

Algis Grigas Papers

Dates: 1969-2016

Creator: Algis Grigas and Ruta Grigas

Extent: 2.5 plus linear feet.

Level of description: Folders

Languages: English, Lithuanian (small amount of German and Russian in published materials)

Processor & date: Peter Gunther June 2019

Administration Information

Restrictions: none

Copyright: Lithuanian Archives Project (LAP)

Citation: Lithuanian Archives Project, Algis Grigas Papers Papers. Box #, Folder #.

Provenance: Materials were donated to LAP in 2018 by Ruta Grigas, the wife of Algis Grigas.

Series:

Opera Performance

Lithuanian Days

Photos

Pamphlets / periodicals / Books

Oversize Items

Separations: none

Biographical Sketch

Algis Grigas was born in Kaunas Lithuania July 14, 1919. He emigrated to the U. S. A. with his parents Julia (Gaigalaite) and Stasys Grigaravičiai and sister Milda (Grigaravičiūtė) Mikėniene. At age 16 he began voice training with Madam Alodja Dičiūtė. He obtained a scholarship to study for five years with Mario Lanza's teacher, Maurice Sciappio at DePaul University, Chicago. He also studied at the Chicago Music Conservatory and Roosevelt University Music Department, and later went on to study under the famous Romanian opera soloist, Dimitri Onofrei. He was a frequent soloist at the LMA Dainava concerts and the performances of the Cleveland Čiurlionis Ensemble. He was also a frequent soloist in Chicago Lithuanian Opera Company performances. In 1984 he released his recording with the Philharmonia Hungarica Symphony Orchestra. In 1985 he was the first exile soloist invited to sing in Vilnius, at the Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theater, appearing in the role of Germont in Verdi's opera La Traviata. He has been a frequent soloist with Lyric Opera Company of Chicago.

Grigas had a significant and wide ranging influence due to the institutions he began.

In the course of his work and to promote Lithuanian Opera in the U. S. A., he founded his own record label: AG Records. He also began his own travel agency, GT International Industries, to assist in the travel of Lithuanian Opera stars to perform here in the USA and abroad. He also founded the Lithuanian Opera Company (and Workshop) to perform Operas on the south side of Chicago where he was the director and frequent soloist. In the 1990s he started the first Western tourism agency, Lufthansa City Center in Vilnius, where he has trained many tourism professionals.

Due to his own diabetes, he channeled his concern for Lithuanian youth and other sufferers of the disease via a collaboration with the endocrinologists from the Kaunas clinics under the guidance of Dr. Vladimir Petrenko and brought a delegation from the American Diabetes Association (USA) to Kaunas. A Youth Diabetes Camp was begun which has benefited young Lithuanians since the 1990s.

Algis Grigas passed away January 18, 2019.

Scope and Content

The Algis Grigas collection spans almost three linear feet covering the years 1969-2016. The collection includes clippings, photos and programs from operas and performances Grigas attended and performed himself. It contains the records of the operas with which he was involved, as well as some business records of AG Records, GT International Industries (/Travel Consultants) and the Lithuanian Opera Company (and Workshop). It also contains personal and business records relating to the operas he put on and can give insight into the work and business of creating operas; from renting performance space to selling tickets and publicity. It also provides a snapshot of promoting Lithuanian culture and (mostly musical) artists here in the U. S. A. and to a lesser extent in Europe.

The collection contains a series of published material, mostly about Opera and Lithuanian Opera including books, pamphlets and programs, all collected by Algis Grigas.

Series Information:

A note about series: Delineation of series for this collection is problematic; the original creator tended to put most media into most folders on most subjects. Series 1 through 4 are in labeled folders.

Series 1: Photos

This series contains photos, mostly black and white of A. Grigas and others, although there are photos scattered throughout the collection also.

Series 2: Chicago Lithuanian Opera Company (sometimes Chicago Lithuanian Opera Company and Workshop) 1972-1986

Material on the Chicago Lithuanian Opera Company appears in many folders throughout the collection, but mainly six folders and two pamphlets. The Company (along with others) was begun by Algis Grigas to perform and promote operas sung in Lithuanian and Lithuanian opera performers

Series 3: Salute to Lithuania 1986

This Series contains three folders of info about Salute to Lithuania a series of concerts in Chicago and Lithuania in 1986

Series 4: Lithuanian Opera and American Opera in Lithuania

Materials relating to Algis Grigas and his work in Opera in Lithuania, Chicago, the U. S. in general and Opera in general representing the bulk of the collection

Series 5: Pamphlets / periodicals / Books 1969-2003

Published media collected by Algis Grigas related to Lithuanian Opera, Opera in General, art by Lithuanians and Music

Oversize Items: items too large to fit into archival document cases.

Container List

Series 1: Photos

Box 1

Grigas Photos.
Photos, mostly Grigas.
Grigas Photos, Visit to Soviet Era Lithuania.
Grigas photos and others.
Photos, not Grigas.

Series 2: Chicago Lithuanian Opera Company

Lithuanian Opera Company Clippings 1986.
Lithuanian Opera Company Clippings 1984.
Chicago Lithuanian Opera Company- Clippings, program, leaflets, tickets, stationary (incl. International Industries), receipt 1985 -1987.
Lithuanian Opera Company - Clippings, Programs, Grigas correspondence, photos
Lithuanian Opera Company Clippings (and a photo) Don Carlo 1985
Legal Matters: Receipts, contracts, union material, rental materials, concert seating, tickets and requests, press releases, programs, correspondence: much of the material relating to Chicago Opera Co. production of La Boheme, 1972

Series 3: Salute to Lithuania

Salute to Lithuania (Program, Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago 2 copies)- Beverly Art Center, Chicago Concerts 2 copies), Tribute to Vilnius Opera (2 copies), Gala Performance tickets and program, all 1986.

Box 2

Salute to Lithuania incl. photos, clippings, Beverly Arts Center contract, program repertoire, lyrics, publicity, finances, correspondence 1986
Salute to Lithuania Clippings, reviews, correspondence, program repertoire, invitations, mailing lists, publicity, news releases, program info, receipts, mailgram (telex?) Re: USSR airline tickets, prices, expense accounting ledger 1986

Series 4: Lithuanian Opera and American Opera in Lithuanian

International Industries Receipts Mapleson Sheet Music.
Clippings, photos, correspondence, varia 1985, 1992
Sheet Music, incl. Ave Maria.
Sheet Music, various incl. Summertime, Flight of the Bumblebee, much in Lithuanian.
Programos: Dailės Parodus (Graphic art materials) 1975 -1988.
Lithuanian folk dancing and music (photo, pamphlet [soviet]) 1980s.
Grigas Straipsniai (articles / material by/about) 1983.
From Ona Metrikienė, young woman from Chicago sending music / work, correspondence
with Grigas 1990.
Lithuanian Opera, concert, movie, incl. Great Neck NY Clippings,
Programs 1979 -1992.

Box 3

Opera "Dux Magnus" (Chicago) incl. clippings, programs (2 copies, need opening with paper
knife) 1989.
Beverly Arts Center, seating charts, rental agreements, correspondence, printing advertising
(Morgan Park Academy 2153 West 111th St., Chicago, IL 60643) 1985-1986
Bronius Jonušas Lithuanian Marches Adapted for Piano Four Hands by Juozas Domarkas
Plans for publication (proofs) 1987.
Dainu Svente Chicago, clippings (See pamphlet "Vi Ir . . . Dainų Šventė) 1983.
Correspondence Re. performers incl. cassette 1985-1988.
Benefit concert (Gala) for Lithuanian Youth Center (Chicago), , incl. programs (2 copies) and
clippings 04-26-1981.
Toronto Concerts, incl. clippings and program 1981.
Performance Omaha Lietvių Choras (Grigas and accompanist) incl. correspondence and
programs 01-20-1985 (2 copies) and at Omaha Metro Right to Life Celebration of Life
Dinner 01-19-1985 (fundraiser, Grigas performed gratis) incl. correspondence and
program.
Lietviu Diena (Day) concert, Los Angeles CA incl. clippings and program 06-20-1982.
Gala Concert Grigas and Maralin Niska, incl. clippings and press release 03-14-1983.
Boston Concerts, Clippings, correspondence, programs (2 copies) 10-03-1985.
Lietuviu Opera Der Freischutz, Chicago clippings, (Lithuanian Opera Company) 03-11-1982.
Grigas Clippings Various 1982 - 1985.
Greeting and congratulatory cards for Grigas Concert 1987 (possibly 09-1987).

Box 4

Concerts Various, U. S. and Lithuania, Photos, clippings, programs , incl. performance
04-26-1981, 1981 - 1987.
Concerts Draugas Los Angeles, CA & Albuquerque NM, program (plan) correspondence,
schedule, clippings, greeting cards, photos. May 1984.
Schubert 200 Songs in 3 Volumes: music for Erbkönig.
Povilas Stravinskas photos (incl. publicity photos), program listing, correspondence reviews 1990.
Baletas Teatras (Vilnius) Concerts incl. La Traviata, photos, clippings, business and

congratulatory cards 1985 -1990

Il Lituani (Opera) incl. Article on Lithuanian Opera Company , mayoral and gubernatorial proclamations, correspondence, photos, clippings, press release, program at end (?) 1980-1981

Banuta New York (Carnegie Hall) and New Jersey, incl. Grigas bio, clippings, photos, correspondence, agreements, photos and press releases.

Opera soloist concert, March 31

Series 5: Pamphlets / periodicals / Books

Traviata (reprise from 1920) program 1980 (2 copies.)

Opera Ir Baleto Teatras (Vilnius) 1920 - 1980.

Lithuanian Opera Company Carmina Burana & I Pagliacci Program 1980 (2 copies).

Lithuanian Opera Company Aida Program 1981.

Lithuanian Daily Draugus Annual Concerts 1990 (2 Copies.)

Box 5

Lietuvos Operai 350 1986 includes Lithuanian, Russian, German.

Mišrus Kamerinis Choras Musika Panevėžys.

Draugo premijos įteikimo iškilimų (Program, Los Angeles, CA) 1984 (2 Copies).

Draugo laikraščio Iškilmingi 2016.

Oversize Posters for Grigas Concert in Lithuania 1987.

Gimtasis Kraštas (periodical) October 1987.

Sezonas 60

Sezonas 61

Sezonas 62

Sezonas 63

Sezonas 64

Sezonas 65

Sezonas 66,67

Sezonas 68 (2 copies)

Sezonas

Sezonas

Kultūros Barai 1985.

Vi Jav Ir Kanados Lietuvių Dainų Šventė 07-03-1983.

Lithuanian Days (Program Book, Program, Los Angeles, CA) June 1984.

Musikos barai 1995 (featuring Algis Grigas).

Draugo Koncertas Chicago, IL book 2000.

Draugo Metinis Koncertas Chicago, IL 2003 (2 copies).

Violeta Urmana Concert Book Chicago, IL 2003.

Draugo 95 Metų Jubiliejinis Koncertas Kariūnas Book Chicago, IL.

Fifty Selected Songs by Schubert, Schumann, Brahms, Wolf, Stauss, for Low Voice Schirmer's L Library Vol. #1755. Includes notes, probably by Grigas.

Dainos Ir Giesmės (book) by Alfonsas Mikulskis 1987.

Lietuvių Liaudies Muzikos Instrumentai Ansamblyje "Lietuva" (book) 1969.

CD: Algis Grigas Baritone (2 copies).

CD: Eikime Mudu Abudu (Let Us Walk Together).

Series 6: Oversize Items

Box 6

Poster of Violeta Urmanavičiūtė

Record Albums:

Ekime Mudu Abudu (Let Us Walk Together) 2 Copies

Algis Grigas, Baritone (2 Copies)

Dainuojame Su Rūta (Sing Along in Lithuanian)

Kompozitoriaus B. Jonūšo Kūrinius Atlieka Lietuvos. Pučiamųjų Orkestrai

Magnetic Tape incl. program tucked inside.

Framed CD and CD cover w/ "plaque" Algis Grigas Baritone, May 2016

Poster for La Boheme, Chicago Opera Co., 1973

A note about text searching this document:

Pressing Ctrl + F keys will open a search box. Depending on your operating system and other factors, it sometimes will work better to use the Lithuanian orthography (diacritical marks) particularly for proper names. Other times it might work better without the diacritical marks. To change keyboard layouts go to:

<https://www.windowcentral.com/how-change-your-keyboard-layout-windows-10>

After the new layout is chosen, pressing the windows key + space bar should lead to the opportunity to change between layouts.