



## Champaign County Historical Archives

**Compiled by:** Janna Heuer, July 2013; Cassie Ward, November 2018

**Creator/Corporate Name:** Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra; Champaign-Urbana Symphony Guild

**Inclusive Dates:** 1960-2017

**Physical Description:** 4 boxes (2 linear ft.)

**Language:** English

**Provenance:**

The Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra collection materials were donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives in May 2009.

**Access:**

These records are accessible to the public within applicable copyright restrictions and limited to use at the Champaign County Historical Archives of The Urbana Free Library.

**Historical Note:**

The Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra (CUSO) was originally founded as the Champaign-Urbana Civic Orchestra on February 13, 1960 to “provide cultural and educational musical concerts for the general public in and around the area of Champaign and Urbana, Illinois.” The Orchestra’s first performance occurred on October 20, 1960, conducted by Bernard Goodman in the Smith Music Hall. Goodman served as the CUSO’s first music director/conductor from 1960-1973. The Champaign-Urbana Symphony Guild was founded in May 1962 as a volunteer fundraising organization to support both the CUSO and music education through concerts for school children (which began during the Orchestra’s 4<sup>th</sup> season, 1964-65) and scholarships for the Illinois Summer Youth Music programs. The Guild holds annual balls or a dinner series as fundraisers. The CUSO began performing in the newly constructed Krannert Center during its 9<sup>th</sup> season, 1969-70. In 1974 the Orchestra acquired their second conductor/music director, Paul Vermel, who served until 1994. When Vermel retired, his position was taken up by Steve Larsen who served as the CUSO’s conductor/musical director until his retirement in 2012. Doctor Stephen Alltop is the current conductor/musical director. The CUSO celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary season in 1985-86 and their 50<sup>th</sup> season in 2009-2010.

**Scope and Content Note:**

This collection contains seasonally generated publications: including programs and special brochures, articles and reviews of concerts, and a commemorative 1970 Medallion. The bulk of the collection consists of the concert programs from each season, and various special concert brochures and ticket request forms. There are Symphony Guild annuals detailing the Guild membership lists, committee members, board members, etc., as well as a collection of flyers and brochures from Guild fundraisers. There is also an incomplete collection of newspaper clippings reviewing or discussing the concerts or artists involved in the productions from around 1974 to the present.

\*Oversized flyers moved to Oversized Ephemera



Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra

Collection 54

**Arrangement:**

This collection is arranged by document type.

**Subject Terms:**

Symphony Orchestras

**Names:**

Champaign Urbana Civic Symphony Orchestra  
Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra  
Champaign Urbana Symphony Guild  
Guild of the Champaign-Urbana Symphony

**Container List:**

**Box 1**

Envelope 1: Medallion, May 15, 1970  
Folder 1: Annual Luncheon Programs, 1974-1977  
Folder 2: Advertisements, including 25<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 1984, 1996, 2007-2009, 2013-2015  
Folder 3: Correspondence to Guild Members, 1975-1977  
Folder 4: A Country Walk, Heart of the City, A Kitchen Walk, 1980, 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2008  
Folder 5: Fanciful Fiddles Ticket Ordering, 2004  
Folder 6: Floor Plan, undated  
Folder 7: Financial Statements, 1977, 2007-2008  
Folder 8: The Guild of the Champaign-Urbana Symphony, 2002-2016  
Folder 9: Gift Instrument Endowment Form, 2013  
Folder 10: Historical Information, 1996  
Folder 11: Newspaper Clippings 1974-2001  
Folder 12: Newspaper Clippings, 2002-2017  
Folder 13: Soundings (CUSO Newsletter), 1976-1981  
Folder 14: Sunday in the Park Materials, 1994  
Folder 15: The Symphony Guild, 1963/64-1978/79  
Folder 16: The Symphony Guild, 1979/80-1992/93  
Folder 17: The Symphony Guild, 1993/94-1994/95, 1996/97-2008/09, 2010/11-2016/17  
Folder 18: Symphony Guild Benefits, 1971, 1975-1976, 1978-1979, 1988  
Folder 19: Symphony Guild Special Events, 1974, 1977-1979, 1981, 1988-1989, 2006, 2013  
Folder 20: Symphony Guild Invitation Cards, 1974-1978  
Folder 21: A Symphony of Homes Advertisements, 2013-2015  
Folder 22: Symphony Guild News Clippings, 1976-1978, 1998, 2000, 2006

**Box 2**

Folder 1: Teacher's Guide for the Young People's Concert, 1966-1978, 1981-1984  
Folder 2: Teacher's Guide for the Young People's Concert, 1985-1992  
Folder 3: Teacher's Guide for the Young People's Concert, 1997, 2000-2001, 2003-2004, 2006 2008



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Folder 4: Ticket Ordering Forms, 1963/64, 1967/68-1994/95, 1997/98-2000/01, 2006/07-2008/09, 2013/14, 2015/16

Folder 5: Vintage Cars – A Symphony of Classics, 2005, 2007

**Box 3**

Folder 1: CUSO Concert Programs 1960/61-1971

Folder 2: CUSO Concert Programs 1971-1981

Folder 3: CUSO Concert Programs 1981 -1988

Folder 4: CUSO Concert Programs 1988-1991

Folder 5: CUSO Concert Programs 1991-1992

Folder 6: CUSO Concert Programs 1993-1995

Folder 7: CUSO Concert Programs 1995-1997

Folder 8: CUSO Concert Programs 1997-1999

**Box 4**

Folder 1: CUSO Concert Programs 1999-2001

Folder 2: CUSO Concert Programs 2001-2003

Folder 3: CUSO Concert Programs 2003-2004, 2006-2007

Folder 4: CUSO Concert Programs 2007-2009

Folder 5: CUSO Concert Programs 2009-2013 (2010/11 concert season missing)

Folder 6: CUSO Concert Programs 2013-2015

Folder 7: CUSO Concert Programs 2015-2017

Folder 8: Family Concert Programs, 1987-1994, 2006-2008