Collection Summary

Title: Ellen Bender Music Scores
Inclusive Dates: 1980-2021
Call No.: ML31.B451
Creator: Bender, Ellen S., 1949-
Extent: 50 items
Extent: 8 containers
Extent: 3.5 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/2020570146

Summary: Ellen Bender is an American composer, flutist, and educator who has based her career in Boston, Massachusetts. She was married to composer, flutist, and educator Robert Di Domenica until his death. Bender’s works range from solo compositions (Suite for Flute Solo, 2008) to those for small ensemble (Trio for Flute, Viola, and Piano, 2005) and orchestra (Variations for Orchestra, 1984; The Tragic Triad, 2008). Many of her compositions are written for flute, either as a solo instrument or in ensemble, and several may be performed by flute choir.

Acquisition Information

Gift, Ellen Bender, 2021

Accruals

Accruals are possible.

Processing History

Emily Baumgart processed the Ellen Bender Music Scores and coded the finding aid in October 2021. Kate Rivers contributed biographical details and other narrative material for the finding aid.

Other Repositories

Facsimile scores of works by Ellen Bender are found in the collections of the Blumenthal Family Library at the New England Conservatory of Music, the Boston Public Library, and the New York Public Library.

Related Material

The Robert Di Domenica Collection in the Music Division documents the work of Ellen Bender’s late husband and also includes materials related to some of Bender’s compositions.

Copyright Status

Materials from the Ellen Bender Music Scores 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 Ellen Bender Music Scores 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], Ellen Bender Music Scores, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**Biographical Note**

American composer and flutist Ellen Bender (born 1949 in Brooklyn, New York) studied flute performance with musicologist Neal Zaslaw, Metropolitan Opera principal flutist Harold Bennett, and James Pappoutsakis, second chair flute with the Boston Symphony Orchestra. She earned degrees from Boston University and the New England Conservatory. Bender became a private composition and theory student of composer and flutist Robert Di Domenica, who served on the faculty and was dean at the New England Conservatory. Bender and Di Domenica later married in 1999.

Bender was a member of the faculties of the prestigious Merrywood Summer Music School in Lenox, Massachusetts; the University of Massachusetts, Boston; and the New England Conservatory. In addition, she has maintained an extensive roster of private performance and composition students at her studio outside of Boston, establishing herself as an educator devoted to all levels of instruction.

Gunther Schuller promoted Bender’s work as a composer, publishing a selection of her works under his Margun imprint. Bender has written for a wide variety of performing forces. Her catalog includes orchestral compositions such as Variations for Orchestra (1984) and Concerto for Two Pianos and Orchestra (2001); the one-act opera of Nathaniel Hawthorne’s *Rappaccini’s Daughter*, with a libretto by Robert Di Domenica (1990), first performed at the New England Conservatory in 1992; *Turbolenza*, for chamber orchestra (2015); and numerous songs and instrumental compositions for solo performer and ensembles both large and small. Many of her works are written for flute, either solo or in ensemble, and several may be performed by flute choir.

**Scope and Content Note**

Music of Ellen Bender consists of facsimile reproductions of her scores. Some scores have program notes laid in. Works are for a range of performing forces, many featuring flute, and date from 1980 (Sonnet for tenor voice, violin, horn, and piano, with text by William Shakespeare) to 2021 (The Gift, for four flutes or flute choir and narrator, with text by Margie Glazer; Meditation, for four flutes or flute choir and narrator, with original text by the composer).

**Organization of the Ellen Bender Music Scores**

The collection is arranged in one series:

- Music, 1980-2021

**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**

Bender, Ellen S., 1949-  
Bender, Ellen S., 1949- --Manuscripts--Facsimiles.

**Subjects**

Chamber music--Scores.  
Flute music.
Music--Manuscripts--Facsimiles.
Operas--Librettos.
Operas--Scores.
Orchestral music--Scores.
Songs with instrumental ensemble--Scores.
Songs with piano.

Form/Genre
Chamber music.
Facsimiles.
Librettos.
Operas.
Scores.
Songs.
Variations (Music)
Vocal scores.
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<td>BOX 1-8</td>
<td><strong>Music, 1980-2021</strong></td>
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This series consists of facsimile reproductions of manuscript scores by Ellen Bender. Arranged alphabetically by title.
### Container List

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| **BOX 1-8** | **Music, 1980-2021**  
This series consists of facsimile reproductions of manuscript scores by Ellen Bender.  
Arranged alphabetically by title. |
| **BOX-FOLDER 1/1** | ...of this time, 2017  
Score for violin and piano |
| **BOX-FOLDER 6/1** | Coda, 2007  
Text by Robert Di Domenica  
Score for baritone and piano |
| **BOX-FOLDER 6/2-4** | Concerto for Two Pianos and Orchestra, 2001  
Full score |
| **BOX-FOLDER 6/5** | Cry of the Loon, 2014  
Score for solo flute and flute choir |
| **BOX-FOLDER 1/2** | Dickinson Songs, 1999  
Text by Emily Dickinson  
Score for soprano and piano |
| **BOX-FOLDER 1/3** | Dramatic Verses, 1992  
Text by Elizabeth Browning, Rudolf Besier, and Robert Browning  
Score for soprano, tenor, and piano  
*Laid in:* Program notes |
| **BOX-FOLDER 1/4** | Fanfares, 2018  
Score for flute choir |
| **BOX-FOLDER 1/5** | Fragments of a Dream, 1987  
Text by Percy Bysshe Shelley  
Score for mezzo-soprano, baritone, and chamber orchestra |
| **BOX-FOLDER 1/6** | The Gift, 2021  
Text by Margie Glazer  
Score for four flutes or flute choir and narrator |
| **BOX-FOLDER 2/1** | Grief, 2013  
Score for piano |
| **BOX-FOLDER 2/2** | Letters of Love, 1994  
Text by Nathaniel Hawthorne, Robert Browning, Emily Dickinson, and D. H. Lawrence  
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| **BOX-FOLDER 2/3-4, 7/1-2** | *The Marble Faun*, an opera in two acts, 1996  
Based on text by Nathaniel Hawthorne; libretto by Jessica Treadway  
Two full scores |
| **BOX-FOLDER 7/3** | Meditation, 2005  
Score for flute and piano |
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| **BOX-FOLDER 7/4** | Mélancolique, 2005  
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## Ellen Bender Music Scores

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| BOX-FOLDER 5/2 | Twelve Variations on Two Sarabandes by Brahms, 1982  
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