

# piece of Hollywood Bowl



**Above:** This 1950s or '60s chrome postcard features a photo by Orville Logan Snider and shows the Hollywood Bowl's reflecting pool. This photo was taken before the spheres were added to the shell. Courtesy of Tysa Goodrich, [www.wildcoyotes.com](http://www.wildcoyotes.com).

Department. Another 10 percent of the proceeds will benefit the Heart of Los Angeles Youth program.

For more information on the Hollywood Bowl souvenirs, visit [www.hollywoodbowlart.com](http://www.hollywoodbowlart.com) or call (310) 782-3487.

## History

Whether you are a history buff or a starstruck groupie, the Hollywood Bowl is a must-visit destination. Simple wooden benches placed on the natural hillsides of Bolton Canyon in 1922 created one of the world's largest natural amphitheaters. Nearly 1 million people a year now attend concerts and festivals at the site. Current seating capacity is just under 18,000. The Hollywood Bowl has been the summer home of the Los Angeles Philharmonic since its opening in 1922.

The famous names associated with the Hollywood Bowl aren't just relegated to the stars who have crossed its stage. Many famous architects and designers also added to its presence.

Lloyd Wright, the oldest son of Frank Lloyd Wright, designed two of the shells used at the bowl in 1927 and 1928. His second design provided the inspiration for the fourth shell. It was this shell that lasted from 1929 until 2003. Myron Hunt, known for his design of another Southern California landmark – the Rose Bowl, designed the balloon-shaped seating area. If you think the fountain statues at the Highland entrance look familiar, they were designed by Oscar-statuettes sculptor George Stanley in 1938 and represent the muses of music, drama and dance.

For those who enjoy stargazing, you can either sit out under the stars, or search the crowd for stars of a human variety. Had you been in the audience in 1928 you may have seen Charlie Chaplin, Cecil B. DeMille or Fay Wray. All were listed as box holders that year.

Even Bugs Bunny put in an appearance at the Hollywood Bowl in the 1949 Chuck Jones' cartoon *Long-Haired Hare*.

While concerts are most often associated with the facility, it also served as a more traditional theater. In 1926 a production of *Julius Caesar* made use of the entire canyon including temples, bridges and aqueducts designed by Lloyd Wright.

The grounds of the Hollywood Bowl are part of the Los Angeles Parks system and are open year-round at no charge. There is also a museum on the premises that is open at no charge. Currently one of the exhibits shows the works of photographer Otto Rothschild, who captured numerous celebrities at the Bowl.

**Contact: (323) 850-2000**

Historical information courtesy of [www.hollywoodbowlart.com](http://www.hollywoodbowlart.com) and [www.hollywoodbowl.com](http://www.hollywoodbowl.com).

## Hollywood Bowl collecting

More traditional collectors can find numerous souvenirs related to the Hollywood Bowl including record albums, ticket stubs, programs, postcards and advertising. While original posters or ticket stubs to famous concerts can be pricey (and are often reproduced), most items are inexpensive. A wealth of postcards were offered during the past two weeks on eBay and most of them went unsold at opening bids ranging from \$1 to \$5.

Two of the postcards that did sell went to Tysa Goodrich. She purchased a real photo card with the inscription *Hollywood Bowl, seating 20,000* and a chrome card showing the Bowl during the day. Both cost less than \$5 apiece.

Goodrich is especially interested in ephemera related to the Easter Sunrise Services held at the Bowl in the 1930s



**Left:** This Bob Plunkett black-and-white postcard shows how far up the hill people sit during concerts. Courtesy of Tysa Goodrich, [www.wildcoyotes.com](http://www.wildcoyotes.com).

## Research led to collection

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and '40s. So far she has found a 1941 Easter Sunrise program, several *LA Times Midwinter* magazines with Bowl photos and articles, and postcards.

Goodrich's collection is more than a hobby. She is working on a screenplay that opens with an early depiction of an Eastern Sunrise Service at the Hollywood Bowl.

"What happens in my research is I become fascinated with a particular subject, then I go after the information that can illuminate the history, the moment, the visual, the back story, or

just a character's imagination. With the old Hollywood Bowl postcards, I've found myself zeroing in on the Bob Plunkett black and white real photo postcards," Goodrich said. As a matter of fact, she has so many postcards she is thinking of putting a book of Plunkett postcards together.

"My favorite postcard of the Hollywood Bowl is an Angeleno real photo postcard no. 385 titled *Symphonies Under the Stars*. The photo, taken up the hill from behind the Bowl at night, has an illuminated view of the audience and the hillside – it sparkles," she said.

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