The International Era

New York Philharmonic History and Archives
- Founded in 1842: Oldest symphony orchestra in the U.S.
- Established as a cooperative society managed by musicians
- Performed more concerts than any other orchestra in the world
- Over 1,000 U.S. and world premiers
- Only orchestra in the world to be led by Mahler, Toscanini, and Bernstein
- Longest-running Young People’s Concerts series
- First recording 1917, first radio broadcast 1922, first TV show 1951
- Performed in 431 cities, 83 countries
- 8.5 million pages of archival material
- 7,000 hours of audio/video
- 15,000 scores and music parts, largest privately-owned music library

Goals: Why Digitize the Archives?
- Global Access
  Provide free, high-quality access to the collection.
- Preserve Original Documents
  Limit excessive use of original material.
- Create a New Model for Managing Archival Material
  Develop new platforms for integrating historic material with the born-digital.

The International Era: 1.3 Million Pages in 3 Years
With a $2.4 million gift from the Leon Levy Foundation, the first phase of the project will digitize all the material in the International Era, 1943-1970. In this era:
- Government funding of the arts begins
- Woman join the orchestra
- Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts opens
- Musicians obtain year-round contracts
- Television becomes mainstream
- The Long Playing (LP) record is invented
- Leonard Bernstein leads the Orchestra around the world

Document Types
The International Era offers the greatest variety of document types.

Business Documents: The most extensive collection in the Archives online repository is the business papers documenting the activities and management of the Orchestra. These records include minutes from Board of Directors meetings, planning sheets for special events, attendance and financial logs for the Orchestra and much, much more. Over 4,000 business folders are available.

Scores and Parts
The Digital Archives project has made accessible all scores which are significantly marked by conductors or orchestra players. Over 2,500 scores and parts are available.

Programs
All New York Philharmonic printed concert programs between 1943 and 1970 (3,235 programs) are available. Program metadata is imported to the Alfresco web platform from the Philharmonic’s preexisting program history database.

Images
The image repository currently contains over 12,400 photographs, artworks, and other images pertaining to the Orchestra, conductors, soloists, concerts, tours, and other events. With their wide range, these images provide a multifaceted glimpse into the life of the orchestra and its cast of characters.

Digital Archives Site: Archives.nyphil.org

Website Architecture
The NYPL Digital Archives uses the online digital content repository Alfresco to power its website and manage its various pools of data. Alfresco is:
- Open-source: providing an affordable and constantly evolving solution.
- Scalable: capable of accommodating any foreseeable growth of the digitized collection.
- Modular: allows developers to add features and components to any piece of the architecture.
- Flexible: able to accommodate all archival formats, pre-digital and born-digital alike.

Searching
Users wishing to research or explore the Digital Archives material do so through the website, archives.nyphil.org. Searches are performed with general keyword, name, or date and can be narrowed by a number of facets including subject, concert season, conductor, composer or artist, location, and venue.

Workflow: Converting Paper Collections

Preparation
All material is physically processed to make the imaging as fast and easy as possible. The process varies for each document type, but usually involves:

Digitization
Completed with high-resolution digital photography on-site to minimize risk of material loss and damage. All postproduction is done in Adbake Lightroom. Postproduction includes minor color correction, sharpening, and export from raw format to uncompressed TIFF and JPEG.

Ingestion
Metadata originates in two in-house databases: DiTextworks and a historical performance database. Once this data is imported into Alfresco, images are ingested and associations are formed between metadata and images within Alfresco. The item is now ready to be viewed by internal staff.

Proofing
Proofers compare each digital image and its corresponding physical item. When errors are found, items are restphot and reproposed.

Web-indexing
After an asset’s pages and metadata have been approved, they are pushed to the Solr index which drives the public front-end search.

Contact: Gabe Smith, Assistant Archivist • New York Philharmonic • 10 Lincoln Center • New York, NY 10023 • archives.nyphil.org