Guide to the
Ballet Society photographs
1946-1948
*MGZEB 21-0011

Processed by Nathan Evans in 2021.

Summary

Creator: Ballet Society (New York, N.Y.)

Title: Ballet Society photographs

Date: 1946-1948

Size: .42 linear feet (1 box)

Source: The source of the collection is unknown.

Abstract: The Ballet Society is an educational institution and predecessor to the New York City Ballet that performed for private audiences from 1946 to 1948. The Ballet Society photographs document performances and rehearsals by the company.


Language of the Material: English


Creator History

The Ballet Society was founded in 1946 by George Balanchine and Lincoln Kirstein to promote lyric theater. It performed for subscription-only audiences in New York City for two years, introducing ballets primarily choreographed by Balanchine such as Divertimento and Symphony in C. Featured dancers at the company included Todd Bolender, Tanaquil Le Clercq, Francisco Moncion, and Maria Tallchief. Shortly after its first public performance in April 1948, the Ballet Society was incorporated into the New York City Ballet but continued to operate as a non-profit institution, publishing books, commissioning performances, and sponsoring dance projects.

Scope and Content Note
The collection contains black-and-white photographs and negatives of Ballet Society performances and rehearsals from 1946 to 1948.

Performances comprise the bulk of the collection and include Divertimento; The Four Temperaments; Highland Fling; Orpheus; Renard; The Seasons; Sinfonia Concertante in E-flat Major for Violin, Viola, and Orchestra, K 364; Symphony in C; and The Triumph of Bacchus and Ariadne. Rehearsals are mostly for Symphony in C and prominently feature Maria Tallchief. The latter are represented by negatives taken by Zachary Freyman, while the rest of the collection consists of photographs and negatives taken by Peter Campbell.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by performance, with rehearsals ordered at the end.

Key Terms

Subjects
Ballet -- 20th century
Ballet companies -- Photographs

Genre/Physical Characteristic
Negatives (photographs)
Photographs

Names
Ballet Society (New York, N.Y.)
Container List

b. 1 f. 1-2  Divertimento 1947
b. 1 f. 3  The Four Temperaments 1946
b. 1 f. 4  Highland Fling 1947
b. 1 f. 5  Orpheus 1948
b. 1 f. 6  Renard 1947
b. 1 f. 7  The Seasons 1947
b. 1 f. 8  Sinfonia Concertante in E-flat Major for Violin, Viola, and Orchestra, K 364 1947
b. 1 f. 9  Symphony in C 1948
b. 1 f. 10  The Triumph of Bacchus and Ariadne 1948
b. 1 f. 11  Various Performance Negatives
b. 1 f. 12-13  Rehearsals 1947-1948