| Orchestra Performance, Mankato High School, undated                             | 2  | 82 |
| Programs (includes season numbering description, 1950-2005                      | 4  | 31 |
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| Programs, 1950-2007   | 4  | 30 |
| Poster Displays, 2010-2015  | 4  | 29 |
| Research Notes, 1973-2010   | 4  | 33 |
| Rockin' in the Quarry, Scrapbook, 2002  | 8  | 1  |
| Rockin' in the Quarry, 2005   | 2  | 85 |
| Sheet Music, Autographed, Music on the Hill, 2015                               | 10 | 1  |
| Works played by MSO, arranged by composer, 2006                                 | 4  | 9  |
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| <b>Concert Programs</b>   |    |    |
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