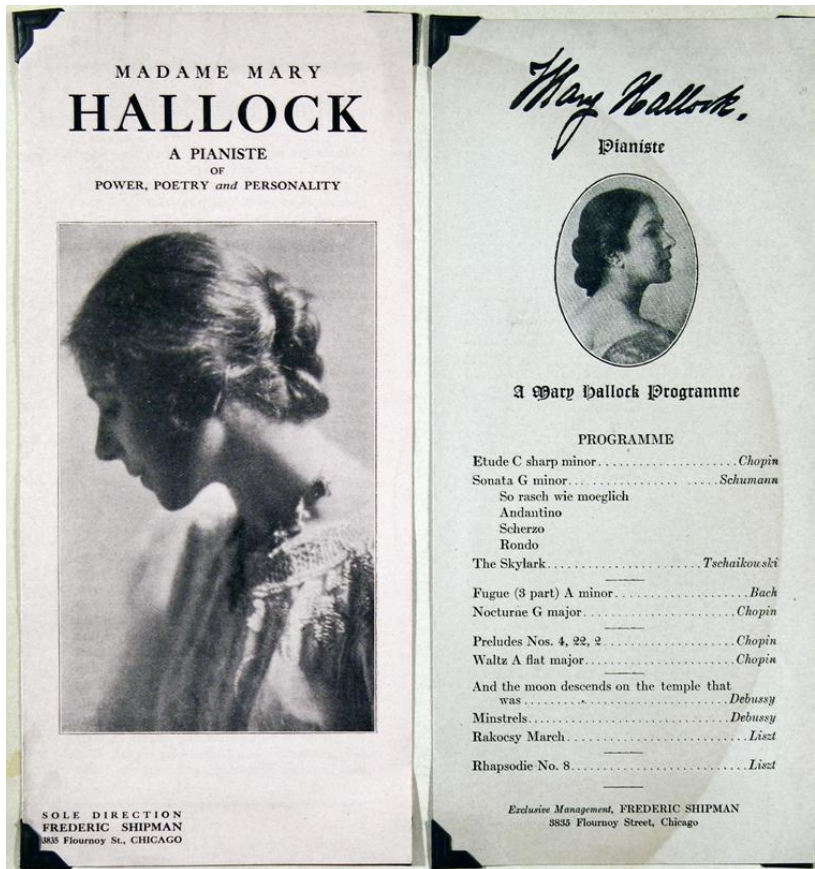


Mary Elizabeth Hallock Greenewalt

- Graduated from Philadelphia's Musical Academy in 1893, and in 1897 studied piano in Vienna
- Began in the early 1900s to investigate how graduated colored lighting might enhance the emotional expression of music and by 1920 had obtained the first of many patents covering a color organ designed to project a sequence of colored lighting arranged for specific musical programs.
- In combining light and color as a single performance Greenewalt believed she had created a new, fine art which she named Nourathar, or essence of light.
- Although awarded eleven patents, spent a number of years pursuing patent infringements, finding recourse in the courts in 1932 with a judgment in her favor.

Primary Sources



Mary Elizabeth Hallock Greenewalt papers, 1769-1950

This collection offers many examples of Greenewalt's creative processes. Greenewalt herself arranged a good portion of correspondence which details the development and manufacture of her color console and the legal battles surrounding her patents. A photo album also documents Greenewalt's creation of her light color console. In addition, Greenewalt left an autobiography (in draft form), a family history, copies of patents, correspondence specific to patent filings, miscellaneous personal correspondence, blue prints and drawings, copies of concert programs, news

clippings, lecture and radio broadcasts manuscripts, scrapbooks, two small volumes in Arabic, and numerous brochures and pamphlets pertaining to electrical lamps and theatre lighting. Artifacts include Greenewalt's recording of Chopin made in 1920, a gold medal awarded in 1926, copper printing plates, and experimental, painted materials.

Collection #0867

(Image above: Mary Elizabeth Hallock Greenewalt piano recital program covers, circa 1920, from the Mary Elizabeth Hallock Greenewalt papers, collection #0867, Digital Archive item #424)

Pulse in verbal rhythm

by Mary Hallock Greenewalt, published 1905

Call number: WxG* .21 v.2

Available online: <https://archive.org/details/cu31924018480313>



Time eternal : lecture delivered under the auspices of the Public Libraries of Philadelphia.

by Mary Hallock Greenewalt. Reprinted from the *Metaphysical* magazine, March, 1906.

"This paper, delivered as a lecture for the Public Libraries of Philadelphia ... grew out of two brochures, 'Pulse and rhythm', appearing in the *Popular Science* monthly, 1903, and 'Pulse in verbal rhythm', *Poet lore* for the summer of 1905"--Footnote, p. [1].

Call number: WxG* .21 v.2

(Mary Elizabeth Hallock Greenewalt photograph with light phonograph, taken by Wm. Shewell Ellis, circa 1920, part of Mary Elizabeth Hallock Greenewalt papers, collection #0867, Digital Archive item #423. Inscription reads: "The color filters did not move with the turntable. They were stationary.")

Painting with light

by Mary Hallock Greenewalt, published 1929

Call number: T 433 .A2 B27 1929

Secondary Sources

Nourathar: an early 20th century color organ

A paper presented at SEAMUS 2011 (26th Annual Conference of the Society for Electro-Acoustic Music in the United States), January 20-22, 2011, University of Miami Frost School of Music, Miami, Fla.

by Maurice Wright

Call number: FHC Z 1231 .P2 no. 83