Guide to the Hugo Benioff Recordings Collection

MSS 150

Written by Jonathan Manton

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

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Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Yale University Music Library  
120 High Street  
PO Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520  
musicspecialcollections@yale.edu  
https://guides.library.yale.edu/MusicSpecialCollections

**CALL NUMBER:** MSS 150

**CREATOR:** Benioff, Hugo

**TITLE:** Hugo Benioff Recordings Collection

**DATES:** 1955–1962

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.5 linear feet (1 box)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Recordings of concerts given at Hugo Benioff’s home on electronic instruments he designed, by prominent musicians.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/music.mss.0150

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 http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/music.mss.0150.

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

b. box  
item barcode

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The recordings included in this collection were donated to Yale by Paul Benioff, son of Hugo Benioff. The date these recordings were acquired by Yale is unknown.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written
permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited
without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation
MSS 150, Hugo Benioff Recordings Collection, in the Music Library of Yale University.

Biographical Sketch of Hugo Benioff
Victor Hugo Benioff was an American seismologist and a professor at the California Institute of
Technology. Along with numerous accomplishments during his career, Benioff also created a number of
electric musical instruments; in particular a piano, violin and cello. He was elected a Fellow of the American
Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1958.

Scope and Contents
Hugo Benioff had patents on several electric musical instruments, including violin, cello, and piano. The
recordings in this collection are of concerts given at Benioff’s home on these instruments by prominent
musicians such as Jose Iturbi, Leon Knopoff and John Crown.

Arrangement
The collection is arranged in one series: I. Open reel tapes
# Collection Contents

## Open reel tape

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| b. 1, 39002126528141 | Piano performances by John Crown  
1 Audiotape Reel (1/4 inch tape, 10.5 inch reel, 2500 ft.)  
Crown, John, 1912-1972  
Performing Weber, Sonata in A Flat Major. Performed on May 1953 Xtal piano. | 1955 November 16 |
| b. 1, 39002126528133 | Piano performance by Leon Knopoff  
1 Audiotape Reel (1/4 inch tape, 10.5 inch reel, 2500 ft.)  
Knopoff, Leon, 1925-  
Performed on a ceramic electro-piano. Piano number 91491. | 1962 June 7 |
| b. 1, 39002126528125 | Piano performance by Jose Iturbi  
1 Audiotape Reel (1/4 inch tape, 10.5 inch reel, 2500 ft, 15 ips.)  
Iturbi, Jose, 1895-1980  
Performed on a May 1953 Xtal piano. | 1958 April 21 |
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
Electronic musical instruments

Names
Benioff, Paul