

Arts, Briefly

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Vienna Philharmonic To Digitize Archive

The Vienna Philharmonic, the recipient of this year's Birgit Nilsson Prize, often described as the classical music world's Nobel Prize, announced plans on Wednesday to invest the \$1 million award in the digitization of its historic archive. Founded concurrently with the orchestra in 1842, the archive includes, among other things, about 6,500 letters, 7,000 program leaflets, autographed manuscripts, the memorabilia of composers like Beethoven and Mahler.

"We decided to invest the money in the history of the orchestra in order to be well prepared for the future," the Vienna Philharmonic president, **Andreas Grossbauer**, said by phone from Stockholm, where the orchestra was to officially receive the prize at a ceremony. The decision was based on a unanimous vote by members of the orchestra, which is run democratically.

The orchestra is the third recipient of the prize, which is awarded about every three years. It was created by the Swedish soprano Birgit Nilsson, who died in 2005, to recognize and promote high performance standards. **REBECCA SCHMID**