

NORTH CAROLINA SYMPHONY SOCIETY, INC., PAPERS, 1932-1973

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Arrangement: Alphabetical and chronological, according to original arrangement by the Symphony Society.

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The North Carolina Symphony grew from the wish of a group of interested citizens to have an orchestra for the state. Their plans culminated in the charter of the N. C. Symphony Society, Inc., issued according to state law in December 1932, as a non-profit organization whose purpose was to sponsor the N. C. State Symphony orchestra. The Society was to be governed by a Board of Directors elected annually by its membership. Colonel Joseph Hyde Pratt was the Society's first president and Lamar Stringfield the first conductor; they had been among the original promoters of a state symphony orchestra.

Stringfield was a native of North Carolina, born near Raleigh in 1897. He attended Mars Hill and Wake Forest Colleges to study medicine, but joined the Army in 1916 before completion of his training. He served in France during World War I, with the 105th Engineers--the same outfit that Paul Green, who would later be another symphony promoter, served with. While Stringfield had shown musical talent as a youth, it was during the Army years that he took up the flute, the instrument on which he was to become a nationally recognized performer.

After the war Lamar Stringfield returned to Asheville, N. C., where he studied flute with Emil Medicus; he later received a diploma from the Institute of Musical Art in New York, where he worked under the direction of George Barrera. Not only did he become a noted performer, but an able conductor and a gifted composer as well. In 1928 he won the Pulitzer Prize for his mountain ballad-inspired suite From the Southern Mountains. After that time he concentrated on his interest in Anglo-Saxon American music styles, and was largely responsible for establishing the Institute of Folk Music at Chapel Hill, which was intended as a link between the Music Department, the Carolina Playmakers, and the Institute of Research in Social Science.

The symphony's first concert was presented on May 14, 1932, at Hill Music Hall in Chapel Hill. After only five rehearsals together, the 48

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musicians presented a program of Wagner, Stoessel, Borodin, and Tschai-kowsky, as well as a Beethoven symphony.

For the first ten years the symphony existed largely on funds donated by interested individuals. During the Depression years 1934 and 1935 the Federal Emergency Relief Administration made loans which enabled unemployed musicians to perform, but most financial aid continued to come from individuals. It was not until 1943 that the state legislature passed a bill which appropriated \$2,000 annually to the state symphony; in 1945 the figure was doubled.

This move came after the symphony's reorganization by Colonel Joseph Hyde Pratt and Dr. Benjamin F. Swalin in 1939. Stringfield had resigned in 1936 to become regional director of the WPA in Atlanta. From then until Swalin's arrival, symphony headquarters moved first to Asheville and then to Greensboro, there were several interim conductors, and interest in the symphony had reached a nadir. It finally broke into several groups which combined with the Virginia Federal Music Project; the resultant North Carolina-Virginia Symphony Orchestra functioned only briefly.

Benjamin Swalin, the new conductor, was born in 1901 in Minneapolis, and began to play for that city's well known orchestra when he graduated from high school. In 1928 he graduated from Columbia University, and two years later received an M.A. degree in English there. While in New York he also received diplomas from the Institute of Musical Art, where he studied violin under Franz Kneisel and Leopold Auer. In 1930 he went to Europe on a fellowship and ultimately received his Ph.D. degree from the University of Vienna, and diplomas at Vienna's Hochschule fur Musik.

Possibly on the advice of a teacher who told him to "go . . . South--go where people are starved for good music," Dr. Swalin came to the University of North Carolina as Associate Professor of Music in 1935. He became conductor of the state symphony in 1939. The first concert by the reorganized symphony was presented on May 16, 1942, almost exactly ten years after its formation. Dr. Swalin served as conductor until his retirement in 1972.

Under his direction the symphony greatly expanded its tour schedule,

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and undertook a pioneer program of taking good music to North Carolina's school children. Membership was put on a cooperative basis: every town and community in the state is invited to form a local chapter of the Symphony Society, and is given a minimum membership goal. When that goal is reached, a concert may be scheduled for that community with no further financial obligation. Every membership concert is preceded by a free children's concert.

The N. C. Symphony became a touring orchestra in 1945. A total of 104 concerts were presented that season by the Full Symphony (60 musicians, to perform in larger cities) and the Little Symphony (25-30 players, to perform in smaller communities). For the 1967-1968 season the Little Symphony split into two groups, one to play in the eastern part of the state, and one for the western section. Today there are four performing groups within the symphony--the Full Symphony, the Little Symphonies East and West, and the 10-member Chamber Players; during the 1972-1973 season they presented 150 concerts.

The records of the North Carolina Symphony Society have been arranged as much as possible according to their original order, either alphabetical or chronological, and original designations were retained. Contents of notebooks were removed to acid-free folders for preservation, and photographs which had not been dry mounted were put in clear plastic sleeves. Preliminary arrangement of the records is as follows:

Historical Files [General], 1932-1951
Historical Files [Financial], 1943-1951
Historical Files [General], 1951-1955
Historical Files [General], 1955 [-1965]
Historical Files [General, various dates]
Historical Files [Programs], 1932-1955
Historical Files, Soloists, [1952 Season]-1954 Season
Subject Files [Alphabetical], [1947-1966]
Subject File, [c. 1950-1966]
Correspondence Files, [1940-1949], 1952-1966
[Correspondence], 1964
Correspondence, 1965-1968
[Miscellaneous and Correspondence Files], 1964-1973
Contracts, 1951-1967

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Financial Records, 1966-1971
Symphony Ball, 1962-1973
Publications, 1947-1973
Photographs, various dates
Newspaper Clipping Files, 1932-1971

Historical Files

These files were set up by a member of the Society staff, apparently intended to put the symphony's history in chronological order from its formation in 1932 until approximately 1955. The files include correspondence, programs and other printed materials, publicity and newspaper clippings, and financial records from 1943 until 1951. (See contents of boxes for details; see also description of other financial records which follows.)

Subject Files

After the historical files were created, the Society's records were kept in an alphabetical arrangement by subject. These include correspondence and printed materials, and are similar to the correspondence files which follow. Subject files deal with a diversity of topics: e.g., auditions, mailing lists, publishing costs, statistics, etc. (See contents of boxes for details.)

Correspondence Files

There are two types of correspondence files: 1) those arranged alphabetically, dated 1965, and 2) those arranged chronologically, dated 1964 and 1966-1968. The alphabetical files are set up by topic, and are similar to the subject files described above; the chronological ones are in order strictly by date. (See contents of boxes for details.)

Contracts

This group includes signed contracts dated 1951-1967, as well as

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lists of addresses of personnel for some years. (See contents of boxes for details.)

Financial Records

Other than the financial records included in the historical files described above, records of that nature included in this collection consist of a small group dated 1966-1971. Because of their currency the rest of the Society's financial records are temporarily located in the State Records branch of the Archives. (See contents of boxes for details.)

Other Records

The remainder of the collection consists of clippings and miscellaneous information regarding the annual symphony ball; publications--tour books and brochures--of the N. C. Symphony which were not included in categories described above; photographs; and, newspaper clipping files. (See contents of boxes for details.)

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	Historical Files, [General], 1932-1951 Society By-laws Minutes, correspondence and miscellany in re formation of society Publications, 1932-1945 Reports and correspondence, 1933 season Correspondence and printed items, 1939-1943 seasons Printed material and summaries (2) 1944 season 1945 season Tour booklets, 1945-1946 season Printed material and summaries, 1946 season Expansion program, 1946 Printed material and summaries (2) 1947 season 1948 season

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<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1 (cont'd)	<p>Historical Files, [General], 1932-1951 (cont'd)</p> <p>Sample letters sent, 1948 season</p> <p>Concert preparation, 1948-1949 season</p> <p>Printed material and summaries, 1949 season</p>
2	<p>Sample letters, 1949 season</p> <p>Printed material and summaries, 1950 season</p> <p>Sample letters, 1950 season</p> <p>Advertising, 1950-1951</p> <p>Tour booklets [and programs], 1950-1951</p> <p>Press books, 1950-1951</p> <p>Sample letters, 1951 season</p> <p>Newspaper articles, 1951</p> <p>Printed samples and summaries, 1951 season</p> <p>Press book, 1951-1952</p> <p>[Material for] Carolina Room and Extension Division of Library</p>
3	<p>Historical Files, [Financial], 1943-1949</p> <p>Symphony minutes, 1943-1945</p> <p>Budget, 1943-1944</p> <p>Financial reports, 1943-1944</p> <p>Budget, 1944-1945</p> <p>Financial reports, 1944-1945</p> <p>Raleigh deposits, 1944-1945</p> <p>Special loan fund, 1944-1945</p> <p>Federal income tax, 1945-1946</p> <p>Budget, 1945-1946</p> <p>Loan from Bank of Chapel Hill, 1945-1946</p> <p>Memorial memberships, 1945-1946</p> <p>Reports of officers, financial reports, 1945-1946</p> <p>Symphony fund deposits, 1945-1946</p> <p>Federal withholding tax data admission taxes, 1945</p> <p>Financial reports, 1946-1947</p> <p>Symphony fund deposits, 1946-1947</p> <p>Federal Withholding tax data admission taxes, 1946</p> <p>Social Security data, 1946</p> <p>Membership and ticket tax report, 1947-1948</p>

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<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Contents</u>
3 (cont'd)	<p>Historical Files, [Financial], 1943-1949 (cont'd)</p> <p>Membership receipt reports, 1947-1948</p> <p>Reimbursement sheets and ticket reports, 1947-1948 tour</p> <p>Federal withholding tax data admission taxes, 1947</p> <p>Budget, 1947-1949</p>
4	<p>Historical Files, [Financial], 1949-1951</p> <p>Budgetary material, 1948-1949</p> <p>Federal withholding tax data admissions taxes, 1948</p> <p>Membership and ticket tax reports, 1948-1949</p> <p>Budgetary request, 1949-1953</p> <p>Business and progress report, 1950-1951</p> <p>Deposit slips (Bank of Chapel Hill, N. C.), 1950-1951</p> <p>Ledger sheets, 1950-1951</p> <p>Historical Files, [General], 1951-1955</p> <p>Summer mail samples, [various dates]</p> <p>Printed samples, 1950</p> <p>Symphony Society Minutes, 1951-1952</p> <p>Stocks, 1951-1952</p> <p>Tour booklets, 1951-1952</p> <p>Programs--Full Symphony, 1952</p> <p>Press books, 1951-1952</p> <p>Programs--Little Symphony, 1952</p> <p>Samples, 1952 season</p> <p>Radio broadcasts, 1951-1952</p> <p>Letters, 1951-1952</p> <p>Advertising: tour booklet, 1951-1952</p> <p>Printed material, 1951-1952</p>
5	<p>History of N. C. Symphony (article), 1952</p> <p>Mimeographed material, 1951-1952</p> <p>Letters, 1952-1953</p> <p>Programs for Little Symphony, 1952-1953</p> <p>Mimeographed material, 1952-1953</p> <p>Programs for Full Symphony, 1952-1953</p> <p>Tour booklets, 1952-1953</p> <p>Sustaining fund, 1953</p> <p>Programs selected and printed, 1953</p>

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<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Contents</u>
5 (cont'd)	<p>Historical Files, [General], 1951-1955 (cont'd)</p> <p>Reports--programs [1953]</p> <p>Programs for Big [Full] Symphony, 1953-1954</p> <p>Letters, 1953-1954</p> <p>Mimeographed material, 1953-1954</p> <p>Printed material, 1953-1954</p> <p>News Notes, October 1955</p> <p>Statement of income and expenses, 1954-1955</p> <p>Tenth annual tour report, 1954-1955</p> <p>Programs, 1955</p>
6	<p>Historical Files, [General], 1955 [-1965]</p> <p>Out-of-state tour, 1955</p> <p>Letters, 1955-1956 season</p> <p>Mimeographed material, 1955-1956</p> <p>Miscellaneous material (6)</p> <p> 1956-1957</p> <p> 1958</p> <p> 1959</p> <p> 1960</p> <p> 1960-1961</p> <p> 1961-1962</p> <p>Programs, 1962</p> <p>Programs, 1965</p> <p>Membership Drive procedure, n.d.</p> <p>Tour schedules, 1950-1965 seasons</p>
7	<p>Historical Files, [General, various dates]</p> <p>Tour summaries, 1938-1971 (also History of Orchestra)</p> <p>Historical information received from C. D. Kutschinski, Winston-Salem</p> <p>Historical information received from Mrs. H. A. Whitfield, Chapel Hill</p> <p>[Contents of spring binder removed to folder for preservation--photo album]</p> <p>[Contents of looseleaf notebook, as above]</p>

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7 (cont'd)	Historical Files, [General, various dates] Correspondence--Edward B. Benjamin, 1952-1957 [See also Boxes 15, 20, and 21] Historical Files, [Programs], 1932-1955 1931 and concerts 1-139, 1932-1935 Concerts 1-3, May 14-Dec. 1, 1932 Concerts 4-8, May 29-Dec. 9, 1933 Concerts 9-74, June 10-Dec. 3, 1934 1935 season 1938 season 1940 season (after reorganization under Swalin) 1941 season 1942 season
8	1943 season 1944 season 1945 season 1946 season 1947 season 1948 season 1949 season 1950 season 1951 season Historical Files, Soloists, [1952 season]-1954 season Lists, 1951-1952, & survey [1932-1960] Cook, [MacRae] Ellis, [John Alston, Jr.] Kellam, [Emily Richardson] Reinecke, [Virginia M.] Sahlmann, [Frederick G.] Smith, [Harry Logan] Whitten, [Benjamin] Winfield, [Jayne Lynn Page] Withers, [Loren Ralph]
9	Prospective soloists, 1952-1953 Alternate soloist, 1952-1953--piano: Sinclair Soloists and rehearsals, 1952-1953

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9 (cont'd)	<p>Historical Files, Soloists, [1952 season]-1954 season</p> <p>Boyle, [Nancy]</p> <p>Cass, [Richard Brannan]</p> <p>Cook, [MacRae]</p> <p>Cone, [Harold S.]</p> <p>Gillett, [Marguerite R.]</p> <p>Ponti, [Michael]</p> <p>Scroggs, [Robin Jerome]</p> <p>Publicity, 1953-1954 adult soloists</p> <p>Brockman, [Thomas]</p> <p>Eckart, [Frank]</p> <p>Masloff, [Helen M.]</p> <p>Noona, [Walter]</p> <p>Taylor, [Caroline]</p> <p>Winfield, [Jayne]</p> <p>• Subject Files [Alphabetical], [1947-1966]</p> <p>Advertising rates, 1956-1965</p> <p>Auditions, 1957-1961</p> <p>Bibliography lists</p> <p>Board meetings--society and trustees, publicity, 1957-1963</p> <p>Broadcasting--Columbia Broadcasting System, 1957</p> <p>Broadcasting--National Broadcasting Company, 1949-1958</p> <p>Legislature--letters, 1955-1965</p> <p>Magazines--articles (27)</p> <p style="padding-left: 2em;">Articles printed out-of-state, 1948-1960 [includes newspaper articles]</p> <p style="padding-left: 2em;">General releases and lists, 1959-1966</p> <p style="padding-left: 2em;"><u>Better Living</u>, 1956</p> <p style="padding-left: 2em;"><u>Changing Times</u>, 1962</p> <p style="padding-left: 2em;"><u>Coronet</u>, 1952-1958</p>
10	<p><u>Enka Voice</u>, 1953-1954</p> <p><u>Friends</u>, 1955, 1961</p> <p><u>The Georgia Review</u>, 1953-1954</p> <p><u>Holiday</u>, 1955</p> <p><u>International Musician</u>, 1954-1964</p> <p><u>Kiplinger News Letter</u>, 1962, 1965</p> <p><u>Life</u>, 1947-1964</p>

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10 (cont'd)	<p>Subject Files [Alphabetical], [1947-1966] (cont'd)</p> <p>Magazines--articles (27) (cont'd)</p> <p><u>Look</u>, 1949-1961</p> <p><u>McCall's</u>, 1955-1961</p> <p><u>Music Educators Journal</u>, 1947</p> <p><u>Music Life</u>, 1959-1960</p> <p><u>Musical America</u>, 1952-1964</p> <p><u>Musical Courier</u>, 1947-1961</p> <p><u>Musical Leader</u>, 1953-1954, 1961</p> <p><u>Musical Tempo</u>, 1960</p> <p><u>The North Carolina Musical Educator</u>, 1959-1960</p> <p><u>Pathfinder</u>, 1949-1950</p> <p><u>Reader's Digest</u>, 1950-1957</p> <p><u>Saturday Evening Post</u>, 1952-1961</p> <p><u>Showcase</u>, 1960</p> <p><u>The Triangle Pointer</u>, May 4-11, 1962</p> <p><u>Woman's Day</u>, 1955-1956</p> <p>Mailing lists--promotion, 1956, 1964</p> <p>Mats--correspondence and chart, 1955-1964</p> <p>Membership drives--general publicity, 1956-1960</p> <p>Miscellaneous correspondence (6)</p> <p> Publicity correspondence, 1963-1966</p> <p> "A"- "C"</p> <p> "D"- "J"</p> <p> "L"- "V"</p> <p> Old correspondence in files prior to Oct. 4, 1963</p>
11	<p>Pearsall Study</p> <p>Movie, 1957-1960</p> <p>Movie scripts</p> <p>Newspapers (10)</p> <p> In-state (general), 1958-1964</p> <p> Out-of-state (general), 1960-1962, n.d.</p> <p> General releases and lists, 1961</p> <p> N. C. newspapers--correspondence, 1960-1961</p> <p> <u>Baltimore Sun</u>, 1958-1959</p> <p> <u>Chicago Tribune</u>, 1957, 1961</p> <p> <u>Christian Science Monitor</u>, 1953, 1961</p>

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12	<p>Stations carrying children's concerts, 1957-1964</p> <p>Correspondence--N. C. stations, 1959-1960</p> <p>Foreign, 1952, n.d. [British and Danish broadcasting]</p> <p>Scripts, various dates</p> <p>Regional publicity--instructions and lists, 1957-1960</p> <p>Statistics--children's concerts, etc., 1943-1960</p> <p>Swalin, Benjamin--biographical [includes joint biographies]</p> <p>Swalin, Maxine--biographical</p> <p>Symphony Week, 1960-1963 (4 folders)</p> <p>Tapes (3)</p> <p>Correspondence, 1959-1960</p> <p>Forms (Tapes and Timing), n.d.</p> <p>Intros and close-outs for tapes, 1959, n.d.</p>

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13	<p>Subject File, [c. 1950-1966]</p> <p>Concert tours [alphabetical by name of city]</p> <p style="padding-left: 2em;">Albemarle-Asheville</p> <p style="padding-left: 2em;">Banner Elk-Camp LeJeune</p> <p style="padding-left: 2em;">Chapel Hill-Clinton</p> <p style="padding-left: 2em;">Danville, Va.-Elkin</p> <p style="padding-left: 2em;">Elizabeth City-Franklin</p> <p style="padding-left: 2em;">Goldsboro-High Point</p> <p style="padding-left: 2em;">Hillsboro[ugh]-Louisburg College</p> <p style="padding-left: 2em;">Marion-New Bern</p> <p style="padding-left: 2em;">Newton-Conover-Rockingham</p>
14	<p>Rocky Mount-Southern Pines</p> <p>Sparta-Winston-Salem</p> <p>Statewide releases [includes children's letters]</p> <p>Forms</p> <p>Soloists, 1950-1961</p> <p>Pull Material (pertinent facts about the symphony)</p> <p>Correspondence Files [1940-1949], 1952-1966</p> <p>Index to files, 1963</p> <p>Arts Council (5)</p> <p style="padding-left: 2em;">National, 1960-1964</p> <p style="padding-left: 2em;">Greensboro Fine Arts Festival, 1960</p> <p style="padding-left: 2em;">Tri-States Art Council, 1960, 1965</p> <p style="padding-left: 2em;">Allied Arts and others, 1959-1963</p> <p style="padding-left: 2em;">Fine Arts (clippings), 1960, 1963</p> <p style="padding-left: 2em;">Appreciation letters, 1956-1965</p>

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15	<p>ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers), 1958-1964</p> <p>Baldwin Piano Company, 1958</p> <p>Ball, Symphony, 1961, 1963 (2 folders) [1962 Symphony Ball Folder in Box 18]</p> <p>Benjamin, Edward B.--Benjamin Commission (3)</p> <p>Conditions (terms)</p> <p>Financial correspondence, 1956-1963</p> <p>Miscellaneous correspondence, 1960-1963</p> <p>Board of Trustees (10)</p> <p>Suggestions submitted by Board members, 1963</p> <p>Annual meeting, June 23, 1963</p> <p>Nominating Committee, June 1963</p> <p>Executive Committee meeting, Mar. 31, 1963</p> <p>Finance Committee Meeting, Sep. 22, 1963</p> <p>Arrangements for meeting place, 1960</p> <p>Summaries of minutes--Board and Executive Committee, 1961-1963</p> <p>Expressions of interest, 1964</p> <p>President Victor S. Bryant, 1962-1964</p> <p>Lists, 1961-1963</p> <p>Booking Agents (7)</p> <p>American National Theatre Assn., 1962-1963</p> <p>Alkahest Celebrity Bureau, 1955, 1960-1961</p> <p>Bliss Celebrity Bureau, Inc., 1957-1962</p>

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16	<p>. Clubs (6)</p> <p>N. C. Council of Women's Organizations, 1962-1963</p> <p>N. C. Federation of Music Clubs, 1962-1963</p> <p>Reports & Minutes of N. C. Federation, 1959-1966</p> <p>Presidents of N. C. clubs, 1958-1959</p> <p>American Assn. of University Women, 1961</p> <p>National Federation of Music Clubs, 1961-1964</p> <p>National Federation of Music Clubs, citation to Benjamin F. Swalin, 1963</p> <p>Composers, 1960-1964</p> <p>Culture Week, 1963</p> <p>Development Fund or Symphony Fund Committee, 1964</p> <p>Businesses, 1960-1963</p> <p>Memorandums, various dates</p> <p>Miscellaneous (lists, forms, etc.), 1959-1961, n.d.</p> <p>Procedure, reports, and special projects, 1963</p> <p>Correspondence (6)</p> <p>"A"- "B"</p> <p>"C"- "D"</p> <p>"E"- "G"</p> <p>"H"- "M"</p> <p>"N"- "R"</p> <p>"S"- "Z"</p> <p>Directories--employment agencies, 1952</p>

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Also: Fibredex box of unworked Guest Soloists Files

Finding Aid completed October 5, 1973, by Suzanne Smith.

N. C. DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL RESOURCES

NORTH CAROLINA SYMPHONY SOCIETY, INC.

Minutes of the Society and of its Committees, Dec. 6, 1940 - Dec. 2, 1949.

The following records were microfilmed on 16 mm. film at a reduction ratio of 24 to 1 by the State Records Branch, Division of Archives and History, Department of Cultural Resources. The records are arranged chronologically by date of meeting, and were microfilmed for the N. C. Department of Cultural Resources. Another copy of the film is in the Department of Cultural Resources Security Vault. The original records have been returned to the N. C. Symphony Administrative Offices, Chapel Hill, N. C.

These records were microfilmed to provide a security copy.

<u>Reel No.</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1 <i>S. 141.2N</i>	Begin: By-Laws and Minutes of Dec. 6, 1940 End: Minutes of Dec. 2, 1949.

DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL RESOURCES

N. C. SYMPHONY SOCIETY

Minutes of N. C. Symphony Society and of its Committees

July 9, 1949 - June 6, 1973

The following records were microfilmed on 16 mm. film at a reduction ratio of 24 to 1 by the State Records Branch, Division of Archives and History, Department of Cultural Resources. The filming began and was completed on August 23, 1973; the date on which a particular reel was microfilmed is shown in the Certificate of Authenticity at the end of the reel. The records are arranged chronologically and were microfilmed for the Department of Cultural Resources. Another copy of the film is in the Department of Cultural Resources Security Vault. The original records have been returned to Dr. T. W. Mitchell who will transfer them to the N. C. Symphony Society.

These records were microfilmed to provide a security copy.

<u>Reel No.</u>	<u>Contents</u>
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