

**Guide to MS-200: The Gettysburg *Superstar* Collection**



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**Devin McKinney**  
**March 2017**

## **MS-200: The Gettysburg *Superstar* Collection**

(2 boxes, 1 cubic foot)

Location: Special Collections, Collections Room

Inclusive dates: 1971-2016

Bulk dates: 1971, 2014-2016

*Processed by: Devin McKinney, Archives Assistant  
March 2017*

### **Provenance**

Contents were donated by Larry Recla, Mark Teich '73, Clay Sutton '71, Thomas Bell '71, Jim Henderson '71, Jill Drew '71, and Devin McKinney.

### **Collection size**

The collection consists of 2 boxes containing 24 folders and 4 unfolded items.

### **Historical note**

Approximately two weeks after the release of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, a two-record "rock opera," a group of Gettysburg College students, overseen by Larry Recla, an intern from the Lutheran Theological Seminary, decided to perform the album live in the college chapel. But before rehearsals began, performance rights were revoked, and legal action threatened against unauthorized amateur groups. Nonetheless it was decided to do the show as a "dress rehearsal," and the March 25, 1971, performance attracted spectators from across Pennsylvania and adjoining states. Two subsequent performances were likewise highly attended. Ultimately, the production played to an estimated 5,000 people.

Over the years, the college archives collected various materials relating to the production. In 2013, Archives Assistant Devin McKinney began to interview participants and gather additional materials. This research resulted in a Special Collections exhibit; a gathering of participants for a presentation and panel discussion at Reunion Weekend in June 2016; and a book, *Jesusmania! The Bootleg Superstar of Gettysburg College*, published by Musselman Library in November 2016.

### **Scope and content note**

The collection is arranged into three series: **I. The Production** (materials growing from

the 1971 performances); **II. The Reunion** (materials relating to the Reunion Weekend event); and **III. The Book** (materials gathered during McKinney's research and writing). Within these are subseries focusing on such items as research materials and notes; photographs and recordings; interview transcripts; and miscellany.

## SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

### **Series I: The Production**

This series is divided into four subseries.

Subseries A, Documents, is divided into six sub-subseries: Rehearsal documents; Correspondence; Audience letters; Chapel documents; News articles; and Special Collections correspondence.

Subseries B, Photographs, is divided into three sub-subseries: Prints; Slides; and Digital images.

Subseries C, Recordings, is divided into three sub-subseries: *Jesus Christ Superstar*, Gettysburg College, March 25, 1971; *Jesus Christ Superstar*, Gettysburg College, May 16, 1971; and Other recordings by *Superstar* musicians.

Subseries D, Miscellaneous Items, contains the *LIFE* Magazine issue of May 28, 1971, with *Jesus Christ Superstar* on its cover; an original long-playing record of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, including libretto; an original eight-track cassette of *Jesus Christ Superstar*; an engraved plate presented by the cast to Larry Recla; and a paperbound copy of *Jesusmania!*

### **Series II: The Reunion**

This series consists of one subseries.

Subseries A, Video and Images, contains a DVD, "*Jesus Christ Superstar: 45 Years Later*," of the Reunion Weekend presentation and panel; a CD of digital images captured at the Reunion Weekend exhibit and *Superstar* event; and a printed copy of the PowerPoint slides used in the presentation.

### **Series III: The Book**

This series is divided into two subseries.

Subseries A, Interview Transcripts, contains transcripts of interviews conducted for the book, foldered alphabetically by subject's last name.

Subseries B, Notes and Drafts, contains printed page proofs with final corrections; draft pages with photographs; cover variants and proofs; and miscellaneous research and other notes.

**BOX / FOLDER LIST****BOX 1**

[Note: Images, video, and music are contained on discs which are playable in laptops with compatible platforms. Please ask staff if you require a playback method.]

**Series I: The Production****Folders 1-6: Subseries A: Documents**

- 1-A-01. Rehearsal documents
- 1-A-02. Correspondence
- 1-A-03. Audience letters
- 1-A-04. Chapel documents
- 1-A-05. News articles
- 1-A-06. Special Collections correspondence

**Folders 7-9: Subseries B: Photographs**

- 1-B-07. Prints
- 1-B-08. Slides
- 1-B-09. Digital images

**Folders 10-12: Subseries C: Recordings**

- 1-C-10. *Jesus Christ Superstar*, Christ Chapel, Gettysburg College, March 25, 1971
- 1-C-11. *Jesus Christ Superstar*, Christ Chapel, Gettysburg College, May 16, 1971
- 1-C-12. Other recordings by *Superstar* musicians

**Folder 13 and unfolded items: Subseries D: Miscellaneous Items**

- 1-D-13. *LIFE* Magazine, May 28, 1971
  - Engraved plate [in cotton]
  - *Jesus Christ Superstar* long-playing record
  - *Jesus Christ Superstar* 8-track cassette [in box]
  - *Jesusmania! The Bootleg Superstar of Gettysburg College* [book]

**Series II: The Reunion****Folders 1-3: Subseries A: Video and Images**

- 2-A-01: DVD, "*Jesus Christ Superstar: 45 Years Later*"
- 2-A-02: Digital images
- 2-A-03: PowerPoint presentation slides

**BOX 2**

**Series III: The Book**

**Folders 1-4: Subseries A: Interview transcripts**

3-A-01. ALSEDEK – HENDERSON

- Kelly Alsedek
- Neil Beach
- Susan Beebe Katsoff
- Yolanda Berg Poff
- Michael Birkner
- Tom Breton
- Ralph and Shirlee Cavaliere
- Gretchen Cranz Fornof
- David and Patricia Crowner
- Mark Dryfoos
- Jesse Ehrlich
- Barbara Hanson Nixon
- Jim Henderson
- Nancy Henderson

3-A-02. HITCHENS – MYERS

- Paul Hitchens
- John Hylton
- Beth Kershaw Shirley
- Jan Kitchener Eisenbarth
- John Kuehl
- Jean LeGros
- Carl Leinbach
- Donna Lester Gicker
- Nancy Locher
- Rick Ludwick
- Owen Marks
- Ken Mott
- Whitney Myers

3-A-03. RECLA – TEICH

- Larry Recla
- Denise Rue
- Richard Schindler
- Greg Seckman

- Neal Smatresk
  - Suzanne Smith Tillman
  - Steve Synder
  - Bonnie Stephan Hampton
  - Clay Sutton
  - Susan Tackach
  - Mark Teich
- 3-A-04. ULMER – WYATT
- Robert Ulmer
  - John Vannorsdall
  - Jakob Vinten-Johansen
  - Doug Wyatt

**Folders 5-8: Subseries B: Notes and drafts**

- 3-B-05. Page proofs with final corrections
- 3-B-06. Photo draft pages
- 3-B-07. Cover variants and proofs
- 3-B-08. Miscellaneous notes and documents

**Subjects**

Gettysburg College – History  
Lloyd Webber, Andrew, 1948 – *Jesus Christ Superstar*  
Rice, Tim, 1944 – *Jesus Christ Superstar*  
Jesus Christ – Drama  
Musicals – Social aspects  
Radical theater  
Counterculture – United States – History – 20th century  
Gettysburg College – Publications of Faculty and Staff