

**William Brennan Papers**  
**San Francisco Performing Arts Library & Museum**

Introduction

Provenance

The William Brennan Papers were donated to the San Francisco Performing Arts Library & Museum in 1994 by Mrs. Brennan.

Restrictions

The entire collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

Vary with material.

Size

2 boxes

Processed by

Dorothy Slaton

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SCOPE AND CONTENTS

The Brennan Papers contain material dealing with the main phases of the San Francisco career of impresario William "Bill" Brennan: the renovation of the Orpheum Theatre with the subsequent revitalization of the San Francisco Civic Light Opera and the presentation of "Mary Martin at Davies Hall". The collection contains specifications, contracts, correspondence, publicity, and pictorial material pertaining to the above-mentioned special projects ranging in time from 1976 through 1985.

BIOGRAPHY

William Brennan was born and raised in Iowa. While attending the University of Southern California, he started working for CBS serving as a network sales manager, program manager and a contract producer for the network. During this time, he also worked as a writer for such shows as Death Valley Days and The Mighty O.

In 1977, Mr. Brennan came to San Francisco to supervise the San Francisco Civic Light Opera's renovation of the Orpheum Theatre. He served as manager until 1981 when the CLO sold its interest in the Orpheum. For two years, he served as talent coordinator on the Mary Martin PBS series, Over Easy and in 1984 produced a benefit starring Miss Martin for the Trauma Foundation at San Francisco General Hospital.

Mr. Brennan died in 1992 at the age of 71.

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Container/Folder Listing

SERIES I. RENOVATION OF THE ORPHEUM THEATRE

<u>Container</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Date</u>
Box 1	correspondence, business matters - Sept.-Oct., correspondence, business matters - Nov., correspondence, business matters - Dec. 1-27, correspondence, business matters - Dec. 27-31, correspondence, business matters - Jan. 1-12, correspondence, business matters - Jan. 13-31, correspondence, business matters - Feb., correspondence, business matters - March-May, correspondence, business matters - June-July, historic photo of the Orpheum Theatre Orpheum Theatre being renovated - photo Orpheum redecorated - photo: view A, view B Orpheum redecorated - proscenium arch - photo	1976 1976 1976 1976 1977 1977 1977 1977 1977 1977 1977

SERIES II. SAN FRANCISCO CIVIC LIGHT OPERA

<u>Container</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Date</u>
Box 1	publicity, clippings: Jan. 4, 1977 - Jan. 7, 1981 collective bargaining agreement with American Federation of Musicians, Local No. 6 seating chart of Orpheum Theatre - orchestra level - for <u>Evita</u> - July 17, 1979 miscellaneous correspondence to Bill Brennan	

SERIES III. MARY MARTIN AT DAVIES HALL

<u>Container</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Date</u>
Box 2	planning for the event appeal for contribution preliminary ground plan - Davies Hall stage preliminary ground plan - Davies Hall stage - preliminary light plot stage setting, rehearsal shots invitation program book - preliminary stages program book - first version program book - second version program book - tentative rundown (including times) program - "We Love You Mary", with scenes from the life of Mary Martin official program ticket gala party photos publicity, clippings follow-up of the event	

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Items separated from collection:

resolution of the California State Assembly members -  
#629 - March 31, 1977  
resolution of the California State Senate Rules Committee  
- #320 - February 17, 1977  
ticket - RKO Orpheum - Sept. 14, 1929 - Saturday matinee  
photo - Bill Brennan in hard hat  
photo - Milton Berle and Bill Brennan  
posters: Pal Joey, Evita, Turn to the Right, The Sound of  
Music, Beatlemania, Timbuktu, Dancin', On the  
Twentieth Century, The Umbrellas of Cherbourg  
framed color photo of renovated Orpheum  
photos: Annie Get Your Gun, Alice Faye, Barry Gordon,  
Kismet, Bill Brennan and (?)