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After graduation from Harvard University (B.A. 1925), Mendel went to Paris, where he studied with Nadia Boulanger (1925-1927). He was music critic of The Nation (1930-1933), literary editor for G. Schirmer (1930-1938), editor of the American Musicological Society's journal (1940-1943), and editor for Associated Music Publishers (1941-1947). He was also an active translator. From 1936 to 1953 he conducted the Cantata Singers, one of the first groups in the USA to give authentic performances of Baroque music. He taught at the Dalcroze School of Music and the Diller - Quaile School in New York (1938-1950), serving as president of the former (1947-1950).

In the late 1940s Mendel gained recognition as a musicologist. He was appointed professor of music at Princeton University (1952), where he was departmental chairman (1952-1967), and held the Henry Putnam University Professorship from 1969 until his retirement in 1973. He was a member of the editorial boards of the Neue Bach - Ausgabe and the new Josquin edition. Mendel published studies on the history of musical pitch and the rhythmic structure of Renaissance and Baroque music. His editions and studies of Bach's life and works, most notably the documentary biography The Bach Reader (1945, with Hans T. David), and his practical and critical editions of the St. John Passion (1951, 1974), brought him recognition as the foremost American Bach scholar of his generation.

In his later years he investigated the music of Josquin and possible applications of computer technology to musicological problems. A Festschrift in his honor, Studies in Renaissance and Baroque Music, was published in 1974 (edited by Robert L. Marshall).

The collection consists of articles, correspondence, course notes, scrapbooks (1937-1952), memorabilia, and printed matter of Mendel, a professor of music at Princeton (1952-1973). The collection contains correspondence between Mendel, professional colleagues, and organizations such as the American Musicological Society, the Josquin Committee, and the International Josquin Festival Conference (June 1971) in New York, N.Y. There are also Mendel's records on the status of dissertations, course notes for a senior seminar in music history, material on pitches of various instruments and standard tuning frequencies, and scrapbooks containing letters, public relations announcements, and newspaper reviews of the Cantata Singers of All Souls Church in New York City, of which he was the conductor. In addition, there are liability insurance policies and cancelled personal checks of Mendel's wife, Elsa.

Additional material, also unprocessed was added to the collection in May 2007. This material includes sixteen binders and folders of Mendel while he was at Princeton University. The binders contain sheet music, original manuscript material, class curriculum and notes, and writings and criticism of Bach. Also included is correspondence; a binder labeled "Arthur's Honors"; photographs from an exhibition about Mendel; personal photographs; a photo album of his wife Elsa Wissell and her family, and documents about her death and her estate; photographs and letters about the "Cantata Singers"; printed material; and newspaper clippings.
This is an unprocessed collection and remains in its original arrangement.

Access and Use

Access
The collection is open for research.

Restrictions on Use and Copyright Information
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Acquisition and Appraisal

Provenance and Acquisition

Appraisal
No appraisal information is available.

Processing and Other Information

Preferred Citation
Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Arthur Mendel Papers, Box and Folder Number; Special Collections, Princeton University Library.

Encoding
This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit 2012-08-06T12:54-0400

Descriptive Rules Used
Finding aid content adheres to that prescribed by Describing Archives: A Content Standard.

Subject Headings

· Josquin, Des Pres, 1440?-1521 -- Criticism and interpretation -- 20th century.
· All Soul's Church (New York, N.Y.)
· American Musicological Society.
· Cantata Singers.
· Princeton University. -- Dept. of Music -- 20th century.
· Music -- Instruction and study -- New Jersey -- Princeton -- 20th century.
· Musical pitch.
· Correspondence.
· Faculty papers.
· Scrapbooks.
· Conductors (Music) -- New York (State) -- New York.
· Princeton University -- Faculty.
· Music
· Princeton University
## Contents List

### Correspondence: A - Ar, 1973-1974

- **Size:** 6.0 folders
  - **American Council of Learned Societies, dates not examined**
    - **Size:** 1.0 folder
    - **Box:** 1 Folder: 1
  - **AMS, dates not examined**
    - **Size:** 1.0 folder
    - **Box:** 1 Folder: 2
  - **AMS Publication, 1974**
    - **Size:** 1.0 folder
    - **Box:** 1 Folder: 3
  - **AMS Publication, 1973 (incl.), 1973**
    - **Size:** 1.0 folder
    - **Box:** 1 Folder: 4
  - **AMS: Washington, 1974**
    - **Size:** 1.0 folder
    - **Box:** 1 Folder: 5
  - **Archival Restoration Associates, dates not examined**
    - **Size:** 1.0 folder
    - **Box:** 1 Folder: 6

### Correspondence: As - H, dates not examined

- **Size:** 11.0 folders
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  - **Babitz, dates not examined**
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  - **Bach Concordance: BG Sachverzeichnis, dates not examined**
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    - **Box:** 2 Folder: 3
  - **Bach, J.S., Inst., etc., dates not examined**
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  - **Barenreiter, dates not examined**
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  - **British Museum, dates not examined**
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  - **Dissertations in Progress, dates not examined**
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Dufay Conference: 12/6 - 7/74, dates not examined
Box: 2 Folder: 8
Size: 1.0 folder
Durr: Dadelson, dates not examined
Box: 2 Folder: 9
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Handel and Haydn, dates not examined
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Size: 1.0 folder
Haydn Proceedings, dates not examined
Box: 2 Folder: 11
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Correspondence: I - Neu, 1972-1973
Size: 5.0 folders
Int'l Congress: Bach Symposium, dates not examined
Box: 3 Folder: 1
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KNUF, dates not examined
Box: 3 Folder: 2
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Microfilm Print(s), dates not examined
Box: 3 Folder: 3
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Neumann, Frederick, 1972
Box: 3 Folder: 4
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Neumann, Frederick, 1973
Box: 3 Folder: 5
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Correspondence: Neu - B, 1975
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Neumann, Werner, dates not examined
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NYPL, dates not examined
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Size: 1.0 folder
Oxford, dates not examined
Box: 4 Folder: 3
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Reese Memoir, dates not examined
Box: 4 Folder: 4
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Box: 4 Folder: 5
Size: 1.0 folder
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Smend, dates not examined Box: 4 Folder: 7
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Staehelin, dates not examined Box: 4 Folder: 8
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Strunk Festschrift, dates not examined Box: 4 Folder: 9
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A, dates not examined Box: 4 Folder: 10
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B, 1974 Box: 4 Folder: 11
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B, 1975 Box: 4 Folder: 12
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D, dates not examined Box: 5 Folder: 2
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E, dates not examined Box: 5 Folder: 3
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H, dates not examined Box: 5 Folder: 6
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J, dates not examined Box: 5 Folder: 8
K, dates not examined  
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L, dates not examined  
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Correspondence: M - R, dates not examined  
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M, dates not examined  
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Box: 6 Folder: 1

N, dates not examined  
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O, dates not examined  
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P, dates not examined  
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Q, R, dates not examined  
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Box: 6 Folder: 5

Correspondence: S - Z, dates not examined  
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S, dates not examined  
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Departmental Business, dates not examined  
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U-V-W-X-Y-Z, dates not examined  
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Josquin Committee Papers, 1977-1979  
Size: 6.0 folders  
Confidential File, dates not examined  
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Josquin Committee, 1979  
Size: 1.0 folder  
Box: 8 Folder: 2

Committee Business, dates not examined  
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Box: 8 Folder: 3
CH/EL/HMB, dates not examined Box: 8 Folder: 4
Size: 1.0 folder

1977 Meeting, 1977 Box: 8 Folder: 5
Size: 1.0 folder

Individual Committee Members, dates not examined Box: 8 Folder: 6
Size: 1.0 folder

Josquin Conference - T, dates not examined
Size: 4.0 folders
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T, dates not examined Box: 9 Folder: 4
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Cantata Singers: Personal Checks - Cantata Singers, 1937 - 1945
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1948-1949
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The Cantata Singers, 1946 - 1947 Box: 11 Folder: 1
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The Cantata Singers, 1948 - 1949 Box: 11 Folder: 2
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Pitch Material, dates not examined

Size: 11.0 folders

- Pitch: Miscellaneous & Curiosa, dates not examined  
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- Brass, dates not examined  
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- Cammer-Ton, Chorton, etc., dates not examined  
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- Pitch: Chiavette, dates not examined  
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- Harpsichords, etc., dates not examined  
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- Leipp, dates not examined  
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- Meeüs, dates not examined  
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- Organ - Pipe Measures, dates not examined  
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Standards, dates not examined

Size: 4.0 folders

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Woodwinds, dates not examined  Box: 14 Folder: 5
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2 Binder Containing Bach's Cantatas BWV 225-846; 2 Binders Containing Opera I & II, 1949-1979  Box: 21
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3 Binders with Material for Teaching Classes; 1 Binder Labeled "Handwriting Studies", 1954-1971  Box: 23
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