



State of Tennessee  
Department of State  
**Tennessee State Library and Archives**  
403 Seventh Avenue North  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0312

**STRICKLAND, WILLIAM**  
**(1914-1991)**  
**NASHVILLE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**  
**PAPERS**  
**1945-1970**

**(THS Collection)**

*Processed by:*

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## **INTRODUCTION**

This finding aid focuses on the papers of William Strickland conductor of the Nashville Symphony Orchestra for five seasons, 1946-1951. Spanning the years 1945-1970, the papers describe how Mr. Strickland was encouraged to apply, after World War II, for the position of conductor of the Nashville Symphony Orchestra, his acclaimed successes in leading the Nashville musical group for five consecutive seasons., and his reason for departure after the 1950-1951 season.

The materials were purchased by the Tennessee Historical Society in 1991 from the A. C. Richard Pinto & Co., of Turnbull, Connecticut.

The materials in this finding aid measure 3.0 cubic feet. There are no restrictions on the materials. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the William Strickland Nashville Symphony Orchestra Papers may be made for individual or scholarly research.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The William Strickland Nashville Symphony Orchestra Papers, containing approximately 145 items, span the period 1945-1970, although the bulk is largely concentrated in the years 1945-1951. The collection is composed of correspondence, photographs, programs, recordings, scrapbooks, and several miscellaneous items.

A substantial portion of the collection consists of correspondence including letters between Strickland and Walter Sharp, President of the Nashville Civic Music Association; the NBC radio broadcast of the Nashville Symphony Orchestra on January 15, 1949; the last season (1950-1951) of the symphony concerts; and letters between Strickland and Louise Davis, staff writer for the Nashville *Tennessean*, discussing the strained relationship between Strickland and Sharp which eventually led to Strickland's resignation in 1951. Originally arranged chronologically by subject matter this arrangement has been maintained.

There are fifteen reel-to-reel recordings in the collection. Twelve of the recordings are of the Nashville Symphony Orchestra in selected concerts between 1946-1951; one is the "Sound of the News" radio broadcast on April 8, 1951; and two of interviews by Louise Davis of William Strickland in 1976 and 1982.

The scrapbooks consist of copies of concert admission tickets, church newsletters and programs, clippings, correspondence (including telegrams), concert programs, lists of musical programs at the National Gallery of Art, and a transcript of the CBS radio broadcast of an organ concert on May 26, 1946 featuring Strickland and the Nashville Symphony Orchestra. The scrapbooks were arranged chronologically by Margaret F. Castle, a member of the Nashville Civic Music Association, for the Tennessee Historical Society. The original scrapbooks are housed in the Library of Congress.

The William Strickland Nashville Symphony Orchestra Papers provide valuable information and insight on the founding and the first five years of this musical association in Nashville, Tennessee.

## CONTAINER LIST

### **Microfilm Reel #1**

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#### **Box 1**

1. Associations, institutions, etc.,--the Nashville Civic Music Association—Beginnings of the Nashville Orchestra
2. Biographical sketch—William Strickland (1914-[1991])
3. Clippings—Mrs. Walter (Huldah) Sharp, 1945
4. Clippings—William Strickland and Nashville Symphony, 1946
5. Correspondence—Walter Sharp/William Strickland, 1945-1947
6. Correspondence—Orchestra plans and miscellaneous letters, 1946-1951
7. Correspondence—NBC broadcast of Nashville Symphony orchestra, Jan. 15, 1949
8. Correspondence—Nashville finale and miscellaneous letters, 1951-1970
9. Correspondence—Louise Davis article re Nashville Symphony and miscellaneous letters, 1967

#### **Box 2**

1. Photo albums—First concert, Nashville Symphony Orchestra, Dec. 10, 1946
2. Photographs—William Strickland (2)
3. Photographs—William Strickland—reception at Belle Meade Country Club, April 1951 (2)
4. Photographs—William Strickland, et al—after concert, Nov. 8, 1949
5. Photographs—William Strickland and Rose Bampton, Metropolitan Opera soloist
6. Programs—Nashville Symphony Orchestra, 1946-1947
7. Programs—Nashville Symphony Orchestra, 1947-1948
8. Programs—Nashville Symphony Orchestra, 1948-1949
9. Programs—Nashville Symphony Orchestra, 1949-1950

### **Microfilm Reel #2**

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10. Programs—Nashville Symphony Orchestra, 1950-1951
11. Programs—Seoul, Korea Philharmony Orchestra Concert, March 28, 1958
12. Publications—magazine—"Symphony Boom," Feb. 1, 1949

#### **Box 3**

##### **Scrapbooks**

1. Volume 1: Nashville Symphony Orchestra, 1946-1947
2. Volume 2: Nashville Symphony Orchestra, 1946-1947, continued
3. Volume 3: Nashville Symphony Orchestra, 1947-1948
4. Volume 4: Nashville Symphony Orchestra, 1947-1948, continued
5. Volume 5: Nashville Symphony Orchestra, 1948
6. Volume 6: Nashville Symphony Orchestra, Summer, 1948

#### **Box 4**

##### **Scrapbooks**

1. Volume 7: Nashville Symphony Orchestra, 1948-1949

#### **Microfilm Reel #3**

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2. Volume 8: Nashville Symphony Orchestra, 1948-1949, continued
3. Volume 9: Nashville Symphony Orchestra, 1949-1950
4. Volume 10: Nashville Symphony Orchestra, 1950

#### **Box 5**

##### **Scrapbooks**

1. Volume 11: Nashville Symphony Orchestra, 1950-1951
2. Volume 12: Nashville Symphony Orchestra, 1951
3. Telegrams re NBC broadcast of Nashville Symphony Orchestra, Jan. 15, 1949
4. William Strickland—recommendations to the Nashville selection committee

#### **Box 6**

##### **Oversize Photographs**

1. Nashville Symphony Orchestra, 1947-1948
2. Nashville Symphony Orchestra & Nashville Choral Society, 1949-1950
3. Squadron 23 A. A. F., Office Candidate School (OCS)
4. 38<sup>th</sup> Mess Squadron A. A. F., Office Candidate School (OCS)

#### **Box 7**

##### **Negatives**

- N.1—William Strickland
- N.2—William Strickland—conducting
- N.3—William Strickland—conducting
- N.4—William Strickland—conducting
- N.5—William Strickland—conducting
- N.6—William Strickland—conducting
- N.7—William Strickland and Rose Bampton, Metropolitan Opera soloist
- N.8—Nashville Symphony Orchestra—opening concert, Dec. 10, 1946
- N.9—Nashville Symphony Orchestra—opening concert, Dec. 10, 1946
- N.10—Nashville Symphony Orchestra—opening concert, Dec. 10, 1946
- N.11—Audience at Nashville Symphony Orchestra concert
- N.12—Reception at Cheekwood, Dec. 10, 1946
- N.13—Reception at Cheekwood, Dec. 10, 1946
- N.14—Reception at Cheekwood, Dec. 10, 1946
- N.15—Reception at Cheekwood, Dec. 10, 1946
- N.16—Reception at Cheekwood, Dec. 10, 1946
- N.17—Reception at Cheekwood, Dec. 10, 1946
- N.18—Reception at Cheekwood, Dec. 10, 1946

**Recordings** (reel-to-reel)

**BOX 8**

1. Nashville Symphony Orchestra, Opening Concert, Dec. 10, 1946 (Reel 1)
2. Nashville Symphony Orchestra, Opening Concert, Dec. 10, 1946 (Reel 2)
3. Nashville Symphony Orchestra, Opening Concert, Dec. 10, 1946 (Reel 3)
4. Nashville Symphony Orchestra, NBC broadcast, Jan. 15, 1949 (Reel 1)

**BOX 9**

5. Nashville Symphony Orchestra, NBC broadcast, Jan. 15, 1949 (Reel 2)
6. Nashville Symphony Orchestra, Beethoven—Symphony No. 9, Apr. 18, 1950 (Reel 1)
7. Nashville Symphony Orchestra, Beethoven—Symphony No. 9, Apr. 18, 1950 (Reel 2)
8. Nashville Symphony Orchestra, Beethoven—Symphony No. 9, Apr. 18, 1950 (Reel 3)

**BOX 10**

9. Nashville Symphony Orchestra, Prokofieff—Piano Concerto No. 3, Feb. 20, 1951
10. Nashville Symphony Orchestra, Barber—Knoxville—Summer of 1915,  
Mar. 13, 1951
11. Nashville Symphony Orchestra, William Strickland's last concert, Apr. 3, 1951
12. Wagner—Immolation Scene from Die Gotterdammerung, Soloist Eileen Farrett

**BOX 11**

13. Interview—Louise Davis with William Strickland: The Founding of the Nashville Symphony, Choral Society and Youth Orchestra, and William Strickland's resignation, Oct. 14, 1976
14. Interview—Louise Davis with William Strickland: Pre-Nashville and Nashville, May 29, 1982

**BOX 12**

15. "Sound of the News" broadcast, Apr. 8, 1951