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Collection Summary

Repository: Archives and Special Collections Library, Vassar College Libraries

Creator: Dannreuther Family

Title: Dannreuther Family Papers

**Inclusive
Dates:** 1836-1988

Bulk Dates: 1875-1925

Quantity: 6.75 cubic feet (16 boxes)

Abstract: Correspondence, date books, sheet music, programs, clippings and scrapbooks relating to the Dannreuther Family, especially the musical careers of Gustav and Nellie Dannreuther.

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Biographical Note

Gustav Dannreuther (21 July 1853 - 19 Dec 1923) was a violinist, instructor and founding member of the Dannreuther String Quartet. He was the son of Abraham Dannreuther and Sophie Fischbacker. His brother was the pianist Edward Dannreuther.

Ellen "Nellie" Morton Taylor Dannreuther (25 May 1858 - 3 July 1942), Gustav's wife, was also a noted musician. She was a pianist who performed on her own as well as with her husband. She was also an instructor, teaching privately and also for a period at Wells College. She was the daughter of Martin Taylor and Martha Gooding. Gustav and Nellie married 12 July 1882 and had three children: Walter Taylor Dannreuther, Martin Taylor Dannreuther, and Gustav Dannreuther, Jr.

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Scope and Content Note

Correspondence, date books, sheet music, programs, clippings and scrapbooks relating to the Dannreuther Family, especially the musical careers of Gustav and Nellie Dannreuther. Of particular note are the letters from Nellie Dannreuther to her parents while she was studying in Leipzig from 1875-1876. Related letters can be found in the correspondence of Nellie Morton, Nellie Dannreuther's aunt who served as chaperone for her and two other Buffalo girls during the trip.

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Access and Use

Access

This collection is open for research according to the [regulations of the Vassar College Archives and Special Collections Library](#) without any additional restrictions.

Restrictions on Use

Permission to quote (publish) from unpublished or previously published material must be obtained as described in the [regulations of the Vassar College Archives and Special Collections Library](#).
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Related Material

Related Materials

- The chamber music belonging to the Dannreuther String Quartet was given to Vassar College by Gustav Dannreuther in 1919-1920. Much of the practical performing material was absorbed into Vassar's George Sherman Dickinson Music Library collection.

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Subject Headings

Names:

- Dannreuther, Ellen
- Dannreuther, Gustav

Organizations:

- Dannreuther String Quartet

Subjects:

- Music--Germany--Leipzig--19th century
- Music--Instruction and study--Germany
- Musicians--Correspondence

Places:

- Leipzig (Germany)--Description and travel

Document Types:

- Clippings (information artifacts)
- Correspondence
- Photographs
- Printed ephemera
- Scrapbooks

VCL Categories:

- Family
- Music
- Vassar College

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Encoding Information

Encoded by Laura Streett, August 2009. Updated by Emma Gronbeck, October 2025.

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Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Dannreuther Family Papers, Archives and Special Collections Library, Vassar College Libraries.

Processing Information

Processed by Laura Streett, August 2009.

Acquisition Information

15 Dannreuther scrapbooks were transferred from the Vassar College Music Library in 2009. They were loaned to that library by Nellie Dannreuther, presumably after Gustav died in 1923. The rest of the collection was given by Susan Dannreuther, July 2009.

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Series List

[Series I.](#) Gustav Dannreuther's Diaries and Date Books, 1871-1922 (Boxes 5-10)

The dates and the contents of the date books in this series overlap. One set is mostly personal while the other two are primarily professional.

[Series II.](#) Correspondence, 1858-1988 (Box 11)

Correspondence of significance in this series includes Nellie Dannreuther's letters home while she was studying in Leipzig, Gustav Dannreuther's letters to Nellie while he was away from home, and letters from "Auntie" Dickson, the Dannreuther's nanny, to Nellie as well as the children. Other correspondents include Nellie's aunt, Nellie Morton, and her granddaughter (Alice and Martin Taylor Dannreuther's daughter) Susan Dannreuther.

[Series III.](#) Scrapbooks and Clippings, circa 1865-1963 (Boxes 11-15)

Several volumes as well as loose material, most documenting the musical careers of Nellie and Gustav Dannreuther.

[Series IV.](#) Ephemera, 1878-1940 (Boxes 9-11)

Programs from musical performances as well as other miscellany.

[Series V.](#) Photographs, circa 1910-1940 (Boxes 2-4, 10, 16)

Series VI. Miscellaneous, 1884-1918 (Boxes 1, 10-12, 16)**Container List****Series I. Gustav Dannreuther's Diaries and Date Books**

Box 5	Diaries, 1905-1914 (8 volumes and 2 folders)
Box 6	Diaries, 1915-1922 (8 volumes)
Box 7	Date books, 1901-1914 (5 folders of loose sheets)
Box 8	Date books, 1877-1901 (15 volumes)
Box 9	Date books, 1902-1912 (11 volumes)
Box 8	Notebook, circa 1871-1872 (1 volume with enclosures)
Box 10	Notebook, circa 1901 (1 volume)

Series II. Correspondence

Folder 11.1	Dannreuther, Alice Evans to Mr. and Mrs. H.C. Evans, 1918-1921
Folder 11.2	Dannreuther, Gustav to Nellie Dannreuther, 1881, 1889
Folder 11.3	Dannreuther, Gustav to Nellie Dannreuther, 1909-1910
Folder 11.4	Dannreuther, Gustav to Nellie Dannreuther, 1920
Folder 11.5	Dannreuther, Gustav to miscellaneous, 1889, 1904, 1920, 1923
Folder 11.6	Dannreuther, Gustav, Jr. to Gustav Dannreuther, 1920
Folder 11.7	Dannreuther, Martin Taylor to Nellie and Gustav Dannreuther, 1899-1904
Folder 11.8	Dannreuther, Martin Taylor to Nellie and Gustav Dannreuther, 1912-1923
Folder 11.9	Dannreuther, Martin Taylor to Susan Dannreuther, 1926-1933, undated
Folder 11.10	Dannreuther, Martin Taylor to Mr. and Mrs. H.C. Evans, 1916-1929
Folder 11.11	Dannreuther, Martin Taylor to and from miscellaneous, 1904-1965
Folder 11.12	Dannreuther, Nellie to Martha and Martin Taylor, 1870-1875
Folder 11.13	Dannreuther, Nellie to Martha and Martin Taylor, 1876 Jan - Feb
Folder 11.14	Dannreuther, Nellie to Martha and Martin Taylor, 1876 Mar - May
Folder 11.15	Dannreuther, Nellie to Martha and Martin Taylor, 1876 June - Aug
Folder 11.16	Dannreuther, Nellie to Martha and Martin Taylor, 1878-1890
Folder 11.17	Dannreuther, Nellie to miscellaneous, 1874-1875, undated
Folder 11.18	Dannreuther, Susan to Taylor and Alice Dannreuther, 1927-1966, undated
Folder 11.19	Dannreuther, Susan to and from miscellaneous, 1966-1988
Folder 11.20	Dickson, "Auntie" to Nellie Dannreuther, 1888, 1890 1892
Folder 11.21	Dickson, "Auntie" to Nellie Dannreuther, 1893-1894
Folder 11.22	Dickson, "Auntie" to Walter and Taylor Dannreuther, 1893-1906
Folder 11.23	Morton, Ellen "Nellie" to Nellie Dannreuther, 1882, undated
Folder 11.24	Morton, Ellen "Nellie" to Martha and Martin Taylor, 1864-1866
Folder 11.25	Morton, Ellen "Nellie" to Martha and Martin Taylor, 1867-1874
Folder 11.26	Morton, Ellen "Nellie" to Martha and Martin Taylor, 1875-1880, undated
Folder 11.27	Morton, Ellen "Nellie" to miscellaneous, circa 1875-1876
Folder 11.28	Taylor, Martin to his family, 1858-1859, 1875-1880

- Folder 11.29 Miscellaneous to Alice Dannreuther, 1950-1962, undated
- Folder 11.30 Miscellaneous to Gustav Dannreuther, 1876-1922
- Folder 11.31 Miscellaneous to Nellie Dannreuther, 1873-1896, 1907, undated
- Folder 11.32 Miscellaneous Dannreuther Family concerning Gustav's death, 1923
- Folder 11.33 Miscellaneous Evans/Dannreuther Family, 1916-1949
- Folder 11.34 Miscellaneous Taylor Family, 1836-1891
- Folder 11.35 Miscellaneous, 1914-1945, undated

Series III. Scrapbooks and Clippings

- Box 12 Scrapbook of Gustav and Nellie Dannreuther family material, 1882-1963 (includes list)
- Box 12 Scrapbook of Berkshire Gleaner clippings as well as earlier family-related clippings and ephemera, 1881-1910
- Boxes 13-15 Scrapbooks of clippings and ephemera related to the Dannreuther's musical careers, including the Dannreuther Quartet and the Beethoven String Quartet, ca 1865 - 1922 (15 volumes)
- Box 12 Scrapbook of Chamber Music Club material, 1889-1900
- Box 12 Scrapbook of Yale University Chamber Music concerts, 1888-1896
- Box 12 Loose scrapbook of material about Edward Dannreuther and other composers, undated
- Folder 11.36 Loose clippings regarding the Dannreuther Quartet — research photocopies, undated
- Folder 11.37 Loose clippings regarding the Dannreuther Quartet — originals, undated

Series IV. Ephemera

- Folder 11.38 Programs, 1878-1912, 1940
- Folder 11.39 Programs — laminated, 1908, 1923, undated
- Box 10 Programs — oversized, undated
- Box 9 Gustav Dannreuther's calling cards, undated (3 cards in a leather sleeve)
- Folder 11.40 Booklets, etc., undated
- Folder 11.41 Miscellaneous, undated

Series V. Photographs

- Boxes 3-4 Gustav Dannreuther, undated
- Boxe 16 Gustav Dannreuther, undated
- Boxes 3-4 Nellie Taylor Dannreuther, undated
- Boxes 3-4 Dannreuther Children, undated
- Boxes 3-4 Other Family and Friends, undated
- Boxes 3-4 Musicians (including Dannreuther String Quartet), undated
- Boxes 10, 16 Dannreuther String Quartet, undated
- Box 2 Miscellaneous negatives, circa 1910-1940

Series VI. Miscellaneous

- Folders 11.42-11.44 Family and genealogical material, undated
- Folder 11.45 Nellie and Gustav Dannreuther, undated
- Folder 11.46 Nellie and Gustav Dannreuther — Finances, undated

Box 10	Gustav Dannreuther — Publishing contract for his violin studies book, 1892
Box 12	Gustav Dannreuther — Bound, annotated sheet music, undated (2 volumes)
Box 12	Gustav Dannreuther — Address book, undated
Folder 11.47	Martin Taylor Dannreuther — Death, undated
Folders 11.48 - 11.49	Martin Taylor Dannreuther — Business records, undated
Folder 11.50	Edward Dannreuther, undated
Folder 11.51	Dannreuther Quintet — Finances, undated
Box 12	Dannreuther Quartet — Account book for "Orchestra Engagements," 1901-1910
Folder 11.52	Dannreuther piano sale, undated
Box 10	William C. Cornwell's Book of the Programmes of the Buffalo Philharmonic Society, 1884-1885 (2 copies)
Box 1	Musical Mutual Protective Union directories, 1891-1918 (23 volumes)
Box 10	Philharmonic Society of New York, 1890-1906 (1 folder)
Box 10	Painting of Walter Dannreuther's home in Lee, MA, undated
Box 16	Miscellaneous musical manuscripts, undated
Folder 11.53	Miscellaneous, undated

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