

United States Information Agency Artistic Ambassador Program Musical Commissions

Guides to Special Collections in the Music Division of the Library of Congress



Music Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
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Collection Summary

Title: United States Information Agency Artistic Ambassador Program Musical Commissions

Span Dates: 1973-1988

Bulk Dates: 1983-1987

Call No.: ML31.U72

Creator: United States Information Agency. Artistic Ambassador Program

Extent: approximately 50 items

Extent: 4 containers

Extent: 2.60 linear feet

Language: Collection material principally in English.

Location: Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2010561024>

Summary: This collection consists of works commissioned by the United States Information Agency and other materials related to the organization's Artistic Ambassador Program. It includes holograph music manuscripts, sketches, performance reviews, biographical materials, and administrative documents.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Bacon, Ernst, 1898-1990.

Dello Joio, Norman, 1913-2008.

Finney, Ross Lee, 1906-1997.

Foss, Lukas, 1922-2009.

Gould, Morton, 1913-1996.

Hoiby, Lee.

Lees, Benjamin, 1924-2010.

Mayer, William, 1925-2017.

Muczynski, Robert, 1929-2010.

Perle, George, 1915-2009.

Robilette, John.

Rochberg, George.

Siegmeister, Elie, 1909-1991.

Smit, Leo, 1921-1999.

Organizations

United States Information Agency. Artistic Ambassador Program.

United States Information Agency. Artistic Ambassador Program.

Subjects

Cello and piano music.

Music--Commissioning.

Pianists--United States--Biography.

Pianists--United States--Portraits.

Piano music.

Violin and piano music.

Titles

USIA Artistic Ambassador Program musical commissions, 1973-1988

Form/Genre

Art music.

Autographs (Manuscripts)

Biographies.
Booklets.
Business correspondence.
Clippings (Information artifacts)
Memorandums.
Music criticism and reviews.
Musical sketches.
Portraits.
Press releases.
Scores.

Provenance

Manuscripts commissioned for the United States Information Agency Artistic Ambassador Program and related materials were placed on deposit at or donated to the Library of Congress by the contributing composers and John Robilette between 1984 and 1988.

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Processing History

The United States Information Agency Artistic Ambassador Program Musical Commissions were processed in 2010 by Ephraim Schäfli and coded by Christopher Hartten.

Transfers

Two sound recordings were transferred to the Library of Congress Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division where they are identified as part of the USIA Artistic Ambassador Program Collection (MAVIS collection no. 14163).

Copyright Status

Materials from the United States Information Agency Artistic Ambassador Program Musical Commissions are governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.) and other applicable international copyright laws.

Access and Restrictions

The United States Information Agency Artistic Ambassador Program Musical Commissions are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Music Division prior to visiting in order to determine whether the desired materials will be available at that time.

Certain restrictions to use or copying of materials may apply.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [item, date, container number], United States Information Agency Artistic Ambassador Program Musical Commissions, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Organizational History

The United States Information Agency was established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in August 1953 and was active until October 1, 1999. Its basic mandates were the Smith-Mundt Act of 1948 and the Fulbright-Hays Act of 1961. The Agency's stated mission was "to understand, inform, and influence foreign publics in promotion of the U.S. national interest, and to broaden the dialogue between Americans and U.S. institutions, and their counterparts abroad."

One aspect of this strategy involved the identification, promotion, and financial support of young, virtuoso American performers as "ambassadors" of international understanding and goodwill. Those who had yet to establish themselves as "big-time" artists were of primary interest. Following the success of a 1982 pilot program that sent pianist Robert Noland to tour France and Germany, USIA director Charles Z. Wick formally launched the Artistic Ambassador Program in April 1983 under the leadership of John Robilette and named pianist Arthur Greene the second Artistic Ambassador.

In 1984, four additional pianists were recruited to represent USIA: Michael Caldwell, Dean Kramer, Steve Warzycki, and Nancy Weems. The program continued to expand rapidly, and by the following year, eleven pianists had traveled to 38 countries, including the Soviet Union and China. By 1986 and 1987 respectively, the performance programs had also incorporated violin-piano duos and violoncello-piano duos. Touring efforts continued until the termination of the Program in 1989.

In addition to its support of performers, the Program sought commissioned works from eminent American composers, including Norman Dello Joio, Morton Gould, George Rochberg, and others. This marked one of the first dedicated efforts by the federal government to commission musical works for the purpose of promoting American culture abroad. Between 1983 and 1987, a total of 13 works were commissioned by the Program.

Scope and Content Note

The musical works commissioned for the United States Information Agency Artistic Ambassador Program date from 1982-1988. The "Music Manuscripts" series contains holograph manuscripts and/or sketches for all thirteen commissioned pieces, with Bacon's "Gunnison River" being the only exception. Two additional works commissioned by the USIA prior to 1982, but not for the Artistic Ambassador Program, are also included. Lukas Foss' *Fanfare* was commissioned to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Turkish Republic and was performed by the Presidential Symphony of Ankara in Istanbul with Foss conducting on June 28, 1973. Leo Smit's *Symphony of dances and songs* was commissioned to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of U.S./Serbian diplomatic relations and was performed by the Belgrade Philharmonic with Smit conducting on November 6, 1981.

The "Research Materials" series contains memoranda, booklets, reviews, competition brochures, press releases, news clippings, and feature stories about the program's inception, purpose, and active years. Biographical materials and images of several of the artistic ambassadors are also included.

Arrangement of the United States Information Agency Artistic Ambassador Program Musical Commissions

The collection is arranged in two series:

- [Music Manuscripts, 1973-1987](#)
- [Research Materials, 1982-1988](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-2, 4	<u>Music Manuscripts, 1973-1987</u>
BOX 3	<u>Research Materials, 1982-1988</u>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-2, 4	Music Manuscripts, 1973-1987
BOX 1	Bacon, Ernst
BOX-FOLDER 1/1	The Gunnison River Photo-reproduction of manuscript
BOX 1	Dello Joio, Norman
BOX-FOLDER 1/2	Introduction and fantasies on a chorale tune
BOX 1	Finney, Ralph
BOX-FOLDER 1/3	Narrative in retrospect, 1983
BOX 1	Foss, Lukas
BOX-FOLDER 1/4	Fanfare, 1973 Printed parts and staging instructions Not commissioned for Artistic Ambassador Program.
BOX-FOLDER 1/5	Central Park reel, 1987 Program notes and revised musical material on p. 16a/b.
BOX 1	Gould, Morton
BOX-FOLDER 1/6	Patterns for piano, 1984
BOX 1	Hoiby, Lee
BOX-FOLDER 1/7	Ballade, op. 41, 1983
BOX 2	Lees, Benjamin
BOX-FOLDER 2/1	Tableau, 1986
BOX 2	Mayer, William
BOX-FOLDER 2/2	Abandoned bells, undated
BOX 2	Muczynski, Robert
BOX-FOLDER 2/3	Dream cycle : op. 44, 1983 Accompanying cassette tape sent to MBRS.
BOX 2	Perle, George
BOX-FOLDER 2/4	Six new etudes, 1985 Laid in: Letter to J. Robilette; [1] p.
BOX 4	Rochberg, George
BOX-FOLDER 4/1	Short sonatas, 1984 Accompanying cassette tape sent to MBRS.
BOX 2	Siegmeister, Elie
BOX-FOLDER 2/5	From these shores, 1986 Laid in: Composer's note; [1] p.
BOX 4	Smit, Leo
BOX-FOLDER 4/2	Symphony of dances and songs, 1981 Laid in: Program notes; [5] p. Not commissioned for Artistic Ambassador Program.

Music Manuscripts, 1973-1987

Container	Contents
BOX-FOLDER 2/6	Dance card, 1985 Laid in: 2 letters to J. Robilette; [1] p. each.
BOX 3	Research Materials, 1982-1988
BOX-FOLDER 3/1	USIA file, 1983-1984 Includes biographies and images of Michael Caldwell, Dean Kramer, Steve Warzycki, and Nancy Weems. In addition, contains clippings, information on the Artistic Ambassador Program and its associated contacts, a list of performers/locations for commissioned works, reviews, press releases, and telegrams regarding Foss' <i>Fanfare</i> .
BOX-FOLDER 3/2	USIA file, 1982-1988 Includes memoranda, booklets, evaluations, reviews, audition brochures, press releases, and feature articles.