

# George Crumb Papers

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.  
2012

Contact information:

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

Additional search options available at:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.music/eadmus.mu012003>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/2012562132>

Processed by the Music Division of the Library of Congress

## Collection Summary

**Title:** George Crumb Papers

**Span Dates:** 1956-2011

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1965-2003)

**Call No.:** ML31.C87

**Creator:** Crumb, George

**Extent:** approximately 6,300 items ; 35 containers ; 25.0 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

**Repository:** Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**Abstract:** George Crumb is a Pulitzer Prize-winning American composer, long-associated with the University of Pennsylvania. The collection consists of holograph manuscript scores and sketches, correspondence, business papers, and a series of meticulously assembled scrapbooks chronicling Crumb's career as a composer.

## 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

Burge, David, 1930- --Correspondence.

Crumb, George--Archives.

Crumb, George--Correspondence.

Crumb, George--Manuscripts.

Crumb, George--Performances.

Crumb, George--Photographs.

Crumb, George.

Crumb, George.

Crumb, George. Selections.

### Organizations

C.F. Peters (Firm)--Correspondence.

### Subjects

Composers--United States.

Music--Manuscripts.

### Form/Genre

Clippings (Information artifacts)

Contracts.

Correspondence.

Photographic prints.

Programs (Documents)

Scrapbooks.

## Administrative Information

### Provenance

Gift, George Crumb, 2011.

### Accruals

Further accruals are expected.

## Processing History

The George Crumb Papers were processed by Christopher Hartten in January 2012. Christopher Hartten coded the finding aid for EAD format in 2012.

## Related Material

The following Library of Congress Music Division collections contain correspondence or music by Crumb: [Nicolas Slonimsky Collection \(ML31.S6\)](#); [Martha Graham Collection \(ML31.G727\)](#); and the [Moldenhaur Archives at the Library of Congress \(ML31.M6\)](#). Crumb's holograph score for *Ancient Voices of Children* (ML29.c93 no.1 <case>) is in the Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge Foundation Collection. His score for *Madrigals, Books 1-2* (ML30.3c.C79 no.1 <case>) is in the Serge Koussevitzky Music Foundation Collection.

## Copyright Status

Materials from the George Crumb 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 George Crumb 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.

## Preferred Citation

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

## Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1929, October 24	Born, Charleston, West Virginia, to musicians George Henry Crumb, Sr. and Vivian Crumb
circa 1939	Began composing works "somewhat in the style of Mozart"
1944-1947	Attended Charleston High School
1948-1950	Studied piano and composition at Mason College of Music, Charleston, W. Va.
1949, May 21	Married Elizabeth May Brown
1950	Daughter Elizabeth Ann Crumb born
1951-1952	Studied composition with Eugene Weigel at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
1953-1959	Studied composition with Ross Lee Finney at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Finney emphasized meticulous notation, a characteristic evident in Crumb's works. At Michigan, he was introduced to and inspired by the poetry of Federico García Lorca, whose texts become the source for many future compositions
1955-1956	Studied composition with Boris Blacher at the Berlin Hochschule für Musik on a Fulbright grant

- 1959                    Doctorate, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. His dissertational submission, *Variazioni*, is not premiered until 1965  
Taught piano and composition, University of Colorado, Boulder  
Met pianist David Burge and composed *Five Pieces for Piano*, a work that earned Crumb widespread praise
- 1962                    Son David Reed Crumb born
- 1964-1965             Began residency at the Buffalo Center for the Creative and Performing Arts
- 1965                    Moved to Media, Pennsylvania  
Son Peter Stanley Crumb born  
Premiere of *Madrigals, Books I-II*, commissioned by the Serge Koussevitzky Music Foundation in the Library of Congress
- 1965-1997             Professor, composition, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Penn.
- 1967                    Composed *Echoes of Time and the River*
- 1968                    Received Pulitzer Prize for *Echoes of Time and the River*
- 1969, July 16-24     Composed *Night of the Four Moons*, a work inspired by the Apollo 11 space flight
- 1969                    Completed *Songs, Drones, and Refrains of Death*, his first Lorca-inspired work that had been started in 1962
- 1970, Oct. 23         Premiere of *Black Angels* by the Stanley Quartet at the University of Michigan
- 1970, Oct. 31         Premiere of *Ancient Voices of Children* at the 14th Coolidge Festival of Chamber Music. The piece was commissioned by the Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge Foundation in the Library of Congress
- 1972, Mar. 17         First performance of *Vox Balaenae* by the New York Camerata at the Library of Congress. The work contained masked performers and other theatrical elements similar to *Lux Aeterna*, composed the previous year
- 1972-1979             Composed *Makrokosmos*, a cycle of four works for amplified piano
- 1977, May 5            New York Philharmonic premiere of *Star-Child* under Pierre Boulez
- 1978                    PBS broadcast of Robert Mugge's film, *George Crumb: Voice of the Whale*
- 1984, June 7         New York Philharmonic premiere of tone-poem *A Haunted Landscape* under Arthur Wiesberg
- 1986 Apr.             Served as the American representative at the Conference of the Union of Soviet Composers
- 1988, Jan. 17         *Zeitgeist* is premiered at the Charles Ives Festival in Duisburg, Germany
- 1997                    Composed *Mundis Canis*, a work inspired by the personalities of the Crumb family dogs.
- 1998                    *Mundis Canis* premiered by guitarist David Starobin and Crumb himself on percussion

2000	<i>Star-Child</i> , recorded for the first time on Bridge Records' <i>Complete Crumb Edition</i> , won a Grammy Award for Best Contemporary Classical Composition
2002-2007	Composed the <i>American Songbook</i> , a cycle of six works for voice, percussion quartet, and amplified piano
2011, Apr. 28	Thomas Hampson performed selections from the <i>American Songbook</i> at the Library of Congress

## Scope and Content Note

The George Crumb Papers span the period 1956 to 2011, with the majority of the materials dating from 1965 to 2003. The collection consists of holograph manuscript scores and sketches, correspondence and business papers, and a series of meticulously assembled scrapbooks chronicling Crumb's distinguished career as a composer.

The music materials represent works composed exclusively from 1959 to the present day, beginning with Crumb's *Variazioni*, his dissertational submission to the University of Michigan. They include inked score paste-ups for publication, pencil scores and sketches, drafts, annotated photo-reproductions, and several score transparencies. Crumb's final copy scores are inked with extraordinary precision and reflect the influence of his father's skills as a copyist and Ross Lee Finney's pedagogy. Most contain extensive patches of inked-over whiteout and pasted insertions. Notable scores include the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Echoes of Time and the River*, *Ancient Voices of Children*, *Black Angels*, *Five Pieces for Piano*, *A Haunted Landscape*, *Lux Aeterna*, *Madrigals*, *Makrokosmos*, *Mundis Canis*, *Star-Child*, and *Vox Balaenae*. Additionally, the collection includes several sketchbooks with materials to numerous compositions, currently identified only as volumes "A" through "C". A more comprehensive list of their contents will be available at a later time.

Business papers consist chiefly of letters, telegrams, contracts, programs, and other documents from 1956 to 2011. Included is university and publisher correspondence, student inquiries, and letters from various colleagues and friends, such as David Burge. The scrapbooks comprise seven custom bound volumes of clippings, programs, photographs, interviews, posters, and other materials that detail Crumb's musical accomplishments from roughly 1963 to 2001. These are assembled with the same meticulous care as the composer's scores and include hundreds of performance reviews from both American and international newspapers.

## Organization of the George Crumb Papers

The George Crumb Papers are organized in three series:

- [Music, 1959-2003](#)
- [Business Papers, 1956-2011](#)
- [Scrapbooks, 1963-2001](#)

## Description of Series

*Container*

BOX 1-10

*Series*

Music, 1959-2003

Holograph manuscript scores and sketches, drafts, annotated scores, sketchbooks, and several transparencies. Final copy manuscripts contain inked-over whiteout and pasted insertions that may require special handling.

Arranged alphabetically by title of work. Cross references are provided for components of multi-volume works with distinctive titles, namely *Makrokosmos*, *Images*, and *American Songbook*.

BOX 11-28

Business Papers, 1956-2011

Letters, telegrams, contracts, programs, royalty statements, itineraries, and other documents.

Correspondence from publishers (mostly C.F. Peters), collegiate staff, and students is heavily represented. Also included are letters from various colleagues and friends, such as David Burge.

Arranged chronologically.

BOX 29-35

Scrapbooks, 1963-2001

Meticulously assembled volumes of clippings, programs, photographs, and other materials.

Arranged numerically by volume number. Volumes are roughly chronological in content order, but may contain miscellaneous items within several years of the dates specified.

# Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-10	<b>Music, 1959-2003</b> Holograph manuscript scores and sketches, drafts, annotated scores, sketchbooks, and several transparencies. Final copy manuscripts contain inked-over whiteout and pasted insertions that may require special handling. Arranged alphabetically by title of work. Cross references are provided for components of multi-volume works with distinctive titles, namely <i>Makrokosmos</i> , <i>Images</i> , and <i>American Songbook</i> .
	<b>Instrumental</b>
	Black angels: Images I: thirteen images from the dark land: for electric string quartet, 1970
BOX-FOLDER 10/1	Holograph manuscript score paste-up
BOX-FOLDER 1/1	Sketches
	Celestial mechanics: Makrokosmos IV: cosmic dances for amplified piano, four hands, 1979
BOX-FOLDER 10/2	Holograph manuscript score paste-up
BOX-FOLDER 1/2	Holograph manuscript score
	Dream sequence: Images II: for violin, cello, piano, and percussion (and offstage "glass harmonica"), 1976
BOX-FOLDER 10/3	Holograph manuscript score paste-up
BOX-FOLDER 1/3	Sketches
	Easter dawning: for carillon, 1991
BOX-FOLDER 1/4	Holograph manuscript score
	Caption title: Easter bells
BOX-FOLDER 1/4	Holograph manuscript score paste-up
	1992 revised version
BOX-FOLDER 1/5	Sketches and drafts
	Both versions
	Echoes of time and the river: Echoes II: four processionalists for orchestra, 1967
BOX-FOLDER 1/6-8	Sketches
	Eine kleine Mitternachtmusik (A little midnight music): ruminations on a tune of Thelonius Monk: for amplified piano, 2001
BOX-FOLDER 2/1	Sketches and drafts
	Eleven echoes of autumn: Echoes I: for violin, alto flute, clarinet, and piano, 1965
BOX-FOLDER 10/4	Holograph manuscript score paste-up
BOX-FOLDER 2/2	Sketches and drafts
	Five pieces for piano, 1962
BOX-FOLDER 2/3	Holograph manuscript score paste-up
	Four nocturnes: Night music II: for violin and piano, 1964
BOX-FOLDER 2/4	2 holograph manuscript score paste-ups
BOX-FOLDER 2/5	Printed holograph manuscript score transparency
BOX-FOLDER 2/6	Photocopied holograph manuscript score
	Annotations and corrections
BOX-FOLDER 2/6	Sketches and drafts

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	Gnomic variations: for piano, 1981
<b>BOX-FOLDER 2/7</b>	Holograph manuscript score paste-up
<b>BOX-FOLDER 2/7</b>	Holograph manuscript score
	Cover title: Fantasy variations
<b>BOX-FOLDER 2/8</b>	Sketches
	A haunted landscape: for orchestra, 1984
<b>BOX-FOLDER 2/9</b>	Holograph manuscript score paste-up
<b>BOX-FOLDER 2/10</b>	Photocopied holograph manuscript score
	Annotations and corrections
<b>BOX-FOLDER 3/1-3</b>	Sketches
	An idyll for the misbegotten: amplified piano and percussion, 3 players, 1986
<b>BOX-FOLDER 3/4</b>	Holograph manuscript score paste-up
<b>BOX-FOLDER 3/5</b>	Sketches and drafts
	Images I
	<i>see</i> <a href="#">Black angels</a>
	Images II
	<i>see</i> <a href="#">Dream sequence</a>
	A little suite for Christmas: A.D. 1979: for piano, 1980
<b>BOX-FOLDER 3/6-7</b>	2 holograph manuscript score paste-ups
<b>BOX-FOLDER 3/7</b>	Sketches
	Makrokosmos I: twelve fantasy-pieces after the Zodiac: for amplified piano, 1972
<b>BOX-FOLDER 3/8</b>	Holograph manuscript score paste-up
<b>BOX-FOLDER 3/9</b>	Sketches
	Makrokosmos II: twelve fantasy-pieces after the Zodiac: for amplified piano, 1973
<b>BOX-FOLDER 4/1</b>	Holograph manuscript score paste-up
<b>BOX-FOLDER 4/2</b>	Sketches
	Makrokosmos III
	<i>see</i> <a href="#">Music for a summer evening</a>
	Makrokosmos IV
	<i>see</i> <a href="#">Celestial mechanics</a>
	Mundus canis (A dog's world): five humoresques for guitar and percussion (one player), 1997
<b>BOX-FOLDER 4/3</b>	Holograph manuscript score paste-up
<b>BOX-FOLDER 4/3</b>	Sketches and drafts
	Music for a summer evening: Makrokosmos III: for two amplified pianos and percussion (two players), 1974
<b>BOX-FOLDER 10/5</b>	Holograph manuscript score paste-up
	Night music II
	<i>see</i> <a href="#">Four nocturnes</a>
	Otherworldly resonances: six tableaux for two amplified pianos, book II, 2002
<b>BOX-FOLDER 4/4-5</b>	2 holograph manuscript score paste-ups
	Original version
<b>BOX-FOLDER 4/6</b>	Sketches
	3 movement version
	Pastoral drone: for organ, 1982
<b>BOX-FOLDER 4/7</b>	Holograph manuscript score paste-up
	Processional (piano), 1983
<b>BOX-FOLDER 4/8</b>	Holograph manuscript score paste-up

<b>BOX-FOLDER 4/8</b>	Sketches Quest: for guitar, soprano saxophone, harp, contrabass, and percussion (two players), 1990
<b>BOX-FOLDER 4/9</b>	Holograph manuscript score paste-up
<b>BOX-FOLDER 4/10</b>	Sketches Variazioni: for large orchestra, 1959
<b>BOX-FOLDER 4/11</b>	Holograph manuscript score paste-up
<b>BOX-FOLDER 5/1-3</b>	2 photocopied holograph manuscript score paste-ups Vox balaenae (Voice of the whale): for three masked players: electric flute, electric cello, electric piano, 1971
<b>BOX-FOLDER 5/4</b>	Sketches Zeitgeist: six tableaux for two amplified pianos, book I, 1987
<b>BOX-FOLDER 5/5</b>	Holograph manuscript score paste-up
<b>BOX-FOLDER 5/6</b>	Sketches

**Vocal**

	American songbook, 2002-2007 <i>see</i> <a href="#">I. The river of life</a> <i>see</i> <a href="#">II. A journey beyond time</a> <i>see</i> <a href="#">III. Unto the hills</a>
	Ancient voices of children: for soprano, boy soprano, oboe, mandolin, harp, electric piano (and toy piano), and percussion (three players), 1970 Commissioned by the Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge Foundation in the Library of Congress Holograph manuscript score paste-up Laid in: photocopied score and sketches <i>see</i> ML29.C93 no.1 <case>
	Apparition: elegiac songs and vocalises for soprano and amplified piano (on texts from Walt Whitman's "When lilacs last in the dooryard bloom'd"), 1979
<b>BOX-FOLDER 5/7</b>	Holograph manuscript score paste-up
<b>BOX-FOLDER 5/8</b>	Holograph manuscript score
<b>BOX-FOLDER 5/9</b>	Sketches
	Federico's little songs for children: for soprano, flute (also piccolo, alto flute, and bass flute), and harp, 1986
<b>BOX-FOLDER 5/10</b>	Holograph manuscript score
<b>BOX-FOLDER 5/11</b>	Photocopied holograph manuscript score Annotations and corrections
<b>BOX-FOLDER 5/11</b>	Sketches and drafts
	A journey beyond time: American songbook II: songs of despair and hope: a cycle of Afro-American spirituals for voice, percussion quartet, and amplified piano, 2003
<b>BOX-FOLDER 6/1</b>	Holograph manuscript score paste-up Lux aeterna: for five masked musicians (soprano, bass flute (and soprano recorder), sitar, and two percussionists), 1971
<b>BOX-FOLDER 6/2</b>	Holograph manuscript score paste-up
<b>BOX-FOLDER 6/3</b>	Holograph manuscript score paste-up On envelope: Not for printer
<b>BOX-FOLDER 6/4</b>	Sketches
	Madrigals (soprano, various instruments), 1965-1969
<b>BOX-FOLDER 6/5</b>	Holograph manuscript score paste-up

## Music, 1959-2003

### Container

### Contents

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- BOX-FOLDER 6/6** Photocopied holograph manuscript score  
Annotations and corrections
- BOX-FOLDER 6/7** Performance instructions paste-up  
2 holograph manuscript scores  
Books I and II only (2 scores each)  
Laid in: photocopied scores and transparencies  
Commissioned by the Serge Koussevitzky Music Foundation in the Library of  
Congress  
*see ML30.3c.C79 no.1 <case>*
- BOX-FOLDER 6/8** Sketches  
Night music I: for soprano, piano (and celesta), and percussion (two players), 1963
- BOX-FOLDER 7/1** Holograph manuscript score paste-up
- BOX-FOLDER 7/2** Printed holograph manuscript score transparency
- BOX-FOLDER 7/3-4** Sketches  
Night of the four moons: for alto, alto flute (doubling piccolo), banjo, electric cello, and  
percussion (one player), 1969
- BOX-FOLDER 10/6** Holograph manuscript score paste-up
- BOX-FOLDER 7/5** Sketches  
The river of life: American songbook I: songs of joy and sorrow: a cycle of hymns,  
spirituals, and revival tunes for voice, percussion quartet, and amplified piano, 2003
- BOX-FOLDER 7/6** Holograph manuscript score paste-up  
The sleeper: for mezzo-soprano and piano, 1984
- BOX-FOLDER 7/7** Holograph manuscript score paste-up
- BOX-FOLDER 7/7** Sketches and drafts  
Songs, drones, and refrains of death: a cycle of poems by Federico García Lorca: for  
baritone, electric guitar, electric contrabass, electric piano (and electric harpsichord), and  
percussion (two players), 1968
- BOX-FOLDER 10/7** Holograph manuscript score paste-up
- BOX-FOLDER 7/8-9** Sketches  
Star-child: a parable for soprano, antiphonal children's voices, male speaking choir (and bell  
ringers), and large orchestra, 1977
- BOX-FOLDER 10/8** Holograph manuscript score paste-up
- BOX-FOLDER 8/1-2** Sketches  
Unto the hills: American songbook III: songs of sadness, yearning, and innocence: a cycle of  
Appalachian folk songs for voice, percussion quartet, and amplified piano, 2002
- BOX-FOLDER 8/3** Holograph manuscript score paste-up

### Sketchbooks

- BOX 9** Sketchbook "A", undated
- BOX 9** Sketchbook "B", undated
- BOX 9** Sketchbook "C", undated

### BOX 11-28 **Business Papers, 1956-2011**

Letters, telegrams, contracts, programs, royalty statements, itineraries, and other documents.  
Correspondence from publishers (mostly C.F. Peters), collegiate staff, and students is  
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## Business Papers, 1956-2011

### Container

### Contents

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<b>BOX-FOLDER 11/1-10</b>	1956-1966
<b>BOX-FOLDER 12/1-9</b>	1967-1969 March
<b>BOX-FOLDER 13/1-11</b>	1969 April-1971
<b>BOX-FOLDER 14/1-8</b>	1972-1973
<b>BOX-FOLDER 15/1-9</b>	1974-1976 March
<b>BOX-FOLDER 16/1-9</b>	1976 April-1978 June
<b>BOX-FOLDER 17/1-9</b>	1978 July-1980 September
<b>BOX-FOLDER 18/1-11</b>	1980 October-1983 June
<b>BOX-FOLDER 19/1-8</b>	1983 July-1985 June
<b>BOX-FOLDER 20/1-10</b>	1985 July-1987
<b>BOX-FOLDER 21/1-12</b>	1988-1990
<b>BOX-FOLDER 22/1-17</b>	1991-1995 March
<b>BOX-FOLDER 23/1-13</b>	1995 April-1998 June
<b>BOX-FOLDER 24/1-11</b>	1998 July-2001 March
<b>BOX-FOLDER 25/1-14</b>	2001 April-2004 September
<b>BOX-FOLDER 26/1-13</b>	2004-October 2007
<b>BOX-FOLDER 27/1-10</b>	2008-2010 June
<b>BOX-FOLDER 28/1-3</b>	2010 July-2011 April

### BOX 29-35

#### **Scrapbooks, 1963-2001**

Meticulously assembled volumes of clippings, programs, photographs, and other materials. Arranged numerically by volume number. Volumes are roughly chronological in content order, but may contain miscellaneous items within several years of the dates specified.

<b>BOX 29</b>	Volume I: 1963-1973
<b>BOX 30</b>	Volume II: 1973-1978
<b>BOX 31</b>	Volume III: 1978-1984
<b>BOX 32</b>	Volume IV: 1984-1989
<b>BOX 33</b>	Volume V: 1989-1997
<b>BOX 34</b>	Volume VI: 1997-2000
<b>BOX 35</b>	Volume VII: 2000-2001