

Don Christlieb Photographs



**Music Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2021**

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Prepared by the Music Division of the Library of Congress

Finding aid encoded by Stephanie Akau and Anthony Edwards, 2021 November

Collection Summary

Title: Don Christlieb Photographs

Inclusive Dates: 1940s-1980s

Bulk Dates: 1940s-1960s

Call No.: ML31 .C56

Creator: Christlieb, Don

Extent: 32 items

Extent: 1 box

Extent: 0.25 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2020570074>

Summary: Don Christlieb (1912-2001) was an orchestral bassoonist, chamber musician, and innovative reed maker. He performed on more than 700 movie scores during the "Golden Age of Hollywood" as an employee of movie studios, namely 20th Century Fox. Christlieb was also an artist and photographer who frequently depicted his colleagues in his work. The collection consists of 32 prints made from his original photographs.

Acquisition Information

Gift, Don Christlieb, 1992

Custodial History

Don Christlieb loaned the photographs to the Library of Congress in 1992. Prints were made and the original photographs returned to Christlieb.

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Processing History

Vincent Novara and Anthony Edwards processed the Don Christlieb Photographs in 2021. Anthony Edwards and Stephanie Akau coded the finding aid in 2021.

Transfers

Audio interviews of Don Christlieb by musicologist Vivian Perlis have been transferred to the Library of Congress Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound (MBRS) Division, where they are identified as the [Don Christlieb Interviews, 1993](#). An inventory of this material is available in the Music Division's collection file.

Related Materials

Christlieb's books, [Remembrance of Lawrence Morton](#) (1987) and [Recollections of a First Chair Bassoonist: 52 Years in the Hollywood Studio Orchestras](#) (1996), as well as his treatise [Notes on the Bassoon Reed: Machinery, Measurement, Analysis](#) (1966), are available by request in the Library of Congress Performing Arts Reading Room.

Copyright Status

Materials from the Don Christlieb Photographs 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 Don Christlieb Photographs 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 on using or copying materials may apply.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [item, date, container ID number], Don Christlieb Photographs, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1912 October 10	Born in Fullerton, California
Circa 1923	Began playing saxophone in junior high school band
Circa 1927	Switched from saxophone to bassoon
Circa 1932	Joined the 63rd Coast Artillery Band
1936	Performed on his first movie soundtrack, <i>The Go Getter</i> , composed by Bernhard Kaun
Late 1930s	Founded the Los Angeles Woodwind Quintet (later Los Angeles Woodwinds)
1945	Treatise, <i>Notes on the Bassoon Reed</i> , published
1968	Treatise, <i>Measuring the Conical Bore of the Bassoon: A Clinical Report</i> , published
1978 August	Co-hosted the International Double Reed Society (IDRS) conference with Ray Nowlin in Los Angeles
1987	Book, <i>Remembrance of Lawrence Morton</i> , published
2001 February 16	Died in Sherman Oaks, California

Scope and Content Note

Don Christlieb made an indelible mark on bassoon performance in the United States as an orchestral musician, innovative reed maker, and supporter of works by contemporary composers. He was born and raised in California. His maternal side of the family was musical; his uncle was Patrick S. Gilmore, an Irish-born American band director known for assembling 100+ member ensembles for concerts. Christlieb started playing the saxophone in junior high school but switched to the bassoon in high school after hearing a recording of Mozart's Concerto for Bassoon performed by Archie Camden. He joined a Coast Artillery band after graduating from Los Angeles Community College and later the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Symphony Orchestra during the Great Depression. He made a successful career performing in Hollywood studio orchestras during the "Golden Age" of American cinema, playing principal bassoon on more than 700 film scores by Erich Korngold, Alfred Newman, Bernard Hermann, and Jerry Goldsmith, among others. Titles include *Gone with the Wind* (1939), *The Wizard of Oz* (1939), *Citizen Kane* (1941), *Call Me Madam* (1953), *The King and I* (1956), *The Sound of Music* (1965), and *Star Wars* (1977). Christlieb performed frequently with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and was a strong supporter of contemporary classical music. He photographed musicians with whom he interacted and recorded with in the Los Angeles area; 32 of these photographs comprise the collection. Prominent musicians featured include composers Bernard Hermann, Alfred Newman, Aaron Copland, and Igor Stravinsky, conductor Alex North, and lyricist Oscar Hammerstein, II. While most of the photographs are undated, he likely took them from 1936 to 1988. In 1992, Christlieb loaned the prints to the Library of Congress. Library staff made copies and returned the originals. Some

of the photos appear in Christlieb's autobiography, *Recollections of a First Chair Bassoonist: 52 Years in the Hollywood Studio Orchestras* (1996).

Organization of the Don Christlieb Photographs

The collection is arranged in one series:

- [Photographs, 1940s-1980s](#)

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

Christlieb, Don.
Christlieb, Don.
Copland, Aaron, 1900-1990.
Darby, Ken.
Gaynor, Mitzi, 1931-
Hammerstein, Oscar, II, 1895-1960.
Herrmann, Bernard, 1911-1975.
Newman, Alfred, 1901-1970.
Newman, Emil.
North, Alex.
Stockhausen, Karlheinz, 1928-2007.
Stravinsky, Igor, 1882-1971.

Subjects

Composers--Photographs.
Jazz musicians--Photographs.

Form/Genre

Photographs.

Description of Series

Container
BOX 1

Series
Photographs, 1940s-1980s

This series contains prints made by the Library of Congress in 1992 from 32 of Don Christlieb's original black and white photographs. These images depict acquaintances and colleagues on Hollywood movie sets and in recording studios, as well as jazz bands from the 1920s. Notable figures Christlieb photographed include Aaron Copland, Bernard Herrmann, Ken Darby, Oscar Hammerstein, II, Henry Mancini, Alfred Newman, Igor Stravinsky, and Karlheinz Stockhausen.

Arranged alphabetically by production or name.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	<p>Photographs, 1940s-1980s</p> <p>This series contains prints made by the Library of Congress in 1992 from 32 of Don Christlieb's original black and white photographs. These images depict acquaintances and colleagues on Hollywood movie sets and in recording studios, as well as jazz bands from the 1920s. Notable figures Christlieb photographed include Aaron Copland, Bernard Herrmann, Ken Darby, Oscar Hammerstein, II, Henry Mancini, Alfred Newman, Igor Stravinsky, and Karlheinz Stockhausen.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by production or name.</p>
BOX/FOLDER 1/1	<p><i>Cleopatra</i>, circa 1962-1963</p> <p>Six black and white prints</p> <p><i>Includes:</i> Conductor Alex North with unidentified musicians; Elizabeth Taylor (onscreen)</p>
BOX/FOLDER 1/2	<p>Coon-Sanders Original Nighthawks, circa 1920s</p> <p>One black and white print</p>
BOX/FOLDER 1/3	<p>Cope Harvey and his orchestra, circa 1920s</p> <p>One black and white print</p>
BOX/FOLDER 1/4	<p>Copland, Aaron, undated</p> <p>One black and white print</p>
BOX/FOLDER 1/5	<p>Giskin, Ossip, undated</p> <p>One black and white print</p> <p><i>Includes:</i> Prize fighter Lou Firpo; unidentified Las Vegas gambling executive boarding flight from Los Angeles to Las Vegas</p>
BOX/FOLDER 1/6	<p>Herrmann, Bernard, undated</p> <p>One black and white print</p>
BOX/FOLDER 1/7	<p>Mancini, Henry, undated</p> <p>One black and white print</p>
BOX/FOLDER 1/8	<p>New Orleans Rhythm Kings, circa 1920s</p> <p>One black and white print</p>
BOX/FOLDER 1/9	<p>Newman, Emil, undated</p> <p>One black and white print</p> <p><i>Includes:</i> Hugo Friedhofer</p>
BOX/FOLDER 1/10	<p>Previn, Andre undated</p> <p>One black and white print</p> <p><i>South Pacific</i></p>
BOX/FOLDER 1/11	<p>Recording break, circa 1957-1958</p> <p>One black and white print</p>
BOX/FOLDER 1/12	<p>Recording session, circa 1957-1958</p> <p>Two black and white prints</p> <p><i>Includes:</i> Ken Darby; Mitzy Gaynor; Joshua Logan; Alfred Newman; George Tozzi</p>
BOX/FOLDER 1/13	<p>Recording session, circa 1957-1958</p> <p>Four black and white prints</p> <p><i>Includes:</i> Ken Darby; Oscar Hammerstein, II; Joshua Logan; Alfred Newman; George Tozzi</p>

Photographs, 1940s-1980s

Container	Contents
BOX/FOLDER 1/14	Unidentified dancers, circa 1957-1958 Three black and white prints
BOX/FOLDER 1/15	Stockhausen, Karlheinz, undated One black and white print
BOX/FOLDER 1/16	Stravinsky, Igor, undated One black and white print
BOX/FOLDER 1/19	<i>White Witch Doctor</i> , circa 1953 Three black and white prints <i>Includes:</i> Don Christlieb (playing serpent); Bernard Herrmann
BOX/FOLDER 1/17	Unidentified contrabass saxophonist, undated One black and white print
BOX/FOLDER 1/18	Unidentified early jazz band, circa 1920s One black and white print