

**Reference Code:**  
CUNY-LC-SMA 2021.001

**Salsa Music Archive**  
**Lehman College, City University of New York**  
**250 Bedford Park Blvd, Bronx, NY 10468**

**Title:**  
The Miguel Angel Amadeo Collection

**Date:**  
1941-2010

**Extent:**  
8 boxes of textual materials  
50 audiocassettes  
25 7-inch 45 rpm records

**Creators:**  
Miguel Angel Amadeo, Victoria Hernández, and Rafael Hernández

**Acquisition:**  
Donation

**Processing Information:**  
Finding aid prepared by Eric Silberberg  
April, 2021

**Bibliographic Note:**  
Miguel Angel "Mike" Amadeo was born in 1934 Bayamon, Puerto Rico and is son of Vicenta and composer Alberto "Titi" Amadeo. He and his mother moved to New York by boat when he was 14 years old and met his father for the first time. Originally the family lived in "el Barrio" Spanish Harlem. He is a self-taught guitarist and began composing and performing at 16 in bars and nightclubs. After military service, Amadeo worked for Alegre Records at 8522 Westchester Ave. in the Bronx. In 1969, he purchased Casa Hernández music store at 786 Prospect Ave. in the Bronx from Victoria Hernández. He renamed the business Casa Amadeo antigua Casa Hernández, which he operates to this day and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2001. Amadeo has written over 250 compositions that have been recorded by Celia Cruz, El Gran Combo, Johnny Pacheco, Ray Barretto, Eddie Palmieri, Willie Colon, and Rubén Blades, among others. Amadeo has received several honors for his compositions and role as community historian such as the naming of Miguel Angel "Mike" Amadeo Way in front of his business, commendations from the National Puerto Rican Day Parade, Hostos Community College, and the Bronx Council of the Arts.

## **Scope and Content:**

### *Collection*

This collection principally documents the musical compositions of Miguel Angel Amadeo from his time at Alegre Records through his acquisition of Casa Amadeo antigua Casa Hernández music store. Many of his published and unpublished music manuscripts are accompanied by recorded versions. Additionally, music manuscripts by Rafael Hernández are included as they were acquired by Amadeo on his acquisition of Casa Hernández music store. Business documents from Victoria Hernández as well as Amadeo's proprietorship of the music store are available as well.

### *Series 1, Music Manuscripts*

Series comprises the unpublished music manuscripts of Rafael Hernández, including 30 compositions written in New York or Puerto Rico and given to his sister Victoria Hernández in New York. Among these is an early draft version of "Perfume de Gardenias." The manuscripts of Miguel Angel Amadeo include over "Amor ajeno," "Con pocas palabras bastan," "Son las doces," "Que me lo den en vida" and over 200 other original compositions, which have been recorded by Celia Cruz, El Gran Combo, Johnny Pacheco, Ray Barretto, Eddie Palmieri, Willie Colon, and Rubén Blades, among others.

### *Series 2, Audio Recordings*

Contains 7-inch 45 rpm recordings that Miguel Angel Amadeo released on the Bronx-based record label Alegre Records as well as a large collection of his personal demo recordings on cassette that include accompaniment from several Bronx based musicians.

### *Series 3, Business Records*

Series comprises business documents Victoria Hernández's opening of Casa Hernandez at 786 Prospect Ave., Bronx, New York in 1941, her sale of the business to Miguel Angel Amadeo in 1969, and Amadeo's continued proprietorship. Many of these documents relate to when the music store received the National Register of Historic Places designation in 2001.

## **Arrangement**

### **Series 1, Music Manuscripts**

- Subseries 1, Unpublished manuscripts by Rafael Hernández 1941-1960
- Subseries 2, Published manuscripts by Miguel Angel Amadeo 1950-2010
- Subseries 3, Unpublished manuscripts by Miguel Angel Amadeo 1947-2010

### **Series 2, Audio Recordings**

- Subseries 1, Alegre Records recordings 1947-1970
- Subseries 2, Demos 1960-2010

### **Series 3, Business Records**

- Subseries 1, Casa Hernández, 1941-1969
- Subseries 2, Casa Amadeo antigua Casa Hernández, 1969-2010