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Music Division

Guide to the

League of Composers/ISCM records

1954-1993 (bulk 1967-1993)

JPB 11-5

Compiled by Matthew Snyder, May 2011

Summary

Creator: International Society for Contemporary Music

Title: League of Composers/ISCM records, 1954-1993 (bulk 1967-1993)

Size: 3.57 linear feet (9 boxes)

Source: Donated by League of Composers/ISCM, 2011

Abstract: The League of Composers/ISCM records document the organization from the League's merger with the U.S. section of the International Society for Contemporary Music in 1954 until the early 1990s. Their records include correspondence, grant applications and associated correspondence, publicity materials, meeting minutes, and issues of the organization's newsletter, the *ISCM Bulletin*.

Access: Collection is open to the public. Library policy on photocopying will apply. Advance notice may be required.

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Preferred citation: League of Composers/ISCM records, JPB 11-5. Music Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Processing note

Processing consisted of ordering files and foldering loose papers.

Related collections

League-ISCM, Boston: clippings, M-Clippings (Subjects), Music Division.

Creator history

The League of Composers was founded in 1923 in New York by members of the International Composers' Guild to promote the composition and performance of contemporary music. Before it merged with the U.S. section of the International Society for Contemporary Music in 1954, the League had commissioned 110 works by outstanding American and European composers (including Aaron Copland, Bela Bartók and Samuel Barber), sponsored American stage premières of Igor Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*, *Oedipus Rex* and *The Wedding*, and presented some of the first radio broadcasts of contemporary music sponsored by the Pan American Association of Composers. It also gave concerts

and receptions honoring Arnold Schoenberg, Paul Hindemith, Darius Milhaud and other composers who had recently emigrated to the USA. Its quarterly *Modern Music* (1924–1946) contained critical reviews of new works and articles by leading composers. The executive chairmen were Claire R. Reis (1923–1948) and Copland (1948–1950). The League/ISCM has presented premières and significant performances of music by such composers as Schoenberg, Berg, Webern, Stravinsky, Copland, Schuman, Cowell, Thompson, Moore, Cage, Druckman, Shapey, Davidovsky, Carter, Babbitt, Wuorinen, Perle and Martino. In 1976 it helped organize the World Music Days Festival in Boston. The organization also sponsors an annual National Composers Competition, recordings of contemporary music and an annual concert series in New York.

Source: Rita H. Mead. "*League of Composers*." In *Grove Music Online*. Oxford Music Online, <http://www.oxfordmusiconline.com/subscriber/article/grove/music/16180> (accessed May 18, 2011).

Scope and content note

The League of Composers/ISCM records document the organization from the League's merger with the U.S. section of ISCM in 1954 until the early 1990s; the bulk of the records date from the mid-1960s to the 1990s. Their records include correspondence, grant applications and associated correspondence, publicity materials, meeting minutes, and issues of the organization's newsletter, the *ISCM Bulletin*.

Among the ISCM activities documented by the collection are the production of the 1976 ISCM World Music Days Festival in Boston; the organization's New York concert series; the composer and piano competitions; the development program; and the general work promoting contemporary music and composers both in the United States and abroad.

Concert production files include performer and venue contracts; publicity material such as press releases, flyers and subscription brochures; subscription lists and program copy. Development files contain grant applications and correspondence regarding the management and execution of awarded grants. Funding agencies include the New York State Council on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and private foundations. The World Music Days Festival files contain correspondence with venues, performers, sponsoring companies, and other national ISCM chapters; contracts; publicity and press correspondence; and logistical information regarding equipment, transportation, hotel accommodations, catering and event management. Piano and composition competition files contain correspondence from contestants and lists of repertoire entered in the competitions.

The general files contain board meeting minutes and correspondence related to all other topics in the collection. The 1954 file contains the by-laws of the League and document its merger with the U.S. branch of ISCM. Files from 1978-1979 contain histories of the combined organizations. Composers and other figures active in ISCM with correspondence in the collection include Gunther Schuller, Roger Sessions, Henry Weinberg, Hugo Weisgall, George Perle, Hubert S. Howe, Jr., Paul Alan Levi, Louis S. Karchin and Geoffrey Kidde.

Arrangement

Alphabetical by subject.

Key terms

Names

Howe, Hubert S.
International Society for Contemporary Music
ISCM World Music Days
Karchin, Louis S.
Kidde, Geoffrey, 1963-
League of Composers (U.S.)
Levi, Paul Alan
Perle, George, 1915-2009
Schuller, Gunther
Sessions, Roger, 1896-1985
Weinberg, Henry, 1931-
Weisgall, Hugo

Special formats

Commercial correspondence
Contracts
Periodicals
Programs (documents)

Occupations

Composers
Musicians

Container list

General

- b.1 f.1 1954
- b.1 f.2-7 1961-1971
- b.2 f.1-6 1974-1979
- b.3 f.1-6 1980-1993
- b.4 f.1 ASCAP/BMI, 1976, 1993-1994
- b.4 f.2-3 Composer Competition, 1977-1992

Concert Production

- b.4 f.4-6 1969-1973
- b.4 f.7-8 1978-1979
- b.5 f.1-2 1993-1994

Development

- b.5 f.3 Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, 1989
- b.5 f.4 Benefits, 1985-1992
- b.5 f.5 Ditson Fund, 1986-1989
- b.5 f.6-7 National Endowment for the Arts, 1982-1993
New York State Council on the Arts
- b.5 f.8 1970-1978
- b.5 f.9-12 1983-1993
- b.6 f.1-2 General, 1974-1992
- b.6 f.3 First International Conference on Computer Music, 1976
- b.6 f.4 *ISCM Bulletin* Issues, 1969-1980
- b.6 f.5 ISCM International Conference, 1970
- b.6 f.6 ICSM International Correspondence, 1979, 1992-1994
- b.6 f.7 Meet The Composer, 1977-1978
- b.6 f.8 Membership Lists, 1960-1970
- b.6 f.9 *Modern Music*, 1965-1977
- b.7 f.1 New England Conservatory Chorus Tour, 1976
- b.7 f.2 New York State Board of Social Welfare, 1976-1977
- b.7 f.3 Piano Competition, 1975
- b.7 f.4 Publicity, 1969-1970
- b.7 f.7 Scores Received in 1960, 1960
- World Music Days Festival , 1975-1977
- b.7 f.6 Belwin-Mills
- b.7 f.7 Boosey and Hawkes
- b.7 f.8 Boston Symphony Orchestra
- b.7 f.9 C.F Peters Corp.
- b.7 f.10 Canadian Music Council
- b.7 f.11 Concert Management
- b.7 f.12 European Broadcasting System
- b.7 f.13 Exhibitions
- b.7 f.14 Follow-up Correspondence

World Music Days Festival (cont.)

- b.7 f.15 Fromm Music Foundation
- b.7 f.16 Fundraising
- b.7 f.17 G. Schirmer Inc.
- b.7 f.18 Hall Bookings and Ticketing
- b.7 f.19 International Correspondence
- b.8 f.1-2 Journalists
 - b.8 f.3 Martha Baird Rockefeller Fund
 - b.8 f.4 Miscellaneous Performing Groups
 - b.8 f.5 National Sections
 - b.8 f.6 National Public Radio
 - b.8 f.7 Press Releases
- b.8 f.8-10 Programs
- b.8 f.11 Proposal
- b.8 f.12-15 Publicity
 - b.8 f.16 Radio Project
- b.8 f.17-18 Receptions
 - b.9 f.1 Schuller, Gunther
 - b.9 f.2 Sponsors
 - b.9 f.3 String Quartets
 - b.9 f.4 Supporting Committees
 - b.9 f.5 Theodore Presser Company
 - b.9 f.6 Travel
 - b.9 f.7 University of Iowa
 - b.9 f.8 Visitor Hotel Reservations
 - b.9 f.9 WGBH
- b.9 f.10-13 General
 - b.9 f.14 Work Study