

**University of Toronto Music Library**



**Ricordi costume and set designs collection**

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**Administrative history** (Accumulator)

G. Ricordi &amp; Co. Ltd.

1954-1999

Toronto, Ontario

G. Ricordi & Co. (Canada) Ltd. was the Canadian branch of the Italian firm (Casa Ricordi, established in Milan in 1808). In the early 1950s, Gordon Wry was Ricordi's agent, before Bruno Apollonio (a former music publisher in Trieste) took over this position in 1953. In 1954, he established G. Ricordi & Co. (Canada) Ltd. in Toronto. He served as the managing director of the company until his death in 1983. His wife, Wally Apollonio, was in charge of promotion for the publishers. As well as distributing and promoting works by the parent firm, Ricordi (Canada) also published orchestral works by Canadian composers, including Murray Adaskin, Robert Aitken, Harry Freedman, Steven Gellman, Otto Joachim, Pierre Mercure, Oskar Morawetz, Francois Morel, André Prévost, and Harry Somers.

In 1963, Leeds Music (Canada) took over sales of Ricordi's printed music, including Canadian publications, followed by Boosey & Hawkes in 1980.

## Sources:

Federal corporation information:

<https://www.ic.gc.ca/app/scr/cc/CorporationsCanada/fdrIcrpDtIs.html?corpId=2784432>.

Wehrle, Marlene. "G. Ricordi & Co. Ltd." In *The Canadian Encyclopedia* (December 16, 2013).

<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/g-ricordi-co-ltd-emc>.

**Biographical histories** (Creators)

Benois, Nicola

1901-1988

Milan, Italy

Nicola Benois was born in Lomonosov, Russia on May 2, 1901 and died in Codrippo, Italy on March 31, 1988. He was the principal set and costume designer at the Teatro alla Scala in Milan, Italy, starting in 1935. He studied art and design with his father Alexandre Benois, and at the Academy of Fine Arts in Saint Petersburg, Russia. Prior to working at the Teatro alla Scala, he designed several Mariinsky opera and ballet productions; worked for Sergei Diaghilev and the Ballets Russes; and, designed for the Teatro dell'Opera di Roma.

Palanti, Giuseppe

1888-1946

Milan, Italy

Giuseppe Palanti was born on July 30, 1881 in Milan, Italy and died on April 23, 1946 in Milan. In the early twentieth century, he worked as a costume and set designer for the Teatro alla Scala in Milan.

**Scope and content**

1904, 1932, 1937, 1951 (Creation)

[195-?] (Accumulation, by G. Ricordi & Co. Ltd.)

20 drawings + 1 page of textual records

Collection consists of set and costume designs for the following Teatro alla Scala productions: the premiere production of *La Fiamma* (The Flame) by Ottorino Respighi, designed by Nicola Benois (1901-1988); Respighi's ballet *Gli Uccelli*, designed by Benois; and the premiere performance of *Madama Butterfly* by Giacomo Puccini, designed by Giuseppe Palanti (1881-1946).

Source of materials: This collection of set and costume designs was given to Bruno and Wally Apollonio by Ricordi. Their son, Bruno Apollonio (a Toronto architect), donated the collection to the University of Toronto Music Library.

**File 1:** *La fiamma* : set and costume designs

Date range: [1934]

Extent: 6 drawings

File contains set and costume designs by Nicola Benois for the premiere production of *La Fiamma* (The Flame) by Ottorino Respighi at the Teatro alla Scala in Milan on January 23, 1934.

Related units of description: Also see Nicola Benois's designs for *La Fiamma* in the Archivio Storico Ricordi Collezione Digitale (<https://www.digitalarchivioricordi.com>).

Ident.	Title	Extent
1	Donello, atto II : costume design	1 drawing ; 23.5 x 30.5 cm (sight) in frame 44.5 x 36.5 x 2.5 cm
2	Silvana, atto III : costume design	1 drawing ; 23.5 x 30.5 cm (sight) in frame 44.5 x 36.5 x 2.5 cm
3	Basilio, atto III : costume design	1 drawing ; 23.5 x 30.5 cm (sight) in frame 44.5 x 36.5 x 2.5 cm

**File 2:** *Gli Uccelli* : set and costume designs

Date range: 1937, 1951

Extent: 6 drawings + 1 page of textual records

File contains a set design and five costume designs from the ballet *Gli Uccelli* (The Birds) by Ottorino Respighi from two different performances: Buenos Aires, Argentina in 1937 (set design) and at Teatro alla Scala in Milan, Italy in 1951 (costume designs). File also includes a list of Benois's designs for the latter production, with those included in the collection marked.

<b>Ident.</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Extent</b>
1	La scena : set design	1 drawing ; 32.5 x 46 cm
2	Gli Uccelli : set and costume design list	1 page of textual records
3	Il gallo : costume design	1 drawing ; 15.5 x 23 cm (sight)
4	La gallina : costume design	1 drawing ; 15.5 x 23 cm (sight)
5	6 pulcini : costume design	1 drawing ; 15.5 x 23 cm (sight)
6	Uccello meraviglioso : secondo la musica tipo usignolo : costume design	1 drawing ; 15.5 x 23 cm (sight)
7	Uccelli notturni : ballerine tipo Gufo : costume design	1 drawing ; 15.5 x 23 cm (sight)

**File 3:** Madama Butterfly : costume designs

Date range: 1913-1958

Extent: 1904

File consists of costume designs by Giuseppe Palanti for the premiere performance of Madama Butterfly by Giacomo Puccini at the Teatro alla Scala in Milan on February 17, 1904.

Related materials: Also see Giuseppe Palanti's designs for Madama Butterfly in the Archivio Storico Ricordi Collezione Digitale (<https://www.digitalarchivioricordi.com>).

<b>Ident.</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Extent</b>
1	Butterfly, atto I : costume design	1 drawing ; 16 x 32.5 cm (sight)
2	Butterfly, atto II : costume design	1 drawing ; 16 x 32.5 cm (sight)
3	Madre di Cio-cio San, atto I : costume design	1 drawing ; 16 x 32.5 cm (sight)
4	Cugina, atto I : costume design	1 drawing ; 16 x 32.5 cm (sight)
5	Coro Donne, atto I : costume design	1 drawing ; 16.5 x 33.5 cm (sight)
6	Coro Donne, atto I : costume design	1 drawing ; 16.5 x 33.5 cm (sight)
7	Coro Donne, atto I : costume design	1 drawing ; 16.5 x 33.5 cm (sight)
8	Coro Donne, atto I : costume design	1 drawing ; 16.5 x 33.5 cm (sight)