

Elliott Carter Music Manuscripts and Other Papers



**Music Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2020**

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.music/perform.contact>

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Prepared by the Music Division of the Library of Congress

Finding Aid encoded by Anita M. Weber and Emily Baumgart, 2020

Collection Summary

Title: Elliott Carter Music Manuscripts and Other Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1933-1971

Creator: Carter, Elliott, 1908-2012

Extent: approximately 18,900 items

Extent: 55 containers plus bound scores

Extent: 19 linear feet

Extent: 22 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2020570075>

Summary: Among other accolades, American composer Elliott Carter was a two-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Music for his second and third string quartets. A student of Nadia Boulanger, his works combined American and European styles of modernism, and his compositional style, based around collections of pitches, was later described as musical set theory. Carter was also known for his use of proportional tempo changes, which is referred to by scholars as metric modulation. Carter composed in a wide variety of genres, including symphonies, concertos, chamber music, ballets, and choral music. This finding aid collates classed holograph scores, sketches, and parts by Carter that were donated to the Music Division beginning in the 1960s. Additional music materials, programs, and a small amount of photographs and other papers will be added to this document in the future.

Online Content: A selection of scores and sketches from the Elliott Carter Music Manuscripts and Other Papers is available on the Library of Congress Web site at <https://www.loc.gov/collections/elliott-carter/about-this-collection/>

Provenance

Gifts, Elliott Carter, 1960s-1970s

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Processing History

Music Division staff processed the Elliott Carter Music Manuscripts and Other Papers. Anita M. Weber and Emily Baumgart compiled and coded the finding aid in 2020.

Additional Description

Much of the content within the Elliott Carter Music Manuscripts and Other Papers is described in Morgan Cundiff's "A guide to Elliott Carter research materials at the Library of Congress Music Division" in Charles Rosen's *The Musical Languages of Elliott Carter*; <https://www.loc.gov/item/84003851/>

Other Repositories

A substantial number of Elliott Carter compositions can be found in the Archive and Research Center for Music of the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries of the Paul Sacher Foundation, Basel, Switzerland. The New York Public Library holds the Elliott Carter papers, 1945-1995 [bulk 1980-1995].

Related Material

The following collections contain correspondence and other materials related to Carter: [David Diamond Papers](#), [Louise Talma Papers](#), [Oliver Daniel Papers](#), and [Lukas Foss Papers](#).

Copyright Status

Materials from the Elliott Carter Music Manuscripts and Other Papers 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 Elliott Carter Music Manuscripts and Other Papers 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.

Online Content

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Microfilm

Selected items from the Elliott Carter Music Manuscripts and Other Papers are available on 22 reels of microfilm that are shelved as 88/20,045; MUSIC-1813, 1813 B, 1813 C, 1813 D; MUSIC-1814 A, 1814 B, 1814 C, 1814 E; MUSIC-1815 A; MUSIC-1816, 1816 C; MUSIC-1817; MUSIC-1820; MUSIC-1821; MUSIC-1822 A; MUSIC-1824 A; MUSIC-1826; MUSIC-1833 A; MUSIC-1834; MUSIC-1835; and MUSIC-1836.

Preferred Citation

Materials described in this finding aid should be cited using the following information: Last name, first name. Title of work, year. Format of material. Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1908 December 11	Born in New York City to Elliott Cook Carter Sr., and Florence Chambers
1924	Met Charles Ives, who exposed him to modern music
1926	Studied piano, oboe, and solfeggio at the Longy School of Music in Cambridge, Massachusetts
1926-1932	Studied at Harvard University; earned a BA in English and an MA in Music under the tutelage of Gustav Holst and Walter Piston
1932-1935	Studied music with Nadia Boulanger as a private student and at École Normale de Musique de Paris
	Studied choral conducting with Henri Expert
1935-1940	Music director of Ballet Caravan
1936	Composed <i>Pocahontas</i> ballet commissioned by Lincoln Kirstein
1939 July 6	Married sculptor and art critic Helen Frost-Jones (1907 July 4-2003 May 17) in Cheltenham, Massachusetts

1943 January 4	Son David Chambers Carter born
1943-1944	Worked for the Office of War Information
1945-1946	Received a Guggenheim Fellowship in musical composition; composed Piano Sonata
1947 March 27	Premiere of the <i>Minotaur</i> , a ballet commissioned by Lincoln Kirstein for the Ballet Society
1950	Received a Guggenheim Fellowship in musical composition; composed String Quartet no. 1
1960	Awarded Pulitzer Prize for Music for String Quartet no. 2
1961	Awarded Sibelius Medal
1971	Received American Academy of Arts and Letters gold medal
1973	Awarded Pulitzer Prize for Music for String Quartet no. 3
1985	Awarded the Ernst von Siemens Prize Received the National Medal of the Arts
1996	Awarded Royal Philharmonic Society gold medal
1998	Inducted into the Classical Music Hall of Fame Received Prince Rainier Foundation Music Award
2012 October 25	Dialogues II premiered in Milan
2012 November 5	Died in New York City

Bibliography

Schiff, David and Mark D. Porcaro. "Carter, Elliott (Cook)." *Grove Music Online*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013. <https://doi.org/10.1093/gmo/9781561592630.article.A2257467>

Scope and Content Note

The Elliott Carter Music Manuscripts and Other Papers chiefly contain manuscript scores, parts, and sketches created by Carter between 1933 and 1971. The works represent a wide range of his compositional output, featuring materials from his first three string quartets, Symphony no. 1, ballet scores for Lincoln Kirstein, vocal and choral music, and extensive sketches for the Double Concerto and Piano Concerto. Also included among the materials are several boxes of programs, a handful of photographs, and a small quantity of personal papers. A more thorough description of these items, as well as the other uncataloged music materials, will be added to this finding aid in the future. All of the materials are classed in ML96.C288.

Arrangement

The Elliott Carter Music Manuscripts and Other Papers are organized in one series:

- [Music, 1933-1971](#)

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

Carter, Elliott, 1908-2012--Archives.

Carter, Elliott, 1908-2012.

Carter, Elliott, 1908-2012. Works. Selections.

Subjects

Ballets--Scores.

Chamber music--Scores.

Concertos--Scores.

Madrigals--Scores.

Music--United States--History and criticism.
Musical sketches.
Operas--Scores.
Orchestral music--Scores.
Sonatas (Piano)
String quartets--Scores.
Symphonies--Scores.
Variations (Orchestra)--Scores.

Form/Genre

Arrangements (Music)
Autographs (Manuscripts)
Ballets (Music)
Chamber music.
Concert programs.
Madrigals (Music)
Musical sketches.
Operas.
Parts (Music)
Photographs.
Scores.
Sonatas.
Symphonies.
Variations (Music)

Description of Series

Container

Series

Music, 1933-1971

Chiefly holograph scores, sketches, and parts for original compositions by Carter. Includes extensive sketches for his Piano Concerto, Variations for Orchestra, and his Pulitzer Prize-winning String Quartet no. 3.

A microfilm edition of select manuscripts are available on 22 reels that are shelved under various call numbers detailed in the container list. *To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition.*

Arranged alphabetically by title.

Container List

Container	Contents
	Music, 1933-1971 Chiefly holograph scores, sketches, and parts for original compositions by Carter. Includes extensive sketches for his Piano Concerto, Variations for Orchestra, and his Pulitzer Prize-winning String Quartet no. 3. A microfilm edition of select manuscripts are available on 22 reels that are shelved under various call numbers detailed in the container list. <i>To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition.</i> Arranged alphabetically by title.
LCCN: 88754185	6 Pieces for Kettledrums, 1950 November Onionskins of holograph scores; sketches; fragments <i>Note:</i> Includes more than one version of most of the six original pieces
LCCN: 64033138	8 Etudes and a Fantasy, 1950 Photocopy of holograph score for flute, oboe, clarinet, and bassoon; revised holograph score (1961) Also available on microfilm, MUSIC-1816 C
LCCN: 88754405	8 Etudes and a Fantasy, 1949 Sketches for flute, oboe, clarinet, and bassoon Also available on microfilm, MUSIC-1816
LCCN: 2009547038	Canonic Suite, 1950s? Holograph score for four alto saxophones
LCCN: 2009547037	Canonic Suite, movement 1, 1954 Onionskin of holograph score for four alto saxophones with revisions Also available on microfilm, MUSIC-1835
LCCN: 2009547039	Canonic Suite: Fanfare, 1939? Onionskin of holograph score for four alto saxophones
LCCN: 2009547040	Canonic Suite, movements 1 and 3, 1950s? Onionskin of holograph score for four trumpets with revisions; sketches
LCCN: 2009547047	Cello Sonata, 1948 Onionskin of holograph score and part
LCCN: 2009547048	Cello Sonata, 1948 Ozolid of holograph score with revisions (bound)
LCCN: 2008561148	Cello Sonata, 1948 Sketches
LCCN: 88754116	Concerto for Orchestra, 1969 November 25 Photocopy of holograph score; holograph score (rejected pages); diagram; photocopy of sketches
LCCN: 63050672	<i>The Defense of Corinth</i> , 1941 Onionskin of holograph score with revisions
LCCN: 88753677	Double Concerto, 1961 August Onionskin of holograph score for harpsichord, piano, and two chamber orchestras Also available on microfilm, MUSIC-1813 D

Music, 1933-1971

Container	Contents
LCCN: 88753679	Double Concerto, 1961 Photocopy of holograph score for harpsichord, piano, and two ensembles, with annotations Also available on microfilm, MUSIC-1813 D
LCCN: 88753675	Double Concerto, 1961 Sketches for harpsichord, piano, and two instrumental ensembles; holograph score (rejected) Also available on microfilm, MUSIC-1813 D
LCCN: 88753674	Double Concerto, 1961 Sketches for harpsichord, piano, and two instrumental ensembles (nine boxes) Also available on microfilm, MUSIC-1813, 1813 B, 1813 C, 1813 D
LCCN: 63050670	Elegy, 1944 Title on score: Adagio for Viola and Piano Holograph score and part; photocopy of holograph score, with annotations Also available on microfilm, MUSIC-1814 A
LCCN: 63050629	Elegy, 1961 Holograph score for viola and piano; sketches for piano Also available on microfilm, MUSIC-1814 B
LCCN: 88754249	Elegy, 1943? Title on score: Prelude for Viola and Piano Holograph score for viola and piano
LCCN: 64033139	Elegy, 1944? Title on score: Adagio for Cello and Piano Onionskin of holograph score for cello and piano; onionskin of holograph part Also available on microfilm, MUSIC-1814 C
LCCN: 88754246	Elegy, 1946? Holograph score for string quartet Also available on microfilm, MUSIC-1814 E
LCCN: 88754250	Elegy, 1946? Holograph score for string quartet with revisions Also available on microfilm, MUSIC-1814 C
LCCN: 88754251	Elegy, 1953? Onionskin of holograph score for string orchestra
LCCN: 88754248	Elegy, 1944? Onionskin of holograph viola part
LCCN: 88754247	Elegy, 1961 September Sketches
LCCN: 63050623	<i>Emblems</i> , 1947 Onionskin of holograph score for TTBB chorus and piano
LCCN: 88754489	<i>Emblems</i> , 1947 Sketch for TTBB chorus and piano Also available on microfilm, MUSIC-1815 A
LCCN: 88754031	Exercises, 1933-1935 Title on box: Counterpoint Exercises with Nadia Boulanger, 1933-1935 Holograph score Also available on microfilm, MUSIC-1817
LCCN: 88754323	<i>Harmony of Morning</i> , 1944 Text by Mark van Doren Onionskin of holograph chorus score

Music, 1933-1971

Container

Contents

- LCCN: [88754320](#) *Harmony of Morning*, 1944
Text by Mark van Doren
Onionskin of holograph piano-vocal score (incomplete)
- LCCN: [88754319](#) *Harmony of Morning*, 1944
Sketches for SSAA chorus and chamber orchestra
- LCCN: [88754182](#) *Heart Not So Heavy As Mine*, 1938 Dec
Text by Emily Dickinson
Onionskin of holograph score for SATB chorus
- LCCN: [63050616](#) *Holiday Overture*, 1944
Onionskin of holograph score
- LCCN: [88754407](#) *Holiday Overture*, 1960 November 2
Onionskin of holograph score (incomplete)
- LCCN: [2015560551](#) *Holiday Overture*, 1944?
Holograph score for piano, four hands
Note: Labeled as Piano-Duet Score no. 94
- LCCN: [88754408](#) *Holiday Overture*, 1960
Sketches
- LCCN: [89750026](#) *Let's Be Gay: Act 2, Scene 4*, 1937?
Holograph score (incomplete)
- LCCN: [2009536229](#) *Minotaur*, 1947
Sketches
- LCCN: [88754120](#) *Mostellaria: Tarantella*, 1936
Text by Ovid
Holograph score for TTBB chorus and piano, four hands
Also available on microfilm, 88/20,045
- LCCN: [89750024](#) *Mostellaria: Recordatus mult' et diu cogitavi*, 1936?
Text by Ovid
Holograph piano-vocal score
- LCCN: [88754191](#) *Musicians Wrestle Everywhere*, 1948?
Text by Emily Dickinson
Holograph score for SSATB chorus
- LCCN: [88754187](#) *Musicians Wrestle Everywhere*, 1945 June
Text by Emily Dickinson
Onionskin of holograph score for SSATB chorus
- LCCN: [88754189](#) *Musicians Wrestle Everywhere*, 1945?
Text by Emily Dickinson
Holograph score for SSATB chorus and optional string orchestra
Also available on microfilm, MUSIC-1820
- LCCN: [88754494](#) *Pastoral for Piano and Viola (or English Horn or Clarinet)*, 1940
Photocopy of holograph score (pasteovers); parts
Also available on microfilm, MUSIC-1822 A
- LCCN: [64059755](#) *Pastoral, for Piano and Viola (or English Horn or Clarinet)*, 1945
Proof of printed score and parts
- LCCN: [88754492](#) *Pastoral for Piano and Viola (or English Horn or Clarinet)*, 1940
Photocopy of holograph score with annotations
Also available on microfilm, MUSIC-1822 A

Music, 1933-1971

Container	Contents
LCCN: 2016564039	Piano Concerto, 1965-1966 Two boxes of material: Holograph scores for orchestra; holograph scores for piano; correspondence; notes
LCCN: 88753759	Piano Concerto, 1965 Sketches (15 boxes) Also available on microfilm, MUSIC-1836
LCCN: 2009547044	Piano Sonata, 1946 Onionskin of holograph score
LCCN: 2009547046	Piano Sonata, 1946 Manuscript score with annotations
LCCN: 2009547045	Piano Sonata, 1946 Blackline of holograph score with pasteovers; proof of printed score (incomplete)
LCCN: 2009546682	Piano Sonata, undated Sketches
LCCN: 64033092	Piano Sonata, 1940s Sketches
LCCN: 88753853	<i>Pocahontas</i> , 1936 Holograph score for piano
LCCN: 88753858	<i>Pocahontas</i> , 1939? Holograph score for orchestra (incomplete) Also available on microfilm, MUSIC-1821
LCCN: 88753856	<i>Pocahontas</i> , 1936? Holograph score for piano (incomplete) Also available on microfilm, MUSIC-1821
LCCN: 88753863	<i>Pocahontas</i> , 1939? Holograph score for two pianos (incomplete); photocopy of score cut from ballet
LCCN: 88753851	<i>Pocahontas</i> , 1939? Sketches Also available on microfilm, MUSIC-1821
LCCN: 88753860	<i>Pocahontas</i> Suite, 1939? Holograph score; rejected leaves; revised score
LCCN: 88754412	Prelude, Fanfare, and Polka, 1952? Onionskin of holograph score for orchestra; sketch of Fanfare
LCCN: 2009547043	Sonata for Flute, Oboe, Cello, and Harpsichord, 1952 Sketches
LCCN: 88754030	String Quartet no. 1, 1951? Holograph score Also available on microfilm, MUSIC-1824 A
LCCN: 62028979	String Quartet no. 1, 1951 Onionskin of holograph score
LCCN: 2009547041	String Quartet no. 1, 1951 Ozalid of holograph score with handwritten revisions and additional tempo markings
LCCN: 2009547042	String Quartet no. 1, 1951 Two Ozalids of holograph scores with handwritten revisions and additional tempo markings
LCCN: 88754029	String Quartet no. 1, 1951? Sketches

Music, 1933-1971

Container	Contents
LCCN: 63050617	String Quartet no. 2, 1959 Onionskin of holograph score
LCCN: 88753760	String Quartet no. 3, 1970-1971 Sketches (5 boxes)
LCCN: 2009547072	Symphony no. 1, 1942 Onionskin of holograph score
LCCN: 2009547073	Symphony no. 1, 1942-1954 Ozalid of holograph score with handwritten revisions
LCCN: 88754028	Symphony no. 1: movements 2 and 3, 1942? Holograph score for piano
LCCN: 88753769	Symphony no. 1, 1942 Holograph score (rejected pages)
LCCN: 2009547074	Symphony no. 1, 1942 Sketches
LCCN: 88753768	Symphony no. 1, 1942? Sketchbook
LCCN: 88754192	<i>To Music</i> , 1936 Text by Robert Herrick Onionskin of holograph score for SATB chorus Also available on microfilm, 88/20,045
LCCN: 88753758	Variations for Orchestra, 1955? Sketches (.5 linear feet) Also available on microfilm, MUSIC-1833 A
LCCN: 63050620	Variations for Orchestra, 1954-1955 Onionskin of holograph score
LCCN: 88754326	Warble for Lilac Time, 1943 Text by Walt Whitman Holograph score for soprano and chamber orchestra Also available on microfilm, MUSIC-1834
LCCN: 88754328	Warble for Lilac Time, 1955 Text by Walt Whitman Onionskin of holograph score for soprano or tenor and chamber orchestra Also available on microfilm, MUSIC-1834
LCCN: 88754404	Warble for Lilac Time, 1942? Text by Walt Whitman from "Autumn Rivulets" Photocopy of holograph score for voice and piano; holograph revised score (1955) Also available on microfilm, MUSIC-1834
LCCN: 88754483	Woodwind Quintet, 1948 Onionskin of holograph score for flute, oboe, clarinet, horn, and bassoon
LCCN: 88754485	Woodwind Quintet: movement 2, 1940s Title on score: Piece for W.W. Quintet Holograph parts for flute, oboe, clarinet, horn, and bassoon; manuscript score (incomplete) <i>Note:</i> Early version of second movement Also available on microfilm, MUSIC-1826
LCCN: 88754486	Woodwind Quintet, 1948? Sketches for flute, oboe, clarinet, horn, and bassoon Also available on microfilm, MUSIC-1826

Music, 1933-1971

Container

Contents

LCCN: [88754487](#)

Woodwind Quintet, 1948?

Sketches for flute, oboe, clarinet, horn, and bassoon

Also available on microfilm, MUSIC-1826