

Alexander Fried Collection
Museum of Performance + Design

INTRODUCTION

Provenance

Donated to the Archives for the Performing Arts in May 1979 by Alexander Fried.

Restrictions

Entire collection is open for research use.

Publication Rights

Collection Number

Size

No. of boxes: 6 record cartons
Linear feet: 6.7

Processed by

Marianne Carden

Date completed

October 8, 1994

Related collections

Biographical files

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BIOGRAPHY

Alexander Fried was born in 1903 in New York City. He started studying piano at age eight and acquired a great love for music through studying and teaching piano and attending opera performances with his aunt. At Columbia University, he studied with composer Daniel Gregory Mason and received a Mosenthal Fellowship. While still a student, Fried began writing musical criticism and analyzing performances he heard while ushering at Carnegie Hall.

Fried's fluency in French, Russian, Italian, German, and Spanish enabled him to obtain his first job working for Musical Digest as a translator. Within a year, he became a managing editor for the magazine. Through Gaetano Merola, director of the San Francisco Opera, Fried learned of the opening for a music editor in San Francisco and joined the staff of the San Francisco Chronicle in 1926. He wrote music reviews for this paper until 1934, when he became art and music editor for the San Francisco Examiner. Fried worked in this post until July 1977, reviewing hundreds of music, dance, opera, and theater performances, as well as art exhibitions. Upon his death on May 9, 1988, Fried left an inspiring legacy of commentary and support for San Francisco's arts world.

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SCOPE AND CONTENTS

The Alexander Fried Collection consists of newsclippings of daily and weekly art and music reviews Fried wrote for the San Francisco Chronicle and the San Francisco Examiner. These clippings illustrate almost the entire span of his career as a critic in San Francisco, dating from 1930-1977. They reveal the rich array of artistic and musical activities which took place in San Francisco during these forty-seven years. In addition, they provide insight into the growth of the San Francisco Symphony, the San Francisco Opera, and the San Francisco Ballet, as well as into issues which affected support for the performing arts.

SERIES DESCRIPTION

SERIES I. San Francisco Chronicle
13 folders

Contains clippings of music reviews Fried wrote for the San Francisco Chronicle between 1930 and 1933. Arranged chronologically and thereunder by review category.

SERIES II. San Francisco Examiner
232 folders

Consists of clippings of daily and weekly art and music reviews Fried wrote for the San Francisco Examiner between 1934 and 1977. Arranged chronologically and thereunder by review category.

CONTAINER LIST

SERIES I. San Francisco Chronicle

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<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	1	Opera reviews	Aug-Dec 1930
	2	Symphony reviews	Jul-Nov 1930
	3	Symphony reviews	Nov-Dec 1930
	4	Dance reviews	1931
	5	Music reviews	1931
	6	Opera reviews	1931
	7	Dance reviews	1932
	8	Music reviews	1932
	9	Opera reviews	1932
	10	Dance reviews	1933
	11	Music reviews	1933
	12	Opera reviews	1933
	13	Other performing arts	1933

SERIES II. San Francisco Examiner

1	14	Dance reviews	1934
	15	Music reviews	1934
	16	Opera reviews	1934
	17	Dance reviews	1935
	18	Music reviews	1935
	19	Opera reviews	1935
	20	Art & Music pages-Sunday ed.	1935
	21	Dance reviews	1936
	22	Music reviews	1936
	23	Opera reviews	1936
	24	Art & Music pages-Sunday ed.	1936
	25	Dance reviews	1937
	26	Music reviews	1937
	27	Opera reviews	1937
	28	Art & Music pages-Sunday ed.	1937
	29	Dance reviews	1938
	30	Music reviews	1938
	31	Opera reviews	1938
	32	Other performing arts	1938
	33	Art & Music pages-Sunday ed.	1938
	34	Dance reviews	1939
	35	Music reviews	1939
	36	Opera reviews	1939
	37	Other performing arts	1939
	38	Dance reviews	1940
	39	Music reviews	1940
	40	Opera reviews	1940
	41	Other performing arts	1940
	42	Dance reviews	1941
	43	Music reviews	1941
	44	Opera reviews	1941

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<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	45	Other performing arts	1941
	46	Dance reviews	1942
	47	Music reviews	1942
	48	Opera reviews	1942
	49	Other performing arts	1942
	50	Dance reviews	1943
	51	Music reviews	1943
	52	Opera reviews	1943
	53	Other performing arts	1943
2	1	Dance reviews	1944
	2	Music reviews	1944
	3	Opera reviews	1944
	4	Theater reviews	1944
	5	Art & Music pages-Sunday ed.	1945
	6	Art reviews	1946
	7	Dance reviews	1946
	8	Music reviews	1946
	9	Opera reviews	1946
	10	Theater reviews	1946
	11	Art & Music pages-Sunday ed.	1946
	12	Dance reviews	1947
	13	Music reviews	1947
	14	Opera reviews	1947
	15	Theater reviews	1947
	16	Art & Music pages-Sunday ed.	1947
	17	Dance reviews	1948
	18	Music reviews	1948
	19	Opera reviews	1948
	20	Theater reviews	1948
	21	Art & Music pages-Sunday ed.	1948
	22	Art reviews	1949
	23	Dance reviews	1949
	24	Music reviews	1949
	25	Opera reviews	1949
	26	Theater reviews	1949
	27	Art & Music pages-Sunday ed.	1949
	28	Art reviews	1950
	29	Dance reviews	1950
	30	Music reviews	1950
	31	Opera reviews	1950
	32	Theater reviews	1950
	33	Art & Music pages-Sunday ed.	Jan-May 1950
	34	Art & Music pages-Sunday ed.	Jun-Dec 1950
	35	Dance reviews	1951
	36	Music reviews	1951

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<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
2	37	Opera reviews	1951
	38	Theater reviews	1951
	39	Art & Music pages-Sunday ed.	Jan-Jul 1951
	40	Art & Music pages-Sunday ed.	Aug-Dec 1951
	41	Dance reviews	1952
	42	Music reviews	1952
	43	Opera reviews	1952
	44	Theater reviews	1952
	45	Art & Music pages-Sunday ed.	Jan-May 1952
	46	Art & Music pages-Sunday ed.	Jun-Dec 1952
	47	Dance reviews	1953
	48	Music reviews	1953
	49	Opera reviews	1953
	50	Theater reviews	1953
	51	Art & Music pages-Sunday ed.	Jan-Jun 1953
	52	Art & Music pages-Sunday ed.	Jul-Dec 1953
3	1	Art reviews	1954
	2	Dance reviews	1954
	3	Music reviews	1954
	4	Opera reviews	1954
	5	Theater reviews	1954
	6	Art & Music pages-Sunday ed.	Jan-Jun 1954
	7	Art & Music pages-Sunday ed.	Jul-Dec 1954
	8	Art reviews	1955
	9	Dance reviews	1955
	10	Music reviews	1955
	11	Opera reviews	1955
	12	Theater reviews	1955
	13	Art & Music pages-Sunday ed.	Jan-Jun 1955
	14	Art & Music pages-Sunday ed.	Jul-Dec 1955
	15	Dance reviews	1956
	16	Music reviews	1956
	17	Opera reviews	1956
	18	Theater reviews	1956
	19	Art & Music pages-Sunday ed.	Jan-Jun 1956
	20	Art & Music pages-Sunday ed.	Jul-Dec 1956
	21	Dance reviews	1957
	22	Music reviews	1957
	23	Opera reviews	1957
	24	Theater reviews	1957
	25	Art & Music pages-Sunday ed.	Jan-Apr 1957
	26	Art & Music pages-Sunday ed.	May-Aug 1957
	27	Art & Music pages-Sunday ed.	Sep-Dec 1957
	28	Dance reviews	1958
	29	Music reviews	1958
	30	Opera reviews	1958
	31	Theater reviews	1958
	32	Art & Music pages-Sunday ed.	Jan-Apr 1958

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<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>	
3	33	Art & Music pages-Sunday ed.	May-Aug 1958	
	34	Art & Music pages-Sunday ed.	Sep-Dec 1958	
	35	Art reviews	1959	
	36	Dance reviews	1959	
	37	Music reviews	1959	
	38	Opera reviews	1959	
	39	Theater reviews	1959	
	40	Art & Music pages-Sunday ed.	Jan-Apr 1959	
	41	Art & Music pages-Sunday ed.	May-Aug 1959	
	42	Art & Music pages-Sunday ed.	Sep-Dec 1959	
	4	1	Art reviews	1960
		2	Dance reviews	1960
3		Music reviews	1960	
4		Opera reviews	1960	
5		Theater reviews	1960	
6		Art & Music pages-Sunday ed.	Jan-Jun 1960	
7		Art & Music pages-Sunday ed.	Jul-Dec 1960	
8		Art reviews	1961	
9		Dance reviews	1961	
10		Music reviews	1961	
11		Opera reviews	1961	
12		Art & Music pages-Sunday ed.	Jan-Jun 1961	
13		Art & Music pages-Sunday ed.	Jul-Dec 1961	
14		Art reviews	1962	
15		Dance reviews	1962	
16		Music reviews	1962	
17		Opera reviews	1962	
18		Theater reviews	1962	
19		Art reviews	1963	
20		Dance reviews	1963	
21		Music reviews	1963	
22		Opera reviews	1963	
23		Theater reviews	1963	
24		Art & Music pages-Sunday ed.	Jan-Jun 1963	
25		Art & Music pages-Sunday ed.	Jul-Dec 1963	
26		Dance reviews	1964	
27		Music reviews	1964	
28		Opera reviews	1964	
29		Theater reviews	1964	
30		Art & Music pages-Sunday ed.	Jan-Jun 1964	
31		Art & Music pages-Sunday ed.	Jul-Dec 1964	
5	1	Art reviews	1965	
	2	Dance reviews	1965	
	3	Music reviews	1965	
	4	Opera reviews	1965	
	5	Theater reviews	1965	
	6	Art & Music pages-Sunday ed.	Jan-Apr 1965	

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<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>	
5	7	Art & Music pages-Sunday ed.	May-Jul 1965	
	8	Art & Music pages-Sunday ed.	Aug-Sep 1965	
	9	Art reviews	Jan-Jun 1966	
	10	Art reviews	Jul-Dec 1966	
	11	Dance reviews	1966	
	12	Music reviews	Jan-Jun 1966	
	13	Music reviews	Jul-Dec 1966	
	14	Opera reviews	1966	
	15	Theater reviews	1966	
	16	Art reviews	Jan-Apr 1967	
	17	Art reviews	May-Aug 1967	
	18	Art reviews	Sep-Dec 1967	
	19	Dance reviews	1967	
	20	Music reviews	1967	
	21	Opera reviews	1967	
	22	Art reviews	1968	
	23	Dance reviews	1968	
	24	Music reviews	1968	
	25	Opera reviews	1968	
	26	Theater reviews	1968	
	27	Art reviews	Jan-Mar 1969	
	28	Art reviews	Apr-Sep 1969	
	29	Art reviews	Oct-Dec 1969	
	30	Dance reviews	1969	
	31	Music reviews	1969	
	32	Opera reviews	1969	
	33	Theater reviews	1969	
	6	1	Art reviews	Jan-May 1970
		2	Art reviews	Jun-Dec 1970
		3	Dance reviews	1970
		4	Music reviews	1970
		5	Opera reviews	1970
		6	Theater reviews	1970
7		Art reviews	1971	
8		Dance reviews	1971	
9		Music reviews	1971	
10		Opera reviews	1971	
11		Theater reviews	1971	
12		Art reviews	1972	
13		Dance reviews	1972	
14		Music reviews	1972	
15		Opera reviews	1972	
16		Theater reviews	1972	
17		Art reviews	1973	
18		Dance reviews	1973	
19		Music reviews	1973	
20		Opera reviews	1973	
21		Theater reviews	1973	

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<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
6	22	Art reviews	1974
	23	Dance reviews	1974
	24	Music reviews	1974
	25	Opera reviews	1974
	26	Theater reviews	1974
	27	Art reviews	1975
	28	Dance reviews	1975
	29	Music reviews	1975
	30	Opera reviews	1975
	31	Art reviews	1976
	32	Dance reviews	1976
	33	Music reviews	1976
	34	Opera reviews	1976
	35	Art reviews	1977
	36	Dance reviews	1977
	37	Music reviews	1977
	38	Opera reviews	1977