

# Guide to the Hugo Benioff Recordings Collection

MSS 150



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

**CALL NUMBER:** MSS 150

**CREATOR:** Benioff, Hugo, 1899-1968

**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: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/music.mss.0150>

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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.mss.0150>.

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

b.            box  
■■■■        item barcode

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## Administrative Information

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### 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.

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### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research. Sound recordings from this collection are available to stream online via the Gilmore Music Library's AV access system, Aviary. Links to access these recordings are provided in this finding aid. Yale users can login to Aviary using their Yale University ID, to stream these recordings without restriction. Other users are able to request access to recordings directly through Aviary.

## 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.

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## Preferred Citation

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

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged in one series: I. Open reel tapes

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## Collection Contents

### Open reel tape

b. 1, ⅢⅢⅢ 39002126528141	Piano performances by John Crown <i>1 Audiotape Reel (1/4 inch tape, 10.5 inch reel, 2500ft.)</i> Crown, John, 1912-1972 , performer <a href="#">[Aviary] Piano performances by John Crown, 1955 November 16</a> Performing Weber, Sonata in A Flat Major. Performed on May 1953 Xtal piano.	1955 November 16
b. 1, ⅢⅢⅢ 39002126528133	Piano performance by Leon Knopoff <i>1 Audiotape Reel (1/4 inch tape, 10.5 inch reel, 2500ft.)</i> Knopoff, Leon, 1925- , performer <a href="#">[Aviary] mss_0150_39002126528158_39002126528133</a> Performed on a ceramic electro-piano. Piano number 91491.	1962 June 7
b. 1, ⅢⅢⅢ 39002126528125	Piano performance by Jose Iturbi <i>1 Audiotape Reel (1/4 inch tape, 10.5 inch reel, 2500ft, 15 ips.)</i> Iturbi, José, 1895-1980 , performer <a href="#">[Aviary] mss_0150_39002126528158_39002126528125</a> 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

### **Contributors**

Benioff, Hugo, 1899-1968

Iturbi, José, 1895-1980 , performer

Crown, John, 1912-1972 , performer

Knopoff, Leon, 1925- , performer

### **Acquired From**

Benioff, Paul