

# The Troostwyk Family Papers

Misc. Ms. 306



Compiled by Eva M. Heater

1996-2007

120 High Street  
PO Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520  
(203) 432-0497

[musicspecialcollections@yale.edu](mailto:musicspecialcollections@yale.edu)

<https://guides.library.yale.edu/MusicSpecialCollections>

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Gilmore Music Library  
120 High Street  
PO Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520  
(203) 432-0497  
musicspecialcollections@yale.edu  
<https://guides.library.yale.edu/MusicSpecialCollections>

**CALL NUMBER:** Misc. Ms. 306

**CREATOR:** Troostwyk family

**TITLE:** The Troostwyk Family Papers

**DATES:** 1894-1957

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2 linear feet (3 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** Materials chiefly in English.

**SUMMARY:** Music, correspondence, programs, scrapbooks and clippings, photographs, and miscellaneous materials by and about the Dutch-American violinist and educator Isidore Troostwyk (1862-1923), his wife Erna Dessauer Troostwyk, and their children Leo, Hendrika, and Arthur, all of whom were musicians

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/music.misc.0306>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/music.misc.0306>.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box  
f. folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

The Troostwyk Family Papers were established in the Music Library of Yale University by Elaine Troostwyk Toscanini and Lee Troostwyk in October 1986.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The papers are open to researchers by appointment. There are no restricted materials in the collection. Please contact the [Special Collections staff](#) to schedule an appointment.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The papers are the physical property of the Irving S. Gilmore Music Library of Yale University. Copyrights belong to the composers and authors, or their legal heirs and assigns.

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## Preferred Citation

Misc. Ms. 306, The Troostwyk Family Papers in the Irving S. Gilmore Music Library of Yale University.

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## Biographical / Historical

Isidore Troostwyk (1862-1923) was a brilliant violinist from Zwolle in the Netherlands. He began studying the violin at the age of ten, and when he was sixteen, admiring patrons funded lessons with Joseph Joachim in Berlin. (Joachim later sent him to the United States with a letter of recommendation.) In 1883 Troostwyk was appointed professor of the violin at the Academy of Music in Amsterdam, and was appointed concertmaster of the Concertgebouw orchestra. During his career in Holland, he played under conductors such as Brahms, Bruch, Benoit, Rubenstein, Bülow, Massenet, Moszkowski, and Grieg.

Troostwyk emigrated to the United States in 1888. He was co-founder of the Dessauer-Troostwyk School of Music, at 781 Chapel Street in New Haven, incorporated in 1893. Troostwyk joined with the co-founder of the School, flutist Max Dessauer (b. 1864), and Dessauer's sister Erna (b. 1865), to form the Dessauer-Troostwyk Trio. Troostwyk became the concertmaster of the New Haven Symphony at the time of its organization in 1894. (The first concert was in January 1895.) In 1895, Troostwyk was appointed as the first Instructor of Violin at the newly established Yale School of Music, where he was later promoted to Assistant Professor, and performed as a member of the Faculty Trio. Troostwyk was the founding conductor of two orchestras: the New Haven String Orchestra (1907) and the Bridgeport Symphony Orchestra.

Troostwyk's entire family was involved in music. In addition to his wife Erna (a pianist and composer) and brother-in-law Max Dessauer, his and Erna's children became talented and successful musicians in their own right. Their son Leo became the principal cellist in the New Haven Symphony Orchestra and was appointed Instructor of Cello in 1912 at the Yale School of Music. Their daughter Hendrika was known as a child prodigy on the violin, and also played viola. Their son Arthur was a violinist in the New Haven Symphony Orchestra, and played in the Leo Troostwyk Trio with his brother Leo and pianist Roy J. Ward. Leo, Hendrika, and Arthur played with their father in the Troostwyk Family Quartet.

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## Scope and Contents

The Troostwyk Family Papers document the musical activities of the Dutch-born violinist Isidore Troostwyk, his wife Erna Dessauer Troostwyk, and their children Leo, Hendrika, and Arthur. The family's musical activities in New Haven are documented by correspondence, programs, scrapbooks and clippings, photographs, and miscellaneous materials. The majority of the Papers relate to Isidore and Leo. The largest and richest series is the scrapbooks and clippings, which cover not only the careers of the Troostwyk Family, but also document musical life in New Haven at the turn of the 20th century, including beginning of formal music study at Yale University and the founding of the Yale School of Music.

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## Arrangement

In 6 series as follows: I. Music. II. Correspondence. III. Concert programs. IV. Scrapbooks. V. Miscellaneous. VI. Photographs.

## Collection Contents

Inventory

b. 1, f. 1

### Series I: Music

b. 1, f. 2

Yale Bi-centennial March

*56 manuscript parts ; 14 x 18 cm.*

Troostwyk, Erna Dessauer

For: pic ; cl I ; cl II ; cl III ; E-flat cl ; solo cornet ; cornet I ; cornet II ; cornet III ; hn I ; hn II ; hn III ; tb I ; tb II ; tb III ; baritone ; bass ; perc.

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**Series II: Correspondence**

## Subseries II.A: From others to Erna Dessauer Troostwyk

b. 1, f. 3	From others to Erna Dessauer Troostwyk	
	Hadley, Arthur Twining (President of Yale University)	1 Jul 1923
	Yale University (Office of the Secretary) Illegible signature	13 Oct 1923
	Yale University (Office of the Treasurer) Illegible signature	23 Jul 1923

## Subseries II.B: From others to Isidore Troostwyk

b. 1, f. 4	From others to Isidore Troostwyk	
	Bristol, J.S. (Mrs. Eugene)	7 May 1915
	Buckland, Sally (Mrs. E.G.)	27 Apr 1918
	Dexter, Franklin B. (Secretary, Yale University)	14 Nov 1894
	Georg (no last name given)	23 Sept 1914
	Palmer, Charles Ray	22 May 1907
	Parker, Horatio	28 June 1901
	Schmidt, Maria	16 Dec 1914
b. 1, f. 4	Yale University. Secretary's office (one letter signed by Anson Phelps Stokes, other signatures illegible)	1901-1923

## Subseries II.C: From others to Leo Troostwyk

b. 1, f. 5	From others to Leo Troostwyk	
	Babb, James T.	7 Oct 1944
	Bristol, J.S.	23 Jan 1916
	Burton, Charles E.	6 Mar 1926
	Cadman, Charles <i>3 items</i>	6 Nov 1913 and undated
	The Evening Mail <i>1 p. and certificate</i>	19 Jan 1922
	Grinkaus, George (Tams-Witmark)	14 Jan 1913
	Marble, Milton M.	23 Dec 1912
	McCray, T.C.	11 Feb 1930
	New Haven Symphony Orchestra	9 Oct 1902

Subseries II.C: From others to Leo Troostwyk > From others to Leo Troostwyk (continued)

Parker, Horatio	28 May 1915
Schweikher, Frederick	7 Aug 1911
Yale University. Library	6 Oct 1944

**Series III: Concert programs**

Concert programs retained in this file all include at least one member of the Troostwyk family. Programs on which a family member's name does not appear have been removed and incorporated into the Music Library's file of Yale concert programs.

b. 1, f. 6	Yale concert programs	1895-1934
b. 1, f. 7	Miscellaneous programs	1890-1909
b. 1, f. 8	Miscellaneous programs	1910-1919
b. 1, f. 9	Miscellaneous programs	1920-1929
b. 1, f. 10	Miscellaneous programs	1930-1957
b. 1, f. 11	Miscellaneous programs	dated but lack year; programs with no date



## Series IV: Scrapbooks

Scrapbooks and clippings have been photocopied onto acid-free paper and the originals discarded. The correspondence and programs have been removed from the scrapbooks and filed into series II and III respectively.

b. 2, f. 12	Scrapbook Primarily containing material directly relating to Isidore Troostwyk, circa 1890-1911; material relating to other family members.
b. 2, f. 13	Scrapbook Primarily containing material directly relating to Leo Troostwyk, circa 1910-1916; material relating to other family members, especially Hendrika Troostwyk.
b. 2, f. 14	Scrapbook Relating to the activities of the New Haven String Orchestra; programs from performances by the students of the Yale University School of Music; clippings and programs relating to the Bridgeport Symphony, circa 1907-1922.
b. 2, f. 15	Clippings Large file of miscellaneous loose clippings relating to the various members of the Troostwyk family.
b. 2, f. 16	Clippings File of miscellaneous portions of loose clippings; articles incomplete.

**Series V: Miscellaneous**

b. 3, f. 18	Biographical notes of Isidore Troostwyk <i>Manuscript, 2 p.</i>	
b. 3, f. 18	Advertisement for Leo Troostwyk	
b. 3, f. 18	Advertisement for the Dessauer-Troostwyk Trio	
b. 3, f. 18	Advertisement for Max Dessauer, assisted by Isidore Troostwyk	
b. 3, f. 18	Advertisement for the Western Institute of Music and Dramatic Art	
b. 3, f. 19	Chronological repertoire list of the New Haven Symphony Orchestra <i>Manuscript, 23 p.</i>	
b. 3, f. 20	<u><i>Biography of the New Haven String Orchestra set to Rhyme --</i></u> , poem, by Isidore Troostwyk <i>Typescript, 2 p.</i>	
b. 3, f. 20	2 Poems <i>Manuscript, each 1 p.</i> Author(s) unknown [second poem copied from other source?]	no date

**Series VI: Photographs**

Subjects with more than one photograph are noted with the number of individual pictures following the entry.

## One person

b. 3, f. 21	Max Dessauer <i>2 items</i>
b. 3, f. 21	Arthur Troostwyk
b. 3, f. 21	Erna Dessauer Troostwyk <i>2 items</i>
b. 2, f. 17	Erna Dessauer Troostwyk <i>(oversize)</i>
b. 3, f. 22	Hendrika Troostwyk
b. 3, f. 22	Isidore Troostwyk <i>4 items</i>
b. 2, f. 17	Isidore Troostwyk <i>(oversize)</i>
b. 3, f. 23	Leo Troostwyk <i>5 items</i>
b. 3, f. 23	Maurice Troostwyk

## Two people

b. 3, f. 24	Erna and Isidore Troostwyk
b. 2, f. 17	Erna and Isidore Troostwyk <i>(oversize)</i>
b. 3, f. 24	Hendrika and Leo Troostwyk

## Four people

b. 2, f. 17	Troostwyk String Quartet (Isidore, Leo, Hendrika, Arthur) <i>2 items (oversize)</i>
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## Six people

b. 3, f. 24	Troostwyk family Top row: Hendrika, Isidore, Erna. Bottom row: Leo, Maurice, Arthur
b. 2, f. 17	Troostwyk family <i>(oversize)</i> Top row: Leo, Hendrika, Arthur, Maurice. Bottom row: Erna, Isidore

## Large group

b. 3, f. 24	New Haven Symphony Orchestra
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Large group (continued)

b. 2, f. 17	New Haven Symphony Orchestra (oversize)	1895
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Unidentified

b. 3, f. 24	Single portraits <i>2 items</i>
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## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Music -- Connecticut -- New Haven

### **Geographic Names**

New Haven (Conn.) -- Social life and customs --  
20th Century

### **Names**

Dessauer, Max, 1893-  
Parker, Horatio W. (Horatio William), 1863-1919  
Troostwyk, Arthur  
Troostwyk, Erna Dessauer  
Troostwyk, Hendrika  
Troostwyk, Isidore  
Troostwyk, Leo