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# Making LGBTQ+ Special Collections Discoverable at the Library of Congress Music Division

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# Performing Arts Reading Room

MUSIC  
DIVISION[Home](#)

Find

in

Performing Arts Pages

[go](#)

**Notice:** As the Library of Congress gradually begins to reopen its Reading Rooms for research, we are putting safety first with new procedures and practices that protect everyone's health. Confirmed appointments are required for entry into Library facilities, and everyone must follow the health and safety protocols established by the Library, in consultation with public health professionals. Most of these protocols are mandatory, regardless of vaccination status. Starting on June 14, 2021, the Music Division will provide access by appointment only between the hours of 9:30 am – 12:30 pm and 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm, Monday - Friday. Please submit an [Ask a Librarian](#) or call (202) 707-5507 to schedule an appointment. For more information, see: <https://loc.gov/about/pandemic-information/for-researchers/>.

- **NEW!** [Performing Arts Remote Research Guide](#) (PDF: 500 KB / 13 pages)
- [General Information](#)
- [About the Collections](#)
- [Catalogs, Bibliographies, Guides & Databases](#)
- [Special Collections and Finding Aids](#)
- [Digital Collections](#)
- [Concerts from the Library of Congress](#)

**NEW for Teachers!**  
[An Online Office Hours Webcast](#)

**Hours:**

Weekdays and Saturday  
 8:30am to 5:00 pm  
 No materials pulled after 4:15pm  
 Closed [Federal holidays](#)

**Location:**

101 Independence Ave., SE  
 Room LM 113  
[James Madison Memorial Bldg](#)  
 Washington, D.C. 20540-4710  
 Phone: 202-707-5507  
[Map showing location](#)

**ATTENTION:**  
 Before Visiting the Performing

## Special Collections and Finding Aids



Photograph of Alexandra Danilova and Serge Lifar in Apollon Musagete, n.d.

The Music Division holds more than five hundred named special collections in music, theater, and dance, varying in size from fewer than a dozen items to more than half a million. Many of these collections are processed and have finding aids online. Others are in varying stages of processing and may have guides, inventories, or print finding aids available on-site. Collections with no finding aids or other guides are described by catalog records in the [online catalog](#). Links are provided in this list of special collections to both finding aids and catalog records.

Most Library of Congress online finding aids utilize [Encoded Archival Description \(EAD\)](#), enabling one to [search multiple finding aids across divisions in a single search](#). Finding aid PDFs are also provided to facilitate printing.

Researchers who wish to consult any special collection material are advised to contact the [Reader Services Section](#) two weeks in advance for assistance in planning their visit and to ensure that collection material will be available.

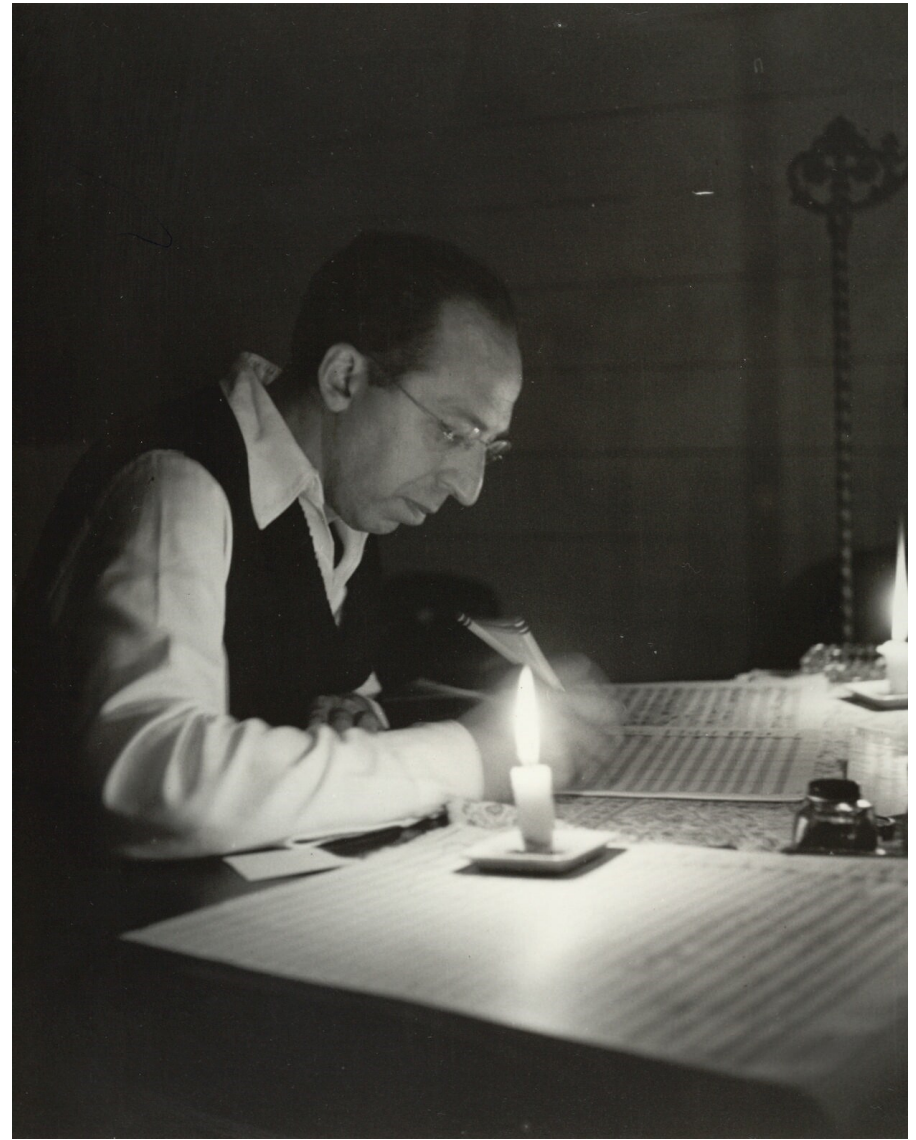
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**Browse:** [A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

### A

- John R. Adams Collection (English teacher and archivist) [\[View Catalog Record\]](#)
- Clarence Adler Papers (pianist and music teacher) [\[View Catalog Record\]](#)





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# Survey Apparatus

- Title of Collection
- Processed?
- Catalog Record and Finding Aid PURLs
- Relevant Materials
- Ethical Concerns?
- Offensive Language?

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# Ethical Concerns

- Unclear identity
- Closeted individuals
  - Included individuals whose identity has become public knowledge
  - Did not include individuals whose identity is not public knowledge

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# Results

- 500+ Special Collections overall
- 40 Collections focused on LGBTQ+ individual
- Gaps: Lack of women (6), POC (3), and trans/nb (0)

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# Results

- Indexing Terms/700 Field
- 82 further collections where LGBTQ+ individuals or materials appear but are not the focus





Aaron Copland identified in indexing terms of 26 additional Special Collections

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# LGBTQ+ Artists Represented in the Performing Arts Special Collections in the Library of Congress Music Division

American Ballet Caravan Music Scores, 1935-1947

<https://lccn.loc.gov/2016570603>

Finding aid: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.music/eadmus.mu019002>

LGBTQ+ Creator or Focus

Ballet Caravan (later American Ballet Caravan) was founded on July 17, 1936, at Bennington College, Vermont, by American impresario, arts patron, historian, critic, theorist, editor, and ballet director Lincoln Kirstein (b. May 4, 1907, Rochester, NY; d. January 5, 1996, Manhattan, NY). He established this organization as a means to develop choreographic ideas in ballet, and

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# LGBTQ+ Performing Arts Resources at the Library of Congress

The work of LGBTQ+ musicians, dancers, choreographers, writers, directors, designers, and other creators, is highlighted through these primary and secondary sources both online and in print.


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## Introduction

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Researching LGBTQ+ Resources

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Special Collections 

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Digital Collections

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Web Archives

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Online Exhibitions

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Blog Posts

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Event Videos

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Other LGBTQ+ Resources

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Using the Library of Congress

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## Introduction

The Music Division holds a wealth of information about many LGBTQ+ performing arts books and scores, special collections, online collections. Documents include musical scores, correspondence, scripts, photographs, and biographies of lives and careers. This guide brings together some of the highlights about LGBTQ+ creators and to recognize and celebrate their art.

The sexual and gender identity of many historical figures has been different from such individuals would identify by today's terminology. Other figures are known through correspondence or other writings. We do not wish to ascribe to the same time we recognize that many of the queer community's are known for forced closeting. By increasing awareness of LGBTQ+ identity in music, it is more accessible for students, educators, and scholars.

This guide does not claim to be comprehensive, neither in terms of the Music Reading Room nor in terms of identifying every location in which

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Introduction

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Researching LGBTQ+ Resources

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## **Special Collections**

Using Finding Aids

LGBTQ+ Collections

Related Dance Collections

Related Music Collections

Related Theater and Film Collections

# Special Collections

The pages in this section list finding aids and special collections in order to be comprehensive, neither in terms of identifying every LGBTQ+ artist nor identifying every collection in which those artists are represented. The finding aids associated with each collection; as a result, there may be LGBTQ+ artists included as subject headings. Additionally, individuals and collections are listed in those collections but not the topic of their materials; some individuals are included only those collections held by the Music Division; there are other divisions at the Library of Congress. This guide has been compiled for your references.

Collections listed on the "LGBTQ+ Collections" page focus on LGBTQ+ artists.

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## Molto Animato! Music and Animation

Molto Animato! Music and Animation explores the unparalleled collections in the Music; Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound; and Prints and Photographs divisions of the Library of Congress. Molto Animato (“very animated”), juxtaposes music scores, lyrics, and drawings with film clips and sound recordings to provide a glimpse into the intricate wedding of art forms that bring drawings to life. This exhibition provides a small sample of the Library’s treasures that demonstrate the magic of animation and the music that makes it come alive. Many of the materials were drawn from the Howard Ashman Collection.

## Performing Arts Web Archive

The Performing Arts Web Archive contains web-based content related to the Music Division’s current special collections and rare material holdings. The goal of this web archive collection is to reflect, enhance, and contextualize the division’s unique holdings with websites that have direct personal, institutional, or subject relationships to them. The web-based content includes online scholarship and blogs; fan sites; memorial and legacy foundation sites; websites of performing arts creators, organizations, and festivals; anniversary events; and social media.

[Search for relevant LGBTQ+ content within Performing Arts Web Archive](#)





### **The Carnegie Hall Collection of Conversations with Composers**

Ellen Taaffe Zwilich held the first Carnegie Hall Composer's Chair from 1995 to 1999. One of her many initiatives as chair was to build a video archive of interviews with composers whose works were premiered at Carnegie Hall and whose careers were influenced by that venerable cultural institution. These rich and often remarkably candid conversations feature composers Pierre Boulez, Elliott Carter, David Diamond, Lukas Foss, Morton Gould, Ned Rorem, Gunther Schuller, and Zwilich herself, interviewed by Ara Guzelimian, discussing their musical experiences in New York and at Carnegie Hall. Through a cooperative

agreement between the Library of Congress and Carnegie Hall, these videos are available here. The Library of Congress Music Division holds the papers of many of these composers.



### **Martha Graham at the Library of Congress**

Dancer, choreographer, and company director Martha Graham (1894-1991) is considered one of the pioneering founders of American modern dance. In a career spanning over seven decades, Graham developed her own innovative technique and produced an impressive legacy of 181 choreographic works. In this Web presentation, we follow Martha Graham's work between 1918 and 1949, and offer a selection of materials related to them – concert programs, clippings (including press announcements and reviews), libretti, scripts and photographs.



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**Thank You!**

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**Guides.loc.gov/lgbtq-performing-arts**

