

Introduction:

Provenance

The Gastone Usigli Collection was presented to SF PALM by Mrs. Elizabeth Harsh, of San Francisco, widow of Gastone Usigli. In the Deed of Gift, dated April 7, 1972, Mrs. Harsh unconditionally surrenders all of her right, title and interest in the contents.

Restrictions

All of the items are open for research.

Publication Rights

See Librarian

Accession Number

The accession number is 992.38 (Music)

Number of Containers

There are three boxes in the collection:

Box 1 contains biographical material, photos, publicity and the leatherbound copy number two of three extant copies of letters of Giuseppe Verdi to Count Opprandino Arrivebene.

Box 2 (oversize) contains framed California State Senate Resolution honoring Gastone Usigli and eight large photos of Usigli.

Box 3 contains a recorded speech by Usigli and both conductor's and orchestra scores of musical selections by Usigli and others.

### Biography

Gastone Usigli - conductor, composer, pianist - was born November 25, 1897, into a patrician Venetian family for which music was a very important activity and interest. From 1930 until his death on March 8, 1952, he was active in the musical scene in San Francisco and most of California. He was the leader of SF Chamber Symphony, WPA Federal orchestras in Oakland and Los Angeles, San Jose Symphony, Marin Symphony, Carmel Bach Festival and Orchestra and guest conductor of orchestras in the United States and Italy. His compositions were introduced and played both locally and nationally and he was highly regarded in all musical circles.

### Scope and Contents

Gastone Usigli's life story is told in photos, biographical statements and clippings. His compositions are represented by a recording and by conductor's and orchestra parts scores.

### Separated Materials

One phonorecord (33 1/3 rpm) - Usigli - "Prometheus Bound", "Humanitas" is in the record collection.

Inventory

Box I –

- Folder 1. Deed of Gift of material in the collection
2. handwritten biography (anonymous)
  3. typewritten biography by John Emerson
  4. personal photos and snapshots
  5. group photos
  6. WPA photos, mainly Los Angeles
  7. formal portraits (no dates)
  8. orchestra photos
  9. clippings, publicity
  10. leatherbound copy of "The Collected Letters Written by Giuseppe Verdi" to Count Opprandino Arrivebene between 1861 and 1886, with an introduction by Arrigo Usigli (number two of three extant copies of this edition), presented to Gastone by his brother Arrigo, April 1950

Box II –

(oversize)

April 15, 1958 - framed California State Senate Resolution:  
Tribute to the Memory of Gastone Usigli  
8 large formal portraits of Gastone Usigli

Box III -

(oversize)

sound recording tape - speech by Gastone Usigli – 1954

conductor's score - Bach "Musical Offering", annotated by  
Gastone Usigli

orchestra parts scores - Bach "Musical Offering":  
violin 1 = 3; violin 2 = 3; viola = 3; violoncello = 2;  
flute 1, 2, 3 = 1 each; clarinet = 1; bass clarinet = 1;  
oboe = 3; English horn = 1; bassoon = 1

original score - Usigli - "Variations on Original Fragment" – 1939

autographed score for Ernst Bacon's "Songs at Parting" (8 Walt

Usigli Papers  
Museum of Performance + Design

Whitman poems set to music)

bound photographed score - Usigli - "Passacaglia & Fuga" - 1947  
(plus reviews and clippings)

looseleaf photographed score - Usigli - "Prometheus Unbound" -  
copyright 1948

conductor's score - "Humanitas" - symphonic poem by Gastone Usigli  
orchestra parts scores - Poem Sinfonica "Humanitas"

violin 1 = 7; violin 2 = 4; viola = 2; cello = 3; bass = 2;  
flute 1, 2, 3 (w/ piccolo); oboe = 2; English horn = 1;  
clarinet 1, 2, 3 (w/ bass clarinet); bassoon = 1, 2; contra-  
bassoon; horn = 1, 2; trumpet = 1, 2; trombone = 3; tympani = 1;  
bass tuba = 1; bells = 1; tambora = 1; tringolo = 1; tamtam = 1;  
arpa = 1

score for solo violone (2nd copy) - Usigli - "Poem Sinfonica" -  
Solo Violone