

Yale University Library
Gilmore Music Library

Register to the The Vivian Perlis Collection of Schmitz, Ornstein, Copland, and Kirkpatrick

MSS 96



Compiled by Richard Boursy

2009

120 High Street
PO Box 208240

New Haven, CT 06520

musicspecialcollections@yale.edu

<https://guides.library.yale.edu/MusicSpecialCollections>

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Gilmore Music Library
120 High Street
PO Box 208240
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<https://guides.library.yale.edu/MusicSpecialCollections>

CALL NUMBER: MSS 96

CREATOR: Perlis, Vivian

TITLE: The Vivian Perlis Collection of Schmitz, Ornstein, Copland, and Kirkpatrick

DATES: 1914-2002

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.5 linear feet (1 box)

LANGUAGE: In English.

SUMMARY: Correspondence, an unpublished book, clippings, and other materials pertaining to E. Robert Schmitz and the Pro Musica Society, Leo Ornstein, Aaron Copland, and John Kirkpatrick

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/music.mss.0096>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/music.mss.0096>.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The Vivian Perlis Collection of Schmitz, Ornstein, Copland, and Kirkpatrick was acquired from Vivian Perlis in several installments between 1996 and 2004.

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open to researchers by appointment. There are no restricted materials in the collection. Please contact the [Special Collections staff](#) to schedule an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use

The The Vivian Perlis Collection of Schmitz, Ornstein, Copland, and Kirkpatrick is the physical property of the Irving S. Gilmore Music Library of Yale University. Copyrights belong to the composers and authors, or their legal heirs and assigns.

Preferred Citation

MSS 96, The Vivian Perlis Collection of Schmitz, Ornstein, Copland, and Kirkpatrick in the Irving S. Gilmore Music Library of Yale University.

Associated Materials

Researchers may also be interested in MSS 54, The E. Robert Schmitz Papers; MSS 10, The Leo Ornstein Papers; and MSS 56, The John Kirkpatrick Papers (all in the Irving S. Gilmore Music Library of Yale University); as well as the Aaron Copland Collection (at the Library of Congress).

Biographical / Historical

E. Robert Schmitz (1889-1949) was an influential pianist, teacher, author, and organizer. Born in Paris, he settled in the United States after World War I, and founded Pro Musica, an international organization that promoted new music with concerts, lectures, and publications.

Leo Ornstein was born in Kremenchug, Russia (probably in 1893, although the date is not certain), and moved to New York in 1906. As a young man he quickly established a reputation as a piano virtuoso in the United States and Europe, and his bold compositions were as hotly debated as those of Schoenberg and Stravinsky. After more than a decade of celebrity, Ornstein withdrew from the public eye, and spent the remainder of his long life quietly teaching and composing. He died in Wisconsin in 2002.

Aaron Copland (1900-1990) ranks among the most widely respected of all American composers. Born in Brooklyn to a Russian Jewish family, Copland studied with Rubin Goldmark in New York and Nadia Boulanger in France. His music, which drew upon sources as disparate as jazz, neoclassicism, folk music, and serialism, helped establish an American musical vocabulary, and his most popular works, such as *Appalachian Spring* and *Fanfare for the Common Man*, have reached audiences far beyond the concert hall.

John Kirkpatrick (1905-1991) was a notable American pianist, scholar, and teacher, who was best known for performing, cataloguing, and editing the music of Charles Ives.

Vivian Perlis is a prominent historian of American music, and the founding director of the Oral History, American Music project at Yale University. In the course of her research, she worked closely with Leo Ornstein, Aaron Copland, and other notable musicians, and obtained many important documents, which were later acquired by the Gilmore Music Library.

Scope and Contents

Includes Fred Burrous's unpublished book about the Pro Musica Society and E. Robert Schmitz (which contains numerous letters and photographs); correspondence by and about Leo Ornstein and his wife (chiefly from the the Ornstein revival of the 1970s and '80s); clippings, programs, and other materials pertaining to Ornstein; and correspondence between Aaron Copland and John Kirkpatrick.

Arrangement

In 3 series as follows: I. E. Robert Schmitz and the Pro Musica society. II. Leo Ornstein. III. Aaron Copland and John Kirkpatrick.

Collection Contents

Series I: E. Robert Schmitz and the Pro Musica society, 1913-1949

b. 1, f. 1	<p>The Story of Pro Musica / by Fred Burrous. 1913-1945 <i>Ca. 116 p. (64 numbered p. of typescript interspersed with [23] unnumbered pages of photographs pasted in + 29 p. of "Pro Musica Documents?")</i> Burrous, Fred</p> <p>Includes letters (variously originals, photoreproductions, transcriptions, and translations) by Schoenberg, Prokofiev, Milhaud, Ravel, Mayer, de Falla, Belaiev, Casella, Toch, Tansman, and d'Indy.</p> <p>Includes numerous photographs (some autographed), but a few photographs appear to have been removed.</p> <p>The typescript itself is not dated, but various documents and photographs within it have dates ranging from 1913 to 1945.</p>
b. 1, f. 2	<p>The Story of Pro Musica: additional materials. 1919-1949</p> <p>Additional clippings, photographs, programs, correspondence, contracts, and other materials pertaining to Fred Burrous' unpublished book The Story of Pro Musica.</p>

Series II: Leo Ornstein, 1914-2002

b. 1, f. 3	Correspondence (Ornstein-Perlis) <i>21 Items</i> Consists chiefly of letters from Pauline Ornstein or Leo Ornstein to Vivian Perlis. Also includes one letter to Ms. Hubbell with a postscript to Perlis, one letter to Claire Reis, and four items whose recipient is not identified. Three letters are incomplete.	1972-1986
b. 1, f. 4	Correspondence (other) <i>53 Items</i> Consists chiefly of correspondence pertaining to the Ornstein revival, beginning in the 1970s. Also includes one letter from the Musical Courier to Ornstein in 1917.	1917-2002
b. 1, f. 5	Newspaper articles Also includes typescripts of some articles.	1914-2002
b. 1, f. 6	Newspaper articles	1981-2001
b. 1, f. 7	Articles Pertaining to Yale-related events.	1976-1982
b. 1, f. 8	Journal and magazine articles	1914-1976
b. 1, f. 9	Journal and magazine articles	1914-2002
b. 1, f. 10	Programs and announcements	1916-2002
b. 1, f. 11	Miscellaneous Includes honorary degree and citation from St. Norbert College (1987), a fragment of music from Ornstein's "A Morning in the Woods" (photocopy, p. 1 only), and promotional material from publishers and record companies.	1975-1998

Series III: Aaron Copland and John Kirkpatrick, 1928-1960

b. 1, f. 12	Item lists <i>2 Items (lists)</i> Detailed inventories of the contents of the next two folders, prepared by library staff (?) and by John Kirkpatrick.	
b. 1, f. 13	Correspondence <i>45 Items</i> Chiefly from Copland to Kirkpatrick. Arranged by type (letters, note, postcards, telegrams).	1928-1945
b. 1, f. 14	Correspondence <i>14 Items</i> Includes correspondence from Kirkpatrick to Copland, and Kirkpatrick's correspondence pertaining to Copland with Victor Kraft, H.W. Heinsheimer, the League of Composers, and Julia Smith. Also includes a page of Kirkpatrick's corrections to an unidentified piano piece.	1940-1960

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.

Names

Burrous, Fred, 1920- (Story of Pro Musica)

Copland, Aaron, 1900-1990

Kirkpatrick, John, 1905-1991

Ornstein, Leo, 1892-2002

Schmitz, E. Robert (Elie Robert), 1889-1949

Corporate Body

Pro Musica (Society)