K1270
Norman Benjamin Kahn (1918-2011) Papers
[Jewish Community Archives]
1939-2011
3 cubic feet, oversize scrapbooks

*Kahn was a businessman, entrepreneur, community leader, supporter of the arts, and contributor to Jewish and community causes. Includes correspondence, reports and other materials relating to the Kansas City Philharmonic and Kansas City Symphony and other organization in which he was involved.*

BIOGRAPHY:

Norman Benjamin Kahn was born in Chicago on August 25, 1918, to Harry and Ida Kahn, who were in the dry goods business. The family moved to Kansas City, MO, during the Great Depression in 1933 to be near other family members. He attended Paseo High School and was a member of Boy Scout Troop 61 chartered to Beth Shalom Synagogue. Norman attended the Kansas City Junior College and the University of Missouri in Columbia.

When World War II began he was employed with Sonken Galamba Metals in Kansas City, KS, but left to enlist in the Army Air Corps. Grounded by an ear abnormality, he trained as an instructor in "pre-flight" mechanics, preparing B-25 bombers in Ypsilanti, MI and in Seattle, WA. On November 23, 1944, Norman married Sybil Kahn (no relation), whom he had met when she was a student at Stephens College in Columbia, MO.

After the war, Norman brought Sybil to Kansas City where he was again employed at Sonken Galamba Metals, working his way up to sales manager and launching his career in the steel industry. In 1955, he joined Brown Strauss Steel Company in Kansas City, KS, as President of their new steel division. He soon became President of the company and in 1973 led the sale of Brown-Strauss to Azcon Steel, the North American arm of the multi-national company Consolidated Gold Fields Ltd., with offices in New York City and London. He served as President of Azcon and sat on the Board of Directors of Consolidated Gold Fields for 10 years. Following his tenure at Consolidated Gold Fields, he
started Kahn Steel Co., which he soon sold to Levinson Steel of Pittsburgh, PA. In 1988, he joined his sons Fred and Ted, establishing a new Kahn Steel Company.

Norman served as president of the Board of the Westwood View School in Fairway, KS, where he encouraged innovations in this single-school district, such as non-graded classrooms and Spanish language education in the early grades. At age 65, he received his Masters Degree in Business Administration from Rockhurst University. He then taught in the MBA program and served on the Rockhurst Board of Regents for many years, including as its Chair. He also served for many years on the Boards of Penn Valley Community College, Merchants Bank, Brotherhood State Bank, Menorah Hospital, Young Men’s Hebrew Association (YMHA), Jewish Family Services, and was a life member of the Jewish Community Foundation.

A lifelong supporter of art and music, Norman was President of the Board of Directors of the Kansas City Philharmonic Orchestra when it transitioned to the current Kansas City Symphony Orchestra. He was particularly interested in bringing the symphony to youth, starting the "Coke Concerts" in the 1950s, a forerunner of the Young Audience program. He served as Treasurer and then Vice-President of the Kansas City Symphony Foundation until his death. Also Norman was the first male docent at the Nelson Atkins Museum of Art for more than 20 years, specializing in tours for schoolchildren. He and Sybil founded Museum without Walls providing museum quality exhibitions in public spaces.

A lifelong member of Congregation Beth Shalom and for many years a member of The Temple, Congregation B’nai Jehudah, Ohev Sholom and Kehilath Israel Synagogues, as well, Norman Kahn died on the of June 13, 2011, after a short illness.

PROVENANCE:

This gift was received from Sybil Kahn as accession KA2108 on May 13, 2013.

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CONTACT:

*The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City*

302 Newcomb Hall, University of Missouri-Kansas City

5123 Holmes Street, Kansas City, MO 64110-2499

(816) 235-1543 SHSofMO-KC@umsystem.edu

[http://shs.umsystem.edu/index.shtml](http://shs.umsystem.edu/index.shtml)

DESCRIPTION:

The collection includes administrative materials, publications, booklets, research notes, reports, studies, and scrapbooks related to the Kansas City Philharmonic. Also included are materials concerning various other arts, education, and community organizations.

INVENTORY:

**BOX 001**

*KANSAS CITY PHILHARMONIC*

**Administrative Files**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Folder 8.</td>
<td>Kansas City Philharmonic: Board of Governors Book, 1974-1975 (2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 10.</td>
<td>Kansas City Philharmonic: Board of Governors and Executive Committee Book, 1979-1980 (2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 12.</td>
<td>Kansas City Philharmonic: Board of Directors/Governors special meeting minutes, July 1, 1982</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 13.</td>
<td>Kansas City Philharmonic: Board of Directors minutes, 2005</td>
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Folder 14. Kansas City Philharmonic: Board of Directors meeting, 2005
Folder 15. Kansas City Philharmonic: Board of Directors meetings, 2006
Folder 17. Kansas City Philharmonic: Board of Directors meeting, October 6, 2009
Folder 18. Kansas City Philharmonic: Board of Directors meeting, December 15, 2009
Folder 19. Kansas City Philharmonic: Board of Directors meetings, 2009
Folder 20. Kansas City Philharmonic: Board of Directors meeting, March 23, 2010
Folder 22. Kansas City Philharmonic: Board of Directors meeting, December 19, 2010
Folder 23. Kansas City Philharmonic: Board of Directors meeting, June 1, 2010
Folder 24. Kansas City Philharmonic: Board of Directors meeting, October 19, 2010
Folder 25. Kansas City Philharmonic: Board of Directors meetings, 2011
Folder 26. Kansas City Philharmonic: Board of Directors meeting, March 22, 2011
Folder 29. Kansas City Philharmonic: Long range plan, February 1979
Folder 32. Kansas City Philharmonic: Project 50 (Golden anniversary), December 1981

BOX 002

KANSAS CITY PHILHARMONIC

Reports/Studies


Folder 3. Mid-America Assembly on the Future of the Performing Arts, 1979


Folder 5. Kansas City Philharmonic: “Report to the KC Philharmonic Association from special long-range planning committee”, June 10, 1982


Folder 8. Kansas City Philharmonic: preliminary report of Mayors Philharmonic task force (Mayor Berkley)


**Conductor’s cards/Programs/Press books**

Folder 11. Kansas City Philharmonic: Karl Krueger, conductor (1933-1943) cards, includes: composer, piece, and parts


Folder 14. Kansas City Philharmonic: Programs, 1945

Folder 15. Kansas City Philharmonic: Newsletters, 1947-1948 Season


Folder 17. Kansas City Philharmonic: Programs, 1958-1959 Season


Folder 24. Kansas City Philharmonic: Programs, 1981-1982 Season
Folder 26. Gala Brillante II, June 6, 1982

Booklets
Folder 29. Booklet: “My most Precious Thanks”: children’s letters to the Kansas City Philharmonic, 1970

History Project
Folder 32. Kansas City Philharmonic: An overview of the History of the Kansas City Philharmonic project, 1982
Folder 33. Kansas City Philharmonic: History Project- Correspondence, 1983
Folder 34. Kansas City Philharmonic: History Project- Administrative file, 1982-1984
Folder 38. Kansas City Philharmonic: History Project- research notes, Fowler (source?)
Folder 39. Kansas City Philharmonic: History Project- research notes, Kranitz-Sanders, various sources (1)
Folder 40. Kansas City Philharmonic: History Project- research notes, Kranitz-Sanders, various sources (2)
Folder 41. Kansas City Philharmonic: History Project- research notes, various sources
Folder 42. Kansas City Philharmonic: History Project- research- clippings, 1933
Folder 43. Kansas City Philharmonic: History Project - research - clippings, 1940s
Folder 44. Kansas City Philharmonic: History Project - research - clippings, 1960s
Folder 45. Kansas City Philharmonic: History Project - research - clippings, 1970s
Folder 46. Kansas City Philharmonic: History Project - research - clippings, 1980s
Folder 47. Kansas City Philharmonic: History Project - research - clippings, 1981

BOX 003 (box not full)

KANSAS CITY PHILHARMONIC

History Project

Folder 1. Kansas City Philharmonic: History Project - research - clippings, 1982 (1)
Folder 2. Kansas City Philharmonic: History Project - research - clippings, 1982 (2)
Folder 3. Kansas City Philharmonic: History Project - research - clippings, 1982 (3)
Folder 4. Kansas City Philharmonic: History Project - research - clippings, 1982 (4)
Folder 5. Kansas City Philharmonic: History Project - research - clippings, 1983

VARIOUS ARTS/EDUCATION/COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Folder 7. Nelson Gallery of Art, Board of Trustees
Folder 9. Starlight Theater, 1982
Folder 10. People Puzzle Exhibit, 1996
Folder 11. Rockhurst University - correspondence, 2010
Folder 12. Johnson County Community College, 2010
Folder 13. Kauffman Center for Performing Arts, seating chart
Folder 15. Jewish Community Foundation, Board of Trustees, minutes, 2007
BOX 001x1

KANSAS CITY PHILHARMONIC SCRAPBOOKS