

# The Stoeckel Family Papers

Misc. Ms. 247



Compiled by Adrienne Nesnow

1996-2007

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

**CALL NUMBER:** Misc. Ms. 247

**CREATOR:** Stoeckel Family

**TITLE:** The Stoeckel Family Papers

**DATES:** 1906-1971

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.25 linear feet (1 box)

**LANGUAGE:** Materials chiefly in English.

**SUMMARY:** Papers of Carl Stoeckel (1858-1925) and Ellen Battell Stoeckel (1851-1939), the founders of the Norfolk Music Festival, with special emphasis on Jean Sibelius and Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, from whom the Stoeckels commissioned new works for the festival

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/music.misc.0247>

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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.0247>.

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 Stoeckel Family Papers were established in the Music Library of Yale University by Ellen Battell Stoeckel in 1926.

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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.

## Conditions Governing Use

The Stoeckel Family 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. 247, The Stoeckel Family Papers in the Irving S. Gilmore Music Library of Yale University.

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## Biographical / Historical

The Stoeckel and Battell families both played crucial roles in the development of music at Yale University. Gustave Jacob Stoeckel (1819-1907) was the first professor of music at Yale. Robbins Battell (1819-1895) was a generous Yale philanthropist as well as an amateur composer. Stoeckel's papers and some of Battell's compositions are preserved in the Yale Music Library as MSS 27 and Misc. Ms. 157, respectively. In 1895, Stoeckel's son Carl (1858-1925) married Battell's daughter Ellen (1851-1939). Carl had previously been Robbins Battell's secretary. In 1899, Ellen and Carl Stoeckel established the Litchfield County Choral Union, and this group's concerts proved to be the beginning of an important summer music festival in Norfolk, Connecticut, where the Stoeckels lived. In 1906 they built the Norfolk Music Shed to house the Festival's concerts. Renowned performers such as Sergei Rachmaninoff, Fritz Kreisler, and Lillian Nordica appeared at the Festival, and the Stoeckels commissioned new works from many composers, including Jean Sibelius, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Horatio Parker, Henry Gilbert, and Victor Herbert; the Stoeckel Family Papers are largely devoted to Carl's recollections of Sibelius and Coleridge-Taylor. The festival went into abeyance after Carl's death in 1925, but when Ellen died in 1939, her will established the Ellen Battell Stoeckel Trust to revive the festival, in collaboration with Yale. The Norfolk Music Festival still takes place every summer at the family estate.

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## Scope and Contents

The Stoeckel Family Papers consist primarily of Carl Stoeckel's typed reminiscences of visits made by Jean Sibelius and Samuel Coleridge-Taylor to the Stoeckel Family Estate in Norfolk, CT. Additional writings about Sibelius, by Olin Downes and Karl Ekman, are also included. The Papers also hold a small number of letters between members of the Stoeckel Family and Horatio Parker, David Stanley Smith, and Eva J. O'Meara, as well as a biographical sketch of Robbins Battell Stoeckel and a copy of Ellen Battell Stoeckel's will.

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## Arrangement

In 3 series as follows: I. Writings about Sibelius and Coleridge-Taylor. II. Correspondence. III. Miscellany.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Writings about Sibelius and Coleridge-Taylor

- b. 1, f. 3      *Jean Sibelius* / Olin Downes.  
[33] leaves, bound ; 27 cm.  
Downes, Olin, 1886-1955  
Typescript, probably by Carl Stoeckel.  
  
Sibelius's appearance as conductor of his own works at a concert at Norfolk on June 4, 1914, is mentioned.  
  
Photocopy master.
- 
- b. 1, f. 4      *Sibelius at Norfolk : quoted from "Jean Sibelius" /* by Karl Ekman.  
11 leaves, bound ; 29 cm.  
Ekman, Karl  
Originally published in Ekman's *Jean Sibelius*, Helsingfors, 1935.  
  
Photocopy master.
- 
- b. 1, f. 5      *Coleridge-Taylor* / [Carl Stoeckel]  
22 leaves, bound ; 27 cm.  
Stoeckel, Carl, 1858-1925  
Typescript.  
  
A description of Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's visits to Norfolk in 1906 and 1909, during which his works were performed.  
  
Photocopy master.
- 
- b. 1, f. 6      *Some recollections of the visit of Sibelius to America in 1914* / [Carl Stoeckel].  
34, A-M leaves, bound ; 27 cm.  
Stoeckel, Carl, 1858-1925  
Downes on Sibelius : ovation to Sibelius. Krehbiel on Sibelius : an interesting point.  
Typescript, probably by Carl Stoeckel, signed by him on p. 34.  
  
Last two items quoted from unknown sources.
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- b. 1, f. 7      "Some recollections of the visit of Sibelius to America in 1914." *Scandinavian Studies* 43 (1971): 53-88.  
Stoeckel, Carl, 1858-1925  
[entire volume saved]
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## Series II: Correspondence

- b. 1, f. 1      [Mostly library correspondence to and from Mr. Mrs. Carl Stoeckel and Robbins Battell Stoeckel](#)      1916-1945  
*114 items*  
Includes 3 typescript lists of music given to the library by Mrs. Carl Stoeckel.
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## Series III: Miscellany

- b. 1, f. 2      *Robbins Battell Stoeckel*. Lawyer, Norfolk, Connecticut : from the Twenty-five year record, class of ninety-three Yale College.  
*2 sheets; 28 cm.*  
Typescript.  
Originally published in the Twenty-five year record, class of ninety-three Yale College, c1918.
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- b. 1, f. 2      *Last will and testament of Ellen Battell Stoeckel* : dated, August 8, 1935 : date of death, May 5, 1939.  
*10 p., bound; 27 cm.*
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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 -- Norfolk

### **Names**

Coleridge-Taylor, Samuel, 1875-1912  
O'Meara, Eva Judd, 1884-1979  
Parker, Horatio W. (Horatio William), 1863-1919  
Sibelius, Jean, 1865-1957  
Smith, David Stanley, 1877-1949  
Stoeckel, Carl, 1858-1925  
Stoeckel, Ellen Battell  
Stoeckel, Robbins Battell, 1872-1951

### **Contributors**

Stoeckel Family  
Downes, Olin, 1886-1955