

LENER QUARTET PAPERS

Historical Note

Hungarian violinist Jenö Léner was born April 7, 1894.

In 1918, he founded and became first violinist of the Léner Quartet, at first called the Lehner Streichquartett, using the German spelling of the name. The other members were second violinist Josef (or Joseph) Smilovits (or Smilovitz or Schmilovits), violist Sandor (or Sándor) Roth (or Röth), and violoncellist Imre (or Jmre) Hartman (or Hartmann). These four played together for twenty-three years, as “one of the most renowned string quartets of modern times” according to Baker’s Biographical Dictionary. Maurice Ravel accidentally heard them play early in their association and was so impressed that he asked them to play an all-Ravel concert. In 1927 the Léner Quartet was chosen to record all the Beethoven Quartets for the Beethoven centenary. In 1939 the ensemble was presented by Columbia Graphophone Co. with a golden record, commemorating the sale of the millionth Léner Quartet record.

In 1942, a rift occurred between Jenö Léner and the other three members of the quartet. Correspondence suggests that the controversy centered upon the question of whether Léner acted as artistic director of the ensemble, even though all shared equally in the profits, or whether all decisions were taken by majority rule. A later newspaper article by Irving Kolodin, July 6, 1944, states, “the direct cause of the rupture was the necessity, in Mr. Lener’s opinion, of rehearsing five hours a day for several weeks preparatory to giving a Beethoven cycle in Mexico City for which he had contracted. But his colleagues said that to rehearse Beethoven after playing his works hundreds of times in twenty-three years was ridiculous. So the cycle was canceled and the quartet broke up.” Léner submitted his resignation June 29, 1942.

The other three members quickly found a new first violinist, Higinio Ruvalcaba, reorganized the quartet under the same name, Léner Quartet (or Cuarteto Lener), registered their association in the Public Register of Mexico City on Oct. 22, 1942, and began to perform, stating that Mr. “Lehner” was no longer a member of their organization.

Léner, whose name had been spelled without the “h” for more than 20 years, reserved the right to the name Léner Quartet, and reorganized with three new members in 1943. He was persuaded not to pursue legal action by assurance that the name was obviously his, an opinion which apparently held up as Léner’s new ensemble was registered in New York County.

Clippings from 1943 through 1945 show that various musicians joined Léner as members of his reconstituted quartet, including Laurence Steinhardt, Albert Pratz, Max Weiser, Ralph Hersh, Paul Reisman, Edward Niekrug, Norman Schoer, Gabor Rejto, Ralph Oxman, Leo Rostal, Stefan Auber, and Otto Deri. Programs of November 1946 through October 1947 show a stable membership of Jenö Léner, Mihaly Kuttner, Miklos Harsanyi, and Laszlo Varga.

Jenö Léner died in New York, November 4, 1948.

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Summary of Collection

The collection consists of clippings (photocopied for preservation), fliers, brochures, programs, correspondence, and other papers. Although there is some very early material, the bulk of the collection dates from the years 1942-1947. Much material is about the 1942 rift and the reconstituted quartets which followed it. Problems with a debt recur for several years as Léner believes it to have been paid when it was not, and there are other financial and legal matters concerning his former colleagues. Léner's attempts to become a British subject form another recurring subject. Among the miscellaneous papers are two short biographical essays: reminiscences of Léner in first-person, but probably dictated and transcribed by Léner's wife Elizabeth; and a short memoir written by her which includes some of the same episodes in very similar language.

Correspondence is in English and Spanish, while other material is in Spanish, English, German, French, Portuguese, Italian, Hungarian, and Dutch.

For further material about the Lener Quartet, see the Music Division's Clipping File.

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- 1 -[Clippings about Léner Quartet concerts, 1920-1939].
-9 clippings on 8 sheets.
-Photocopies. In Italian, German, English, French, Dutch, and Spanish. Clippings from 1920 use the original name, Lehner.
[MAI-43369]
- 2 -[Clippings about Léner Quartet concerts, 1940-1942].
-12 clippings on 7 sheets.
-Photocopies. In Portuguese, Spanish, and English.
[MAI-43370]
- 3 -[Clippings about Léner Quartet concerts, 1943].
-20 clippings on 10 sheets.
-Photocopies. In German, English, and Spanish. Discusses rift between Léner and the other 3 members, and the reconstituted quartets.
[MAI-43373]
- 4 -[Clippings about Léner Quartet concerts, 1943-1944].
-43 clippings on 13 sheets.
-Photocopies. In English, German, and Hungarian. Discusses rift between Léner and the other 3 members, and the reconstituted quartets.
[MAI-43374]
- 5 -[Clippings about Léner Quartet concerts, 1945].
-12 clippings on 7 sheets.
-Photocopies. In English, Portuguese, and Spanish.
[MAI-43375]
- 6 -[Clippings about Léner Quartet concerts, Jan. to June, 1946].
-22 clippings on 12 sheets.
-Photocopies. In Spanish, English, and Portuguese.
[MAI-43377]
- 7 -[Clippings about Léner Quartet concerts, July to Sept., 1946].
-23 clippings on 17 sheets.
-Photocopies. In Portuguese and Spanish.
[MAI-43379]
- 8 -[Clippings about Léner Quartet concerts, Oct. to Dec. 1946].
-28 clippings on 12 sheets.
-Photocopies. In German, Spanish, French, and Dutch.
[MAI-43381]
- 9 -[Clippings about Léner Quartet concerts, 1947].
-8 clippings on 4 sheets.
-Photocopies. In Spanish, German, and Italian.
[MAI-43382]

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- 10 -[Clippings about Léner Quartet concerts, undated].
 -23 clippings on 15 sheets.
 -Photocopies. In Spanish.
 [MAI-43383]
- 11 -[Clippings about Léner Quartet concerts, undated].
 -23 clippings on 11 sheets.
 -Photocopies. In German, English, French, Portuguese, and Hungarian.
 [MAI-43384]
- 12 -[Fliers and brochures about the Léner Quartet].
 -1937-1947.
 -12 items.
 -In French, English, Spanish, and German.
 [MAI-43385]
- 13 -[Programs of concerts of the Léner Quartet, 1920-1921].
 -4 items on 3 sheets + 3 photocopies.
 -Programs of the "Quartett Lehner" or "Quartetto Lehner" including Lehner (later Léner), Smilovits, Roth, and Hartmann [or Hartman]. In German, French and Italian. Paper damaged by adhesive. Includes program for all-Ravel concert performed with Alfredo Casella and Marya Freund with Maurice Ravel in attendance. Accompanied by preservation photocopies of 3 items.
 [MAI-43512]
- 14 -[Programs of concerts of the Léner Quartet, 1929-1940].
 -3 programs.
 -Programs of the quartet including Léner, Smilovits, Roth, and Hartmann or Hartman. In German, English, and Spanish. Includes 1 photocopy. Includes 1 undated program.
 [MAI-43388]
- 15 -[Programs of concerts including Jenö Léner, 1942-1944].
 -8 programs + 6 accompanying items.
 -1 program of Jenö Léner, violin, and Frank Asper, organ; 1 program of Léner, violin, and Daniel Ericourt, piano; 3 programs of the Léner Quartet consisting of Léner, Lawrence [or Laurence] Steinhardt, Ralph Hersh, and Gabor Rejtö, 1 with Yehudi Menuhin, Anya Dorfmann, and Adolph Baller; and 3 programs of the trio with Léner, violin, Adolf Baller, piano, and Gabor Rejto, violoncello. In Spanish and English. Accompanying the 3rd program are 4 telegrams and 1 clipping (photocopies), a ticket, and a card signed by Yehudi Menuhin.
 [MAI-43387]
- 16 -[Programs of concerts of the "Cuarteto Lener" including a new first violinist and 3 original members, 1943?].
 -2 programs.
 -Programs of the "Cuarteto Lener" including Higinio Ruvalcaba, Josef Smilovits, Sandor Roth, and Imre Hartman. In Spanish. Accompanied by preservation photocopy of 1 program.
 -Related names and works: Cuarteto Lener.
 [MAI-43389]

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- 17 -[Programs of concerts of the Léner Quartet, 1946].
 -10 programs.
 -Programs of the quartet including Léner, Mihaly Kuttner, Miklos Harsanyi, and Laszlo Varga. In German, French, and Dutch. Dated Nov. 15 to Dec. 19, 1946.
 [MAI-43390]
- 18 -[Programs of concerts of the Léner Quartet, 1947 Jan.-Feb.].
 -12 programs.
 -Programs of the quartet including Léner, Mihaly Kuttner, Miklos Harsanyi, and Laszlo Varga. In Italian, French, and Spanish. Dated Jan. 7 to Feb. 26, 1947. Accompanied by preservation photocopy of 1 program.
 [MAI-43391]
- 19 -[Programs of concerts of the Léner Quartet, 1947 Mar.-May].
 -9 programs.
 -8 programs of the quartet including Léner, Mihaly Kuttner, Miklos Harsanyi, and Laszlo Varga; and 1 program of the Sweelinck-Kwartet using a photograph of the Léner Quartet's hands on its cover. In Spanish, Italian, Hungarian, and Dutch. Dated Mar. 1 to May 18, 1947.
 -Related names and works: Sweelinck-Kwartet.
 [MAI-43392]
- 20 -[Programs of concerts of the Léner Quartet, 1947 Sept.-Oct.].
 -8 programs.
 -Programs of the quartet including Léner, Mihaly Kuttner, Miklos Harsanyi, and Laszlo Varga. In German, French, and Spanish. Dated Sept. 2 to Oct. 10, 1947; 1 program undated.
 [MAI-43393]
- 21 -Agreement, 1936 July 21.
 -1 item ([4] p.)
 -Typed document, signed, stamped, and sealed on paper from Drivers Law Stationers, London. Agreement between Lener, Smilovits, Roth, and Hartman, to divide evenly royalties from Columbia Graphophone Co.
 [MAI-43570]
- 21 Great Britain. Ministry of Labour.
 -Letter: London, to Jeno Lener, London, 1938 Nov. 28.
 -1 letter ([1] leaf)
 -TLS, signature illegible. Thank you for letter offering services of Lener Quartet to government in case of emergency.
 [MAI-43394]
- 21 Great Britain. Home Office.
 -Letter: Whitehall, to Jeno Lener, [n.p.], 1939 May 4.
 -1 letter ([1] leaf)
 -TLS on stationery embossed Home Office, Whitehall; signature illegible. Acknowledges desire to obtain British nationality.
 [MAI-43395]

LENER QUARTET PAPERS

- 21 Novello & Co.
 -Letter: London, to Jenö Lener, Lago di Lugano, 1939 May 23.
 -1 letter ([1] leaf)
 -TLS, signature illegible. Thank you for permission to use photograph of hands of Léner Quartet in advertising leaflet.
 [MAI-43571]
- 21 Poselstwo Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej w Argentynie.
 -Letter: Buenos Aires, to Jenö Lener, Olivos F.C.C.A., 1939 Sept. 28.
 -1 letter ([1] leaf)
 -TLS, signed by Zdzislaw Kurnikowski. In Spanish. Thanks for benefit concert.
 -[MAI-43572]
- 21 South African Broadcasting Corporation.
 -Letter: [n.p.], to Alex Cherniavsky, Johannesburg, 1939 Dec. 2.
 -1 letter ([2] leaves)
 -TLS (photocopy), signature illegible. Agrees to offer of 12 broadcasts in 1940 by Lener Quartet, with 9 provisions.
 -Related names and works: Cherniavsky, Alex.
 [MAI-43408]
- 22 Ormandy, Eugene, 1899-1985.
 -Letter: Philadelphia, to Jenö Lener, Buenos Aires, 1940 July 9.
 -1 letter ([1] leaf)
 -TLS on stationery printed: The Philadelphia Orchestra Association. I will do all I can to bring about an engagement in Philadelphia or elsewhere but cannot promise.
 [MAI-43404]
- 22 Great Britain. Consulate General (Buenos Aires).
 -Letter: Buenos Aires, to Jenö Lener, [Buenos Aires], 1940 Aug. 23-28.
 -2 letters ([2] leaves)
 -TLS on stationery printed British Consulate General, Buenos Aires; signatures illegible; letters identical except for Lener's street address. On 7 June 1940 I forwarded to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs for transmission to the Home Office your letter regarding your application for naturalization as a British subject.
 [MAI-43573]
- 22 Prinz Bernhard Comite Curacao.
 -Letter: Curacao, to Jenö Lener, Curacao, 1941 Mar. 3.
 -1 letter ([1] leaf)
 -TLS, with 2 illegible signatures. Thanks for benefit concert.
 [MAI-43574]
- 22 Pissarello, L. Plácido.
 -Letter: Caracas, to Sr. Lener, Curazao, 1941 Mar. 4.
 -1 letter ([1] leaf)
 -TLS, ink. In Spanish, apparently about money still not paid and progressive losses due to currency fluctuation.
 [MAI-43427]

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- 22 Van Kleeff, A. W.
 -Receipt, 1941 Mar. 7.
 -1 item.
 -In ink. "I have received from Mr. J. Lener the sum of Bs 1300 ... to be sent to Mr. L.P. Pissarello , Caracas. Note: Of the above amount Mr. Lener has paid me Bs 804. The remainder has been advanced by me (Bs 496)"
 [MAI-43428]
- 22 Van Kleeff, A. W.
 -Letter: Maracaibo, to L. Plácido Pissarello, Caracas, 1941 June 4.
 -1 letter ([1] leaf)
 -TLS. In Spanish, about the Bs 496 still owed, ultimately, by Sr. Hernández, who is having trouble raising the money because of losses on the Lener Quartet concert.
 [MAI-43429]
- 22 Belgium. Legation (Mexico).
 -Letter: Mexico, to the Lener Quartet, [Mexico] 1941 Sept. 20.
 -1 letter ([1] leaf)
 -TLS on stationery printed Legation de Belgique, signed by Walter Loridan. Thanks for offering benefit for Belgian victims of war.
 [MAI-43405]
- 22 Pissarello, L. Plácido.
 -Letter: Caracas, to Ernesto de Quesada, Mexico, 1941 Dec. 6.
 -1 letter ([1] leaf)
 -TLS. In Spanish, asking for intercession about money still owed.
 [MAI-43430]
- 22 Léner, Jenö, 1894-1948.
 -Letter: Mexico, to A. W. Van Kleeff, Maracaibo, 1941 Dec. 10.
 -1 letter ([1] leaf)
 -TL (photocopy). Surprised that you still did not pay Mr. Pissarello the whole amount. The reason is that you have not collected the money from your manager, but it was you alone who engaged us through Mr. Gronemayer and declared yourself fully responsible for all our fees. I should be sorry to ask Mr. Gronemayer to take steps. I have your receipt for 1300 Bs. to be sent to Mr. Pissarello.
 [MAI-43431]
- 22 Van Kleeff, A. W.
 -Letter: Maracaibo, to Jeno Lener, [Mexico], 1941 Dec. 27.
 -1 letter ([2] leaves)
 -TLS. Hernandez lost over 1000 Bolivars on the concert because you sent promotional material by ordinary mail so it arrived after the concert. I make no money on these concerts. Before you left you said there is no hurry, pay when I get the money from Hernandez. H. has had to close his office, disappeared, is back with good job, but lost daughter and another child had operation. Needs more time to clear debt. Mr. Gronemayer did not know me personally.
 [MAI-43432]

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- 23 Great Britain. Consulate General (Mexico City).
 -Letter: Mexico City, to Jenö Lener, [Mexico City], 1942 Jan. 5.
 -1 letter ([1] leaf)
 -TL on stationery printed British Consulate-General, Mexico City; signature illegible.
 Consideration of application for naturalization has been suspended for the time being. With regard to passport facilities, advise apply to Mexican authorities for travel document.
 [MAI-43416]
- 23 Quesada, Ernesto de.
 -Telegram: Mexico, to Jenö Lener, Acapulco, [1942?] June 11.
 -1 item.
 -In Spanish. Your colleagues tell me they never had an artistic director and want the programs printed with just the names of all the performers. Photocopied for preservation.
 [MAI-43440]
- 23 Léner, Jenö, 1894-1948 .
 -Telegram: Acapulco, to Ernesto de Quesada, Mexico, 1942 June 12.
 -1 item.
 -In Spanish. For more than 10 years I have had the sole authority on all artistic questions so I am artistic director. Photocopied for preservation.
 [MAI-43441]
- 23 Smilovits, Josef.
 -Letter: Mexico, to Enrique de Quesada, Mexico City, 1942 June 22.
 -1 letter ([1] leaf)
 -TL with typed signatures: Josef Smilovits, Sandor Róth, and Imre Hartman (carbon copy, photocopied for preservation). We have never had and never will recognize a "director-artístico" nor "maxima autoridad" in our quartet. For 22 years we have had majority rule. Our artistic responsibilities and remuneration are equal. We inform Conciertos Daniel that we do not recognize any arrangements conducted by only one member. Notwithstanding our objection we agree to play the Beethoven cycle.
 -Related names and works: Quesada, Enrique de.
 [MAI-43442]
- 23 Léner, Jenö, 1894-1948.
 -Letter: Mexico, to Enrique de Quesada, Mexico City, 1942 June 24.
 -1 letter ([1] leaf)
 -TL (carbon copy, photocopied for preservation). Answers the points in the letter of June 22 to Quesada from Smilovits, Roth, and Hartman about the artistic directorship.
 -Related names and works: Quesada, Enrique de.
 [MAI-43446]
- 23 Léner, Jenö, 1894-1948.
 -Letter: Mexico, to Enrique de Quesada, [Mexico City], 1942 June 23.
 -1 letter ([1] leaf)
 -TL (carbon copy, photocopied for preservation). In Spanish. Refutes the June 22 letter from Smilovits, Roth and Hartman that there was no artistic director of the quartet, speaks of obstacles to the completion of the Beethoven Cycle.
 -Related names and works: Quesada, Enrique de.
 [MAI-43457]
- 23 Léner, Jenö, 1894-1948.
 -Letter: [Mexico], to Enrique de Quesada, [Mexico City], 1942 June 26.

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- 1 letter ([1] leaf)
 - TL (carbon copy, photocopied for preservation). In Spanish. About the Beethoven cycle.
 - Related names and works: Quesada, Enrique de.
 - [MAI-43458]
- 23 Léner, Jenö, 1894-1948.
- Letter: [Mexico], to Inre [i.e. Imre] Hartman, [Mexico City], 1942 June 29.
 - 1 letter ([1] leaf)
 - TL (carbon copy, photocopied for preservation). In Spanish. Withdraws from and disbands the Léner Quartet.
 - Related names and works: Hartman, Imre.
 - [MAI-43459]
- 23 Smilovits, Josef.
- Letter: [Mexico], to Jenö Lener, [Mexico City], 1942 June 30.
 - 1 letter ([2] leaves)
 - TLS, signed by Josef Smilovits (typed Joseph Smilovits), Imre Hartman, and Sandor Roth, on stationery printed: Noriega y Escobedo, abogados... In Spanish. A legal document answering Léner's letter of June 29.
 - Related names and works: Smilovits, Josef; Hartman, Imre; Roth, Sandor.
 - [MAI-43460]
- 23 Great Britain. Consulate General (Mexico City).
- Letter: Mexico City, to Jenö Lener, [Mexico City], 1942 July 24.
 - 1 letter ([1] leaf)
 - TLS on stationery printed: British Consulate-General, Mexico City; signature illegible. The Custodian of Enemy Property has now refunded to the Columbia Gramophone [i.e. Graphophone] Company £126.14s.6d. which they paid to him on your behalf, and has informed the Company that they are at liberty to pay you future royalties. No payments have been received from the Phonographic Performance Limited or J. and W. Chester Limited. This means funds will be paid into your account in the United Kingdom, not necessarily that you will be allowed to withdraw them for use abroad.
 - [MAI-43473]
- 24 Smilovits, Josef.
- Letter: Mexico City, to [unidentified recipient, n.p.], [1942?].
 - 1 letter ([1] leaf) + 1 draft ([2] leaves)
 - TL with typed signatures: Joseph Schmilovits, Sandor Roth, and Imre Hartmann (carbon copy, photocopied for preservation) and draft (in pencil). The Léner Quartet was organized 24 years ago; Mr. Jenö Lehner resigned from the quartet in June 1942 and the other 3 members reorganized it in July 1942 with the same name and a new violinist. It was properly registered in the Public Register Bureau of Mexico, Oct. 22, 1942, with the number 108. Mr. Lehner does not belong to this organization and we do not assume any responsibility which may arise out of acts executed by him as a member of the quartet or otherwise.
 - Related names and works: Smilovits, Josef; Hartman, Imre; Roth, Sandor.
 - [MAI-43469]

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- 24 Léner, Jenö, 1894-1948.
 -Letter: [n.p.] to "Gentlemen" [n.p., 1942?].
 -1 letter ([1] leaf)
 -TL (carbon copy, photocopied for preservation). The world-famous Léner Quartet is active in the United States and intends to give a master course of chamber music connected with a cycle of concerts illustrating the Evolution of Chamber Music. In 1927 the quartet was chosen to record all the Beethoven quartets. In 1935 it was presented with a golden record commemorating the sale of the millionth record. The leader, Jenö Léner, is the author of the only existing exercises for string quartet. I would appreciate your early reply.
 [MAI-43471]
- 24 Walker.
 -Cable: Buenos Aires, to Cherniavsky, Johannesburg, [n.d.].
 -1 item.
 -In typescript on All America Cables form. Lener noncommittal re acceptance but refuses sanction using Lener Quartette name with Leo first violin. Other 3 anxious to go. Suggest you cable reply direct to Lener promptly. Accompanied by preservation photocopy.
 [MAI-43519]
- 24 Cherniavsky.
 -Telegram: Johannesburg, to Mrs. Walker, Buenos Aires, [n.d.].
 -1 item.
 -In typescript on The Western Telegraph Company, Limited form. Agree Lener with new members must sail Africanmaru airmail twelve broadcast programmes photographs names new members. Accompanied by preservation photocopy.
 [MAI-43520]
- 24 -Letter: [n.p.], to "Queridos senores," [1942?].
 -1 letter ([2] leaves)
 -TL possibly dictated by Jenö Lener, possibly to Ernesto and Enrique de Quesada. In Spanish. About the dissolution of the quartet.
 [MAI-43522]
- 24 Eisenberg, Maurice, 1900-1972.
 -Telegram: Maplewood, N.J., to Jenö Lener, Alma, Calif., [1942?] June 18.
 -1 item.
 -Photocopied on sheet with Ericourt telegram. Would enjoy joining trio ensemble with you and Uninsky please indicate details.
 [MAI-43674]
- 24 Ericourt, Daniel.
 -Telegram: Chicago, Ill., to Jenö Lener, Alma, Calif., [1942?] June 19.
 -1 item.
 -Photocopied on sheet with Eisenberg telegram. No plans for summer, would like to go Mexico or arrange to practice Beethoven cycle with you.
 [MAI-43679]

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- 25 Léner, Jenö, 1894-1948.
 -Letter: Mexico City, to L. Placido Pissarello, Caracas, 1943 May 1.
 -1 letter ([1] leaf)
 -TL (photocopy). I have received a telephone call from a lawyer demanding the sum of Bs 896 which I supposedly owe you. You know I never received such an amount from you. You lent me Bs. 300 only and I have proof that this has been paid to you through Mr. A. Van Kleeff. Why did you not write directly to me or to Mr. Quesada, my representative? Please take notice that Mr. Smilovits, Roth and Hartman ceased to be members of my quartet and I decline any moral or financial responsibility for them.
 [MAI-43475]
- 25 Pissarello, L. Plácido.
 -Letter: Caracas, to Jenö Lener, Mexico City, 1943 May 13.
 -1 letter ([1] leaf)
 -TLS. In Spanish. About the money he is owed.
 [MAI-43480]
- 25 Quesada, Ernesto de.
 -Receipt, 1943 June 5.
 -1 item.
 -TLS. I have received from Jenö Lener the sum of \$30 USA for delivery to Sr. Luis P. Pissarello, Caracas...
 [MAI-43479]
- 25 Schiff, Paul.
 -Letter: [n.p.] to Jenö Lener, New York City, 1943 June 18.
 -1 letter ([1] leaf)
 -TLS. May I confirm our verbal agreement: I am acting as the personal representative of your quartet for the season 1943 in concert and radio field. I will do my utmost to build your career in the U.S. and Canada. You pay me 15% of your fee or 20% if it must be split with another booking manager or concert office; You pay my expenses for promotional activities, deducted from my commissions; I pay for normal correspondence, you pay for promotional activities; agreement valid June 15 1943 through March 15 1944, and if not cancelled, for another year.
 [MAI-43478]
- 25 -Letter: [n.p.] to "Gentlemen" [n.p.] 1943 July 1.
 -1 letter ([1] leaf)
 -TL (carbon copy), signed "Manager of Jenö Lener and the Lener Quartet." Jenö Lener is prepared to accept engagements for his Lener Quartet. The personnel except for Mr. Lener has been changed, but the standard is even higher than before. Some former members have organized a new group and advertized themselves as being former members of the original Lener Quartet. Jenö Lener has no association with this group.
 [MAI-43513]

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- 25 Léner, Jenö, 1894-1948.
 -Letter: [n.p.], to [unidentified recipients], 1943 July 8.
 -1 letter ([1] leaf)
 -TL. Please be advised that I have found it advisable to change the members of my string quartet. I have learned that some of the former members have claimed that they have registered the name of the "Lener Quartet" in Mexico. I have consulted my attorney about the advisability of instituting proceedings but have been advised that it is unnecessary and that these former members cannot have any rights to the use of the name and that I and my present group are the only ones entitled to make use of such name. I have registered this name in New York County and am doing business under the name of Lener Quartet.
 [MAI-43514]
- 25 -Contract, 1943 July 21.
 -1 item.
 -In pencil on printed form. Contract for advertisement of Lener Quartet in Musical America ("Duplicate").
 [MAI-43515]
- 25 Léner, Jenö, 1894-1948.
 -Letter: New York City, to A. Van Kleeff, Maracaibo, 1943 Aug. 10.
 -1 letter ([1] leaf)
 -TLS, in sealed envelope stamped "Revuelvase al remitente" opened by archivist. About 2 months ago I was notified by a Mexican lawyer that he is suing me in the name of Mr. Pissarello for 896 Bolivares. My enquiries informed me that he received only 404 Bolivares from you and with the remainder of the 1300 Bs. for which I hold a receipt, you disappeared from Venezuela. I learned your present address from the Dutch Embassy and your Company and now make this last warning: settle immediately this affair with Mr. Pissarello and notify me by cable. If I do not get a receipt from Mr. Pissarello by Sept. 1 stating that he received the full amount, I will denounce you before your embassy and your company and take legal steps.
 [MAI-43477]
- 25 Columbia Graphophone Company (England).
 -Letter: Hayes, Middlesex, to Jenö Lener, New York City, 1943 Sept. 9.
 -1 letter ([1] leaf)
 -TLS, signed by Leonard Smith. We have received your letter of 18th August, note that you wish all the money paid direct to you, have notified other members of the Quartet, have credited your account with full royalties through quarters ended April and July 1943.
 [MAI-43516]

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- 25 Smilovits, Josef.
 -Letter: Mexico City, to the Manager of the Artistes Department, Columbia Recording Corp., New York City, 1943 Nov. 10.
 -1 letter ([1] leaf)
 -TL with typed signatures: Josef Smilovits, Sandor Roth, and Imre Hartman (carbon copy with ink annotations. Jenö Lehner, former first violinist of the Lener Quartet, resigned from the quartet in June 1942 and left for the U.S.A. where he organized a new quartet under the name Lener Quartet. He again reorganized his quartet in September 1943 with two new members. The original Lener Quartet that has been active for 23 years has nothing to do with the "Lener Quartet" that is announcing on its programme "Columbia Records." Putting "Columbia Records" on an improvised quartet that has not made a single record for Columbia misleads the public. We hope that the Columbia Corp. will protest against this. Accompanied by preservation photocopy.
 -Related names and works: Columbia Records, Inc.
 [MAI-43518]
- 25 New York (State). Supreme Court.
 -Stipulation of agreement, 1944 Dec. 4.
 -2 items ([3], [1] leaves)
 -Harry A. Lieb, plaintiff, against Jenö Lehner, also known as Jenö Lener, defendant. On July 21, 1936, the defendant agreed that money owed by Columbia Graphophone should be divided equally with Joseph Smilovits, Sandor Roth, and Imre Hartman so that each should receive one-fourth. In 1943 there were deposited 3 amounts to the credit of the defendant to which the plaintiff's assignors are entitled to three-fourths. The defendant shall pay each of plaintiff's assignors one-third of this amount. The defendant shall authorize Columbia Graphophone Company hereafter to pay each of the plaintiff's assignors one-fourth of money due hereafter. Should the Lener Quartet be obligated to Musical America and Charles Kieger by reason of matters arising during the period when the defendant and the plaintiff's assignors were performing together, such debt shall be borne to the extent of three-fourths by plaintiff's assignors and one-fourth by the defendant. Signed by Harry A Lieb, Jenö Lener, Sandor Roth, Imre Hartman, Josef Smilovits, and 2 attorneys. Accompanied by letter from Jenö Lener, [n.p.] to Columbia Graphophone Company, Limited, Hayes-Middlesex, England, 1944 Dec. 4, instructing them to pay one-fourth of all royalties or other proceeds to each of Joseph Smilovits, Sandor Roth, and Imre Hartman. Signature notarized.
 -Related names and works: Columbia Graphophone Company (England).
 [MAI-43666]
- 26 Agrupación Nacional de Música de Cámara.
 -Les cuartetos de Beethoven.
 -Granada: Universidad de Granada, 1946.
 -72 p.
 -Discussion by Federico Sopena and Cecilio de Roda. Followed by program of the Beethoven cycle, May 25 to June 1, 1946, by Luis Antón, Enrique Iniesta, Pedro Meroño, and Juan R. Casaux.
 [MAI-43527]
- 26 Columbia Records, Inc.
 -Masterworks: Beethoven quartet in B flat, op. 18, no. 6.
 -[U.S.]: Columbia Phonograph Company, c1928.
 -[12] p.
 -Liner notes for recording. Columbia Masterworks Set No. 60. Discusses the work, the composer, and the artists, the Lener Quartet.
 [MAI-43528]

LENER QUARTET PAPERS

- 26 Great Britain. Home Office.
 -The British nationality and status of aliens act, 1914.
 -[Great Britain]: Home Office, 1934 Jan.
 -4 p.
 -Instructions as to applications for Certificate of Naturalization by aliens resident in the United Kingdom.
 [MAI-43529]
- 26 -[Illustrations of Stradivarius violoncello and Dauphin viol].
 -[n.d.].
 -[1] leaf.
 -Page from a reference book; text in Italian.
 [MAI-43530]
- 26 Sociedade de Cultura Artistica, Sao Paulo.
 -Letter: Sao Paulo, to [unidentified recipients, n.d.].
 -1 letter ([2] p. on 1 sheet)
 -Reproduction, with emendations and signature in ink: J. Caldera Filho [?] Promotion for a Beethoven cycle by the Lener Quartet.
 [MAI-43531]
- 26 Kantorowitz, M.
 -Letter: Bern, to [unidentified recipients], 1946 Nov. 29.
 -1 letter ([1] leaf)
 -TL (carbon copy) from Konzertdirektion M. Kantorowitz, Zurich Tournéeleitung beauftragt mit dem Arrangement in Bern: Konzertsekretariat Hermann Beck, Bern. Description of world tour by Lener Quartet and program of concert to be played in Bern on Dec. 6.
 [MAI-43532]
- 26 -[Excerpts from reviews of the Lener Quartet in periodicals].
 -1939-1940.
 -[2] leaves.
 -In typescript and pencil. In Spanish, Portuguese, and English.
 [MAI-43533]
- 26 Lener, Elizabeth.
 -A million miles of music.
 -1944 July.
 -1 item ([2] leaves)
 -Memoir of Jenö Lener and the Lener Quartet. Typescript (carbon copy) photocopied for preservation.
 [MAI-43686]
- 26 Léner, Jenö, 1894-1948.
 -[Reminiscences].
 -[n.d.].
 -1 item (4 leaves)
 -Reminiscences of Jenö Lener and the Lener Quartet, possibly transcribed by Elizabeth Lener. Typescript.
 [MAI-43687]
- 26 -[Route cards for Léner Quartet].
 -1945-1948.
 -4 items ([4] leaves)

LENER QUARTET PAPERS

-In ink and pencil on printed calendar forms. Includes itineraries for 1945-46, 1946-47, and 1947-48 (2 copies, not identical, of the last).
[MAI-43688]

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