

1981

## 0332: Jane Boedeker Shepherd Papers, 1937-1982

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**Jane Boedeker Shepherd**  
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**JANE BOEDEKER SHEPHERD (JANE HOBSON) PAPERS, 1935-1983**

Accession Number: 332

Processed By: Cora P. Teel; word-processed document prepared by Amanda Quait, 1998.

Date Completed: January 1985

Location: Special Collections Department

This collection was a gift of Mrs. Shepherd and was received on various dates between 1981 and 1983.

Linear feet of shelf space: 4

Literary rights: not assigned to Marshall University.

## CONTENTS

Content and Scope of the Collection	Page 1
Biography	2
Inventory of the Collection	
I. Correspondence and Personal Papers	3
II. Professional Papers	5
III. Printed Material and Photographs	6
IV. Oversized Items	9

Explanatory notes:

“Bx” refers to box in which papers are filed.

“Fd” refers to folder.

“SBk” refers to scrapbook.

## **CONTENT AND SCOPE OF THE COLLECTION**

The Jane Shepherd Papers consist of letters, contracts, printed programs, newspaper clippings, school papers and photographs, all related to her career as a mezzo-soprano and voice teacher.

Printed programs of her performances between 1935 and 1979 comprise the bulk of the collection. Other items relating to her professional singing career include a scrapbook and newspaper clippings of reviews, publicity material and photographs. Notes from classes, certificates and a transcript reflect her years as a student, from 1935 until 1946, at William Woods College, Fulton, Missouri; the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music; and the Juilliard School of Music.

The papers also contain items relating to her years as a voice teacher at Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia, from 1958 until 1983. These papers include a sabbatical leave report on her studies in Vienna, and several items regarding three of her pupils, Paulette Vineyard, Faith Esham, and Patricia Prunty.

Of particular note are holograph letters from Margaret Matzenauer and Phyllis Curtin as well as items autographed by George Szell and Robert Casadesu. Several items bear annotations by Mrs. Shepherd or staff members who interviewed her during the receipt of the collection.

### **JANE BOEDEKER SHEPHERD (JANE HOBSON), 1918-1984**

Born Flora Jane Boedeker on March 17, 1918, at Murray, Nebraska, Jane Shepherd began at age seven the piano training which was to carry her through an associate degree at William Woods College in Fulton, Missouri, a Diplome d'Execution in Piano from the American Conservatory in Fontainebleau, France, and a bachelor's and master's degree from the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. At the urging of teachers and fellow musicians, she was encouraged to begin voice training, completing four years on a fellowship at the Juilliard School of Music in New York. This training culminated in the receipt of the prestigious Walter W. Naumburg Foundation Prize and a concert at the Town Hall in New York City in 1946.

With her career as a mezzo-soprano thus launched, Mrs. Shepherd took the stage name of Jane Hobson, her grandmother's name, and, associated with Columbia Artists Management, toured extensively in the United States and Canada. Her marriage in 1948 to Huntington, West Virginia, native Robert V. Shepherd somewhat limited but by no means ended her career. She continued to appear with such major orchestras as the Pittsburgh, Chicago, St. Louise, and National Symphonies, and the Philadelphia Orchestra. Perhaps her most notable association was with George Szell and the Cleveland Orchestra, with whom she performed on numerous occasions Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.

Mrs. Shepherd also shared her musical gift with her adopted city and state of Huntington, West Virginia. She taught privately, hosted a local classical music radio show, and finally, in 1958, joined the faculty of Marshall University (then College), where she coached many voice students until her retirement as Artist-in-Residence and full Professor of Music in 1983. In addition to numerous local appearances in recitals and concerts, Mrs. Shepherd also assisted in the formation of the Huntington Chamber Orchestra and in the organization of district and regional Metropolitan Opera Auditions. Governor Jay Rockefeller appointed her to the West Virginia Arts and Humanities Commission for two consecutive terms.

Jane Shepherd died unexpectedly on July 28, 1984, from complications arising from a fall that she suffered in her home several weeks earlier. She was survived by her husband, her son and daughter-in-law Brian and Kathryn Shepherd, two grandchildren, and her brother, Charles Boedeker, of Walnut Creek, California.

From Huntington *Herald-Dispatch* 29 July 1984, and the Shepherd papers.

**JANE BOEDEKER SHEPHERD (JANE HOBSON) PAPERS, 1935-1983**

**I. CORRESPONDENCE AND PERSONAL PAPERS**

<b>Bx 1</b>	<b>Correspondence and personal papers</b>	<b>19 Fd</b>
Fd 1	Letters sent, undated	2 items
Fd 2	Letters received, 1948-1980	12 items
	These letter concern arrangements and expressions of appreciation for performances.	
Fd 3	Letters received, undated	3 items
Fd 4	Letter received, Columbia Artists Management, 1952-1973	5 items
Fd 5	Letter received, Margaret Matzenauer, undated	2 items
Fd 6	Letters received, Jay Rockefeller, 1969-1982	7 items
	Expressions of appreciation for performances and letters of appointment to the West Virginia Arts and Humanities Commission.	
Fd 7	Letters from family, 1948-1949; undated	3 items
	A letter from her father describes the reaction of the people from her hometown upon hearing her first national radio broadcast, "Metropolitan Opera Auditions of the Air."	
Fd 8	Secondary correspondence, 1947-1955;	2 items
	Letters to her brother Charles Boedeker and to Miss Harriet Casto of the Anderson-Newcomb Company of Huntington, West Virginia.	
Fd 9	Invitations sent, 1970-1977; undated	7 items
Fd 10	Biographical sketch, 1962	2 items
Fd 11	Resume, 1940	1 item
Fd 12	Transcript, Juilliard School of Music, 1946	1 item

**Bx 1** cont'd

Fd 13	Certificates, 1971-1982	6 items
Fd 14	Passport, 1937	1 item
Fd 15	Notations (holograph)	4 items
Fd 16	Compositions by Jane Boedeker	2 items
Fd 17	“Song for solo voice. . .” by Francis Jammes, translated by Richard Wilbur	1 item
Fd 18	“Gift of Ada Furst”	2 items
	A print and photograph so identified by Mrs. Shepherd.	
Fd 19	Special programs, 1942	2 items
	Mrs. Shepherd credited the recital by Martha Lipton as having influenced her decision to change from piano to voice training.	

**Bx 2 School papers** **13 Fd**

Fd 1	William Woods College, Fulton, Missouri, 1940-1960	5 items
	Printed material (articles, programs) about alumna Jane Shepherd.	
Fd 2	Cincinnati Conservatory of Music notebooks, undated	2 items
Fd 3	Cincinnati Conservatory of Music: Papers from Music Literature, 1940	2 items
Fd 4	Cincinnati Conservatory of Music-Classnotes, 1941	2 items
Fd 5	Cincinnati Conservatory of Music - Classnotes, 1942	4 items
Fd 6	Cincinnati Conservatory of Music - Classnotes, 1942; undated	9 items
Fd 7	Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, 1940-1942	2 items
	Programs of undergraduate and graduate recitals.	



**Bx 2** cont'd

Fd 8-9	Notebook, school unidentified	1 item
Fd 10	Juilliard School of Music Fellowship Regulations	1 item
Fd 11	Juilliard School of Music class notes German diction class.	1 item
Fd 12	Juilliard School of Music class notes Italian diction class.	1 item
Fd 13	Miscellaneous notes Notebook on stage make up and diction among others.	7 items

**II. PROFESSIONAL PAPERS**

<b>Bx 3</b>	<b>Professional Papers</b>	<b>13 Fd</b>
Fd 1	Radio script, Metropolitan Opera Auditions of the Air, 1948	1 item
Fd 2	Score  This annotated score of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony was used by Mrs. Shepherd in her performances with George Szell and the Cleveland Orchestra; bears Szell's inscription.	1 item
Fd 3	Items found in score in fd 2	8 items
Fd 4	Columbia Artists Management Itineraries, 1948-1953	6 items
Fd 5	Voice Students, 1954	1 item
Fd 6	Contracts, 1948-1955  Primarily with Columbia Artists Management.	9 items
Fd 7	Contracts, 1970-1983  Marshall University teaching contracts.	24 items

**Bx 3** cont'd

Fd 8 Marshall University Reports, 1972-1982 14 items

Fd 9 Special Students, 1970-1981 11 items

Items relating to Paulette Vineyard, Faith Esham and Patricia Prunty include articles, newspaper clippings and letters. Of special interest is the letter from Phyllis Curtin concerning Patricia Prunty at Yale University, which reveals the close friendship between Miss Curtin and Mrs. Shepherd.

Fd 10 Miscellaneous items from classroom 2 items

Includes the name plate from her office.

Fd 11 *Creative Arts Bulletin*, Marshall University, 1970-71 1 item

Fd 12 Printed material about Phyllis Curtin 4 items

Fd 13 Printed material, 1952-1955 2 items

The Columbia Artists Management list of Artists.

**III. PRINTED MATERIAL AND PHOTOGRAPHS****Bx 4 Programs, 1937-1979 20 Fd**

These are programs for more than three performances and are arranged alphabetically by sponsoring group or orchestra.

Fd 1 Bach festival, Baldwin Wallace College, 1964-68 5 items

Fd 2 Bach festival, Rollins College, 1962-65 4 items

Fd 3 Baptist Temple, Charleston, W. Va., 1966-74 7 items

Fd 4 Blowing Rock, North Carolina, 1952-57 8 items

Fd 5 Bynden Wood, Pennsylvania, 1952-1953; undated 6 items

**Bx 4** cont'd

Fd 6	Carnegie Hall, 1948-1965	4 items
Fd 7	Church of the Saviour, Cleveland, Ohio, 1965	4 items
Fd 8	Cincinnati Conservatory, 1940-1961	8 items
Fd 9	Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, 1954-1962	3 items
Fd 10	Cleveland Orchestra, 1950-1965	9 items
Fd 11	Columbus Symphony, 1957-1975	7 items
Fd 12	Community Concert Association, 1948-1959	26 items
Fd 13	Lakeside Association, 1963-1965	5 items
Fd 14	Marshall University (College), 1956-1979; undated	24 items
Fd 15	Minneapolis Symphony, 1953-1959	4 items
Fd 16	National Presbyterian Church, Washington, D.C. 1955-1957	3 items
Fd 17	National Symphony Orchestra, Washington, D.C., 1955-1959	4 items
Fd 18	Opera for College, 1947-1949	3 items
Fd 19	Town Hall, New York, 1945-1953	4 items
	Includes the program of Mrs. Shepherd's appearance as the recipient of the Naumburg Prize (as Jane Boedeker).	
Fd 20	William Woods College, 1937-1960	4 items

**Bx 5 Programs, 1935-1977****11 Fd**

These are programs of various performances, representing no more than two for each sponsoring group. They are also arranged alphabetically by sponsoring group or orchestra.

Significant in this box is the earliest program of the collection, a recital in 1935.

<b>Bx 6</b>	<b>Printed Material and Photographs</b>	<b>25 Fd</b>
Fd 1	Programs of performances of others, 1941-1967	20 items
Fd 2	Newspaper Clippings: Artist Series, Huntington, W. Va., 1956	4 items
Fd 3	Newspaper Clippings: Bach Festival, 1963-1965	12 items
Fd 4	Newspaper Clippings: Bach Mass, Pittsburgh; undated	4 items
Fd 5	Newspaper Clippings: Beethoven with Szell, 1958-1959	22 items
Fd 6	Newspaper Clippings: Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with other orchestras, 1958-1965	5 items
Fd 7	Newspaper Clippings: Blossom Festival, 1968	6 items
Fd 8	Newspaper Clippings: <i>Così Fan Tutti</i> , 1948-1959	20 items
Fd 9	Newspaper Clippings: <i>Die Fledermaus</i> , 1960	5 items
Fd 10	Newspaper Clippings: Huntington newspapers, 1950-1977; undated	39 items
Fd 11	Newspaper Clippings: Met auditions, 1948	3 items
Fd 12	Newspaper Clippings: Nebraska, 1943-1948	3 items
Fd 13	Newspaper Clippings: Paul Paray, 1962	2 items
Fd 14	Newspaper Clippings: <i>Salome</i> , 1958	6 items
Fd 15	Newspaper Clippings: Verdi's <i>Requiem</i> , 1959-1961	4 items
Fd 16	Newspaper Clippings: Wedding, 1948	3 items
Fd 17	Newspaper Clippings: miscellaneous, out-of-town papers, 1948-1969	29 items
Fd 18	Newspaper Clippings: other miscellaneous, 1960-1974	8 items
Fd 19	Newspaper Mats	7 items

**Bx 6** cont'd

Fd 20	Publicity brochures and releases	20 items
Fd 21	Miscellaneous printed material	9 items
Fd 22	Photographs - publicity, 1945-196_	22 items
Fd 23	Photographs - Blowing Rock, N. C.	5 items
Fd 24	Photographs - William Woods College	3 items
Fd 25	Photographs - general	27 items

**Bx 7 Framed Certificates and photographs 8 items**

Includes autographed photographs of Margaret Matzenauer and Robert Casadesus.

**IV. OVERSIZED ITEMS****Scrapbook 1 - Pressbook, 1948 - 1956****Framed Item # 9 - Diploma, Ecoles d'art americaines en France, conservatoire de musique (1938)****Oversized Bx 1 3 items**

Diplomas from the Cincinnati Conservatory and the Juilliard School of Music.

**Oversized Fd 1 7 items**

Posters, certificates of appointment to the West Virginia Arts and Humanities Council, and other items.