

# DE BLASIIS CHAMBER MUSIC COLLECTION: A Guide

## OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

- Repository:** Crandall Public Library  
Folklife Center  
Glens Falls, NY.
- Creators:** de Blasiis family.
- Title:** de Blasiis Chamber Music Collection.
- Dates:** 1914- (open)
- Abstract:** Agnes Virginia de Blasiis (1907-1997) and Giovannina M. de Blasiis (1903-1996) were sisters and musicians from Glens Falls, N.Y., who performed classical music, served as music teachers, and organized the de Blasiis Chamber Concert Series in Glens Falls. The de Blasiis Collection contains programs, newspaper clippings, correspondence, and photographs describing the musical careers of the de Blasiis sisters as well as documenting de Blasiis Chamber Concert Series.
- Quantity:** 7 cubic feet: 7 document boxes, 1 oversize box, 1 carton
- Identification Number:** Archives & Manuscripts: Organizations

## HISTORICAL/BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

Agnes Virginia de Blasiis (1907-1997) and Giovannina de Blasiis (1903-1996) were sisters who lived in Glens Falls, N.Y.

Giovannina M. de Blasiis studied piano in New York City and earned a bachelor of music degree from Yale University. In Europe she studied with Nadia Boulanger in Paris and Tobias Matthay in London. She received a master's degree from the Eastman School of Music. She taught music at Skidmore College and at Emma Willard School in Troy, NY.  
(*Post-Star* 2/7/1996)

Agnes Virginia de Blasiis attended the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia where she studied violin. She followed this experience with study at the Juilliard School of Music in New York City. She returned to Glens Falls where she taught violin both privately and in the Glens Falls High School. In 1934 she earned a college degree from

Skidmore College. Virginia de Blasiis was associated with the Glens Falls Operetta Club, the de Blasiis Chamber Music Series, and the de Blasiis Trio, consisting of herself, her sister Giovannina M. de Blasiis, and cellist George Finckel (*Post-Star* 2/13/1997).

In 1926 they gave concerts and beginning in the 1930's they organized the de Blasiis Chamber Music Series in Glens Falls, N.Y.

Included in the collection are programs for the Annual Conventions of Leschetizky Teachers and Pupils, Glens Falls and Vicinity, 1914-1923. The conventions were organized by Ardelle Ingalsbe (Mrs. Harvey B.) and other teachers of piano music who used the Leschetizky method. Theodor Leschetizky (alternate spelling is Leszetychi) (1830-1915) was a Polish child prodigy and teacher by the age of 14. He established a music school in Vienna where he developed and taught his own method of music instruction (*Oxford Dictionary of Music*). Mrs. Harvey Ingalsbe founded her music school in Glens Falls in 1910. She had a studio in the Empire Building.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE RECORDS**

The programs, newspaper clippings, correspondence, and photographs in this collection describe the musical careers of musicians Giovannina and Virginia de Blasiis, and the concerts organized as the de Blasiis Chamber Music Series founded and directed by the deBlasiis sisters in Glens Falls. In addition there are reviews of concerts, files on artists who performed in the de Blasiis Chamber Music Series, and lists of subscribers to the concert series.

Included in the collection are programs for the Annual Conventions of Leschetizky Teachers and Pupils, Glens Falls and Vicinity, 1914-1923. These conventions were organized by Ardelle Ingalsbe (Mrs. Harvey B.) and other teachers of piano music who used the Leschetizky method.

## **ORGANIZATION OF THE RECORDS**

Organized in five series:

Programs

News clippings and articles

Correspondence

Convention of Leschetizky Teachers

Scrapbooks

## **INDEX TERMS**

**Topics:** Chamber music groups—Glens Falls (N.Y.)  
Music—Instruction and study—Glens Falls (N.Y.)  
Music—Performance—Glens Falls (N.Y.)

**Places:** Glens Falls (N.Y.)—History—Sources.

**Organizations:** de Blasiis Chamber Music Series (Glens Falls, N.Y.)

**Important People:** de Blasiis, Agnes Virginia, 1907-1997.  
de Blasiis, Giovannina, 1903-1996.  
Ingalsbe, Ardelle (Mrs. Harvey B.)  
Leschetizky, Theodor, 1830-1915.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

**Preferred Citation:** de Blasiis Chamber Music Collection,  
Center for Folklife, History, and Cultural Programs,  
Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls, NY.

**Accession Information:** Records received from A. Torok, Artistic Director, and from  
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Music Series.

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Katherine P. Chansky. Additions by Erica Gonyea 2019.