

USIA Artistic Ambassador Program Musical Commissions
Guides to Special Collections in the Music Division of the Library of Congress



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CONGRESS**

Music Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
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Contact information:

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

Additional search options available at:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.music/eadmus.mu010007>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/2010561024>

Processed by the Music Division of the Library of Congress

Collection Summary

Title: USIA Artistic Ambassador Program Musical Commissions

Span Dates: 1973-1988

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1983-1987)

Call No.: ML31.U72

Creator: United States Information Agency. Artistic Ambassador Program

Extent: circa 50 items ; 4 containers ; 2.60 linear feet

Language: Collection material principally in English.

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

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 Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

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-

Muczynski, Robert, 1929-

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

Music--Commissioning.

Music--Manuscripts.

Titles

United States Information Agency Artistic Ambassador Program musical commissions, 1973-1988

Form/Genre

Clippings (Information artifacts)

Correspondence.

Press releases.

Administrative Information

Provenance

Manuscripts commissioned for the USIA 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 USIA Artistic Ambassador Program Musical Commissions were processed in 2010 by Ephraim Schäfli and encoded for EAD by Christopher Hartten.

Transfers

Two sound recordings were transferred to the Library of Congress Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright on the USIA Artistic Ambassador Program Musical Commissions is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The USIA Artistic Ambassador Program Musical Commissions are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Performing Arts Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Certain restrictions to use or copying of materials may apply.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: container number, USIA 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 USIA 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 USIA Artistic Ambassador Program Musical Commissions

The USIA Artistic Ambassador Program Musical Commissions are organized in 2 series:

- Music Manuscripts, 1973-1987
- Research Materials, 1982-1988

Description of Series

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

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-2, OV	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, n.d.
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 OV 1	Rochberg, George
BOX-FOLDER OV 1/1	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 OV 1	Smit, Leo
BOX-FOLDER OV 1/2	Symphony of dances and songs, 1981 Laid in: Program notes; [5] p. Not commissioned for Artistic Ambassador Program
BOX-FOLDER 2/6	Dance card, 1985

Music Manuscripts, 1973-1987

Container

Contents

Laid in: 2 letters to J. Robilette; [1] p. ea.

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' *Fanfare*.

BOX-FOLDER 3/2

USIA file, 1982-1988

Includes memoranda, booklets, evaluations, reviews, audition brochures, press releases, and feature articles.