

Guide to the Aaron Copland Oral History

OHVI



Compiled by Anne Rhodes

2016-03-21

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<http://guides.library.yale.edu/oham/collectionsguide>

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Oral History of American Music
P.O. Box 208307
New Haven, CT 06520-8307
musicsspecialcollections@yale.edu
<http://guides.library.yale.edu/oham/collectionsguide>

CALL NUMBER: OHVI

CREATOR: Perlis, Vivian , interviewer

TITLE: Aaron Copland Oral History

DATES: 1948–1989

BULK DATES: 1980–1989

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 117 Computer Files

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The Aaron Copland Oral History comprises approximately 75 interviews with colleagues, friends, and family of Aaron Copland (note: for interviews with Copland himself, see the Major Figures in American Music collection). Oral History of American Music (OHAM) founder Vivian Perlis first became friends with Copland while working on the Charles Ives Oral History. Copland later wrote the preface for her book, *Charles Ives Remembered*. As the Ives project finished, Perlis focused on Copland as her new subject. From 1975 to 1976, she conducted many hours of interviews with Copland and those closest to him. Finally, in 1984 and 1989, their efforts culminated in the autobiographies, *Copland: 1900 through 1942* and *Copland: Since 1943*, co-authored by Perlis.

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

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research. The finding aid includes links to stream most interviews online via Oral History of American Music's (OHAM) AV access system, Aviary. Yale users can login to Aviary using their Yale University ID, to stream these interviews without restriction. Other users are able to request access to interviews directly through Aviary. For access instructions, and to request transcripts of an interview, see [OHAM's website](#). This finding aid also includes links to Table of Contents for most interviews.

Some interviews may be restricted. Access to these restricted interviews may only be granted to a patron who has first obtained direct permission from the interviewee or their estate.

Some interviews may not have been digitized or are otherwise not available to stream online. However, these interviews may have been transcribed. Please see [contact OHAM](#) for more details.

Conditions Governing Use

Rights and permissions for Oral History of American Music materials vary between individual interviews. Researchers wishing to publish or broadcast Oral History of American Music materials are responsible for obtaining direct authorization from copyright holders: generally, the interviewees or their estates.

Preferred Citation

OHVI, Aaron Copland Oral History, Oral History of American Music, in the Music Library of Yale University.

Scope and Contents

The Aaron Copland Oral History comprises approximately 75 interviews with colleagues, friends, and family of Aaron Copland (note: for interviews with Copland himself, see the Major Figures in American Music collection). Oral History of American Music (OHAM) founder Vivian Perlis first became friends with Copland while working on the Charles Ives Oral History. Copland later wrote the preface for her book, *Charles Ives Remembered*. As the Ives project finished, Perlis focused on Copland as her new subject. From 1975 to 1976, she conducted many hours of interviews with Copland and those closest to him. Finally, in 1984 and 1989, their efforts culminated in the autobiographies, *Copland: 1900 through 1942* and *Copland: Since 1943*, co-authored by Perlis.

General

68 interviews. This finding aid describes digitized copies of the interview recordings in this collection. Oral History of American Music also holds the original recordings, on a variety of legacy audio and video formats.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged alphabetically by surname of interviewee.

Collection Contents

Baker, Caroll

Baker, Caroll

1987 May 14

OHVI 951 a

Approximate Running Time: 28 mins

Transcript Page Count: 11 pages

Perlis, Vivian , interviewer

[\[Aviary\] OHVI 951 a](#)

By telephone

Names:

Baker, Caroll, 1930-1983 , interviewee

Bean, Betty

Bean, Betty

OHVI 943 a

Approximate Running Time: 32 mins

Transcript Page Count: 11 pages

Owens, William , interviewer

[\[Aviary\] OHVI 943 a](#)

New York, NY

1983 August 3

Names:

Bean, Betty , interviewee

Berger, Arthur

Berger, Arthur
OHVI 932 a-b
Approximate Running Time: 74 mins
Transcript Page Count: 28 pages
Perlis, Vivian , interviewer
[\[Aviary\] OHVI 932 a-b](#)
Cambridge, MA

1981 November 13

Names:
Berger, Arthur, 1912-2003 , interviewee

Bernier, Rosamond

Bernier, Rosamond

OHVI 933 a-b

Approximate Running Time: 74 mins

Transcript Page Count: 32 pages

Perlis, Vivian , interviewer

[\[Aviary\] OHVI 933 a-b](#)

New York, NY

1983 February 3

Names:

Bernier, Rosamond , interviewee

Bernstein, Leonard

Bernstein, Leonard
OHVI 962 a-d
Approximate Running Time: 149 mins
[\[Aviary\] OHVI 962 a-d](#)

1983 September 22

Names:

Bernstein, Leonard, 1918-1990 , interviewee

Burkat, Leonard

Burkat, Leonard
OHVI 952 a-b
Approximate Running Time: 76 mins
Transcript Page Count: 30 pages
Perlis, Vivian , interviewer
[\[Aviary\] OHVI 952 a-b](#)
Danbury, CT

1986 March 26

Names:
Burkat, Leonard, 1919-1992 , interviewee

Clurman, Harold

Clurman, Harold
OHVI 901 a-c
Approximate Running Time: 105 mins
Transcript Page Count: 50 pages
Perlis, Vivian , interviewer
[\[Aviary\] OHVI 901 a-c](#)
New York, NY

1979 May 20

Names:
Clurman, Harold, 1901-1980 , interviewee

Conroy, William

Conroy, William
OHVI 920 a
Approximate Running Time: 44 mins
Transcript Page Count: 19 pages
Perlis, Vivian , interviewer
[\[Aviary\] OHVI 920 a](#)
Yale Club, New York, NY

1981 March 26

Names:

Conroy, William , interviewee

Copland, Irving

Copland, Irving
OHVI 917 a-b
Approximate Running Time: 74 mins
Transcript Page Count: 38 pages
Perlis, Vivian , interviewer
[\[Aviary\] OHVI 917 a-b](#)
Roosevelt Island, NY

1981 April 7

Names:

Copland, Irving , interviewee

Copland, Milton

Copland, Milton
OHVI 925 a
Approximate Running Time: 21 mins
Transcript Page Count: 10 pages
Owens, William , interviewer
[\[Aviary\] OHVI 925 a](#)
New York, NY

1981 June 2

Names:
Copland, Milton , interviewee

Curtin, Phyllis

Curtin, Phyllis

OHVI 947 a

Approximate Running Time: 29 mins

Transcript Page Count: 14 pages

Perlis, Vivian , interviewer

[\[Aviary\] OHVI 947 a](#)

1986 August 6

Names:

Curtin, Phyllis , interviewee

Daniel, Minna Lederman

Daniel, Minna Lederman

1980 September 17

OHVI 905 a

Approximate Running Time: 42 mins

Transcript Page Count: 13 pages

Perlis, Vivian , interviewer

[\[Aviary\] OHVI 905 a](#)

New York, NY

Names:

Lederman, Minna, 1896-1995 , interviewee

Daniel, Minna Lederman

1980 October 24

OHVI 905 b

Approximate Running Time: 36 mins

Transcript Page Count: 13 pages

Perlis, Vivian , interviewer

[\[Aviary\] OHVI 905 b](#)

New York, NY

Names:

Lederman, Minna, 1896-1995 , interviewee

Davidovsky, Mario

Davidovsky, Mario
OHVI 929 a-b
Approximate Running Time: 62 mins
Transcript Page Count: 21 pages
Owens, William , interviewer
[\[Aviary\] OHVI 929 a-b](#)
Columbia University, New York, NY

1981 September 22

Names:

Davidovsky, Mario, 1934-2019 , interviewee

De Mille, Agnes

De Mille, Agnes
OHVI 904 a-b
Approximate Running Time: 46 mins
Transcript Page Count: 20 pages
Perlis, Vivian , interviewer
[\[Aviary\] OHVI 904 a-b](#)
New York, NY

1980 June 25

Names:

De Mille, Agnes, 1905-1993 , interviewee

Del Tredici, David

Del Tredici, David

1981 December 8

OHVI 938 a

Approximate Running Time: 28 mins

Transcript Page Count: 13 pages

Perlis, Vivian , interviewer

New Haven, CT

This material is restricted. Access may be granted to a patron who has obtained direct permission from the interviewee or their estate.

Names:

Del Tredici, David , interviewee

Denby, Edwin

Denby, Edwin
OHVI 910 a-b
Approximate Running Time: 82 mins
Transcript Page Count: 31 pages
Perlis, Vivian , interviewer
[\[Aviary\] OHVI 910 a-b](#)
New York, NY

1980 December 6

Names:

Denby, Edwin , interviewee

Diamond, David

Diamond, David
OHVI 907 a-c
Approximate Running Time: 112 mins
Transcript Page Count: 49 pages
Perlis, Vivian , interviewer
[\[Aviary\] OHVI 907 a-c](#)
Juilliard, New York, NY

1980 November 10

Names:

Diamond, David, 1915-2005 , interviewee

Dreiblatt, Martha

Dreiblatt, Martha
OHVI 923 a
Approximate Running Time: 45 mins
Transcript Page Count: 21 pages
Perlis, Vivian , interviewer
[\[Aviary\] OHVI 923 a](#)
New York, NY

1981 May 20

Names:
Dreiblatt, Martha , interviewee

Druckman, Jacob

Druckman, Jacob
OHVI 965 a
Perlis, Vivian , interviewer

1985

Names:

Druckman, Jacob, 1928-1996 , interviewee

Duke, John

Duke, John

OHVI 944 a

Approximate Running Time: 12 mins

Transcript Page Count: 5 pages

Miratti, Richard , interviewer

[\[Aviary\] OHVI 944 a](#)

Northampton, MA

1982 December 8

Names:

Duke, John , interviewee

Engel, Lehman

Engel, Lehman
OHVI 928 a-b
Approximate Running Time: 63 mins
Transcript Page Count: 27 pages
Perlis, Vivian , interviewer
[\[Aviary\] OHVI 928 a-b](#)
New York, NY

1981 June 4

Names:
Engel, Lehman, 1910-1982 , interviewee

Feld, Eliot

Feld, Eliot
OHVI 913 a-b
Approximate Running Time: 52 mins
Transcript Page Count: 20 pages
Perlis, Vivian , interviewer
[\[Aviary\] OHVI 913 a-b](#)
New York, NY

1981 January 7

Names:
Feld, Eliot , interviewee

Fine, Verna

Fine, Verna
OHVI 931 a-b
Approximate Running Time: 72 mins
Transcript Page Count: 34 pages
Perlis, Vivian , interviewer
[\[Aviary\] OHVI 931 a-b](#)
New York, NY

1981 November 7

Names:
Fine, Verna , interviewee

Fine, Verna
OHVI 931 c-e
Approximate Running Time: 135 mins
Transcript Page Count: 82 pages
Perlis, Vivian , interviewer
[\[Aviary\] OHVI 931 c-e](#)
New York, NY

1987 November 9

Names:
Fine, Verna , interviewee

Fizdale, Robert

Fizdale, Robert
OHVI 936 a-b
Approximate Running Time: 73 mins
Transcript Page Count: 25 pages
Owens, William , interviewer
[\[Aviary\] OHVI 936 a-b](#)
New York, NY

1982 February 15

Names:

Fizdale, Robert , interviewee

Foss, Lukas

Foss, Lukas

1986 November 4

OHVI 948 a

Approximate Running Time: 41 mins

Transcript Page Count: 19 pages

Perlis, Vivian , interviewer

[\[Aviary\] OHVI 948 a](#)

New Haven, CT

Names:

Foss, Lukas, 1922-2009 , interviewee

Franchetti, Arnold

Franchetti, Arnold

1981 June 25

OHVI 927 a

Approximate Running Time: 40 mins

Transcript Page Count: 16 pages

Owens, William , interviewer

[\[Aviary\] OHVI 927 a](#)

Lyme, CT

Names:

Franchetti, Arnold, 1906-1993 , interviewee

Friedman, Madeleine

Friedman, Madeleine

1981 May 4

OHVI 922 a

Approximate Running Time: 35 mins

Transcript Page Count: 20 pages

Perlis, Vivian , interviewer

[\[Aviary\] OHVI 922 a](#)

New York, NY

Names:

Friedman, Madeleine , interviewee

Furman, Selma

Furman, Selma

OHVI 909 a

Approximate Running Time: 43 mins

Transcript Page Count: 15 pages

Perlis, Vivian , interviewer

[\[Aviary\] OHVI 909 a](#)

New York, NY

1979 December 13

Names:

Furman, Selma , interviewee

Garfein, Jack

Garfein, Jack
OHVI 953 a-b
Approximate Running Time: 71 mins
Transcript Page Count: 36 pages
Perlis, Vivian , interviewer
[\[Aviary\] OHVI 953 a-b](#)
New York, NY

1987 May 7

Names:

Garfein, Jack , interviewee

Ginastera, Alberto

Ginastera, Alberto

OHVI 946 a-b

Approximate Running Time: 70 mins

Transcript Page Count: 15 pages

Owens, William , interviewer

[\[Aviary\] OHVI 946 a-b](#)

New York, NY

1981 November 23

Names:

Ginastera, Alberto, 1916-1983 , interviewee

Goldstein, Sylvia

Goldstein, Sylvia
OHVI 960 a-b
Transcript Page Count: 44 pages
Perlis, Vivian , interviewer
[\[Aviary\] OHVI 960 a-b](#)
New York, NY

1989 January 5

Names:

Goldstein, Sylvia , interviewee

Gould, Morton

Gould, Morton
OHVI 935 a-b
Approximate Running Time: 71 mins
Owens, William , interviewer
[\[Aviary\] OHVI 935 a-b](#)
Great Neck, NY

1982 April 23

Names:

Gould, Morton, 1913-1996 , interviewee

Haieff, Alexei

Haieff, Alexei

OHVI 916 a-c

Approximate Running Time: 81 mins

Transcript Page Count: 32 pages

Perlis, Vivian , interviewer

[\[Aviary\] OHVI 916 a-c](#)

New York, NY

1981 February 26

Names:

Haieff, Alexei, 1914-1994 , interviewee

Hawkins, Erick

Hawkins, Erick
OHVI 940 a-b
Approximate Running Time: 86 mins
Transcript Page Count: 39 pages
Perlis, Vivian , interviewer
[\[Aviary\] OHVI 940 a-b](#)

1985 November 26

Names:

Hawkins, Erick , interviewee

Heinsheimer, Hans

Heinsheimer, Hans

1981 March 26

OHVI 921 a

Approximate Running Time: 33 mins

Transcript Page Count: 13 pages

Perlis, Vivian , interviewer

[\[Aviary\] OHVI 921 a](#)

New York, NY

Names:

Heinsheimer, Hans W., 1900-1993 , interviewee

Johns, Erik

Johns, Erik
OHVI 937 a-b
Approximate Running Time: 52 mins
Transcript Page Count: 14 pages
Owens, William , interviewer
[\[Aviary\] OHVI 937 a-b](#)
Carmel, NY

1981 November 3

Names:
Johns, Erik , interviewee

Kober, John

Kober, John
OHVI 919 a
Approximate Running Time: 23 mins
Transcript Page Count: 11 pages
Perlis, Vivian , interviewer
[\[Aviary\] OHVI 919 a](#)
Garden City

1981 April 22

Names:
Kober, John , interviewee

Kraut, Harry

Kraut, Harry
OHVI 954 a-b
Approximate Running Time: 96 mins
Transcript Page Count: 40 pages
Perlis, Vivian , interviewer
[\[Aviary\] OHVI 954 a-b](#)

1987 July 21

Names:

Kraut, Harry J., interviewee

Lang, Pearl

Lang, Pearl

1985 December 19

OHVI 945 a-b

Approximate Running Time: 55 mins

Transcript Page Count: 26 pages

Perlis, Vivian , interviewer

[\[Aviary\] OHVI 945 a-b](#)

Names:

Lang, Pearl, 1921-2009 , interviewee

Lescaze, Mary

Lescaze, Mary

OHVI 903 a

Approximate Running Time: 44 mins

Transcript Page Count: 21 pages

Perlis, Vivian , interviewer

[\[Aviary\] OHVI 903 a](#)

New York, NY

1980 April 25

Names:

Lescaze, Mary Hughes, 1901-1983 , interviewee

Lewis, Bobby

Lewis, Bobby

1981 May 12

OHVI 924 a

Approximate Running Time: 35 mins

Transcript Page Count: 14 pages

Owens, William , interviewer

[\[Aviary\] OHVI 924 a](#)

New York, NY

Names:

Lewis, Bobby, 1909-1997 , interviewee

Manziarly, Marcelle de

Manziarly, Marcelle de
OHVI 964 a

1979 May 29

Names:

Manziarly, Marcelle de, 1899-1989 , interviewee

Marlin, Felice

Marlin, Felice
OHVI 918 a-b
Approximate Running Time: 44 mins
Perlis, Vivian , interviewer
[\[Aviary\] OHVI 918 a-b](#)
New York, NY

1981 April 22

Names:

Marlin, Felice , interviewee

Mittenthal, Arnold

Mittenthal, Arnold

OHVI 915 a-b

Approximate Running Time: 60 mins

Transcript Page Count: 23 pages

Perlis, Vivian , interviewer

[\[Aviary\] OHVI 915 a-b](#)

New York, NY

1981 January 15

Names:

Mittenthal, Arnold , interviewee

Moor, Paul

Moor, Paul
OHVI 939 a-b
Approximate Running Time: 97 mins
Transcript Page Count: 26 pages
Perlis, Vivian , interviewer
[\[Aviary\] OHVI 939 a-b](#)
Peekskill, NY

1982 June 1

Names:
Moor, Paul , interviewee

Moor, Paul
OHVI 939 c-d
Approximate Running Time: 86 mins
Transcript Page Count: 15 pages
Perlis, Vivian , interviewer
[\[Aviary\] OHVI 939 c-d](#)
Peekskill, NY

1982 January 7

Names:
Moor, Paul , interviewee

Moross, Jerome

Moross, Jerome
OHVI 926 a
Approximate Running Time: 33 mins
Transcript Page Count: 11 pages
Owens, William , interviewer
[\[Aviary\] OHVI 926 a](#)
New York, NY

1982 March 29

Names:
Moross, Jerome, 1913-1983 , interviewee

O'Donnell, May

O'Donnell, May
OHVI 950 a-b
Approximate Running Time: 94 mins
Transcript Page Count: 54 pages
Perlis, Vivian , interviewer
[\[Aviary\] OHVI 950 a-b](#)
New York, NY

1986 January 23

Names:
O'Donnell, May, 1906-2004 , interviewee

Orbon, Julian

Orbon, Julian

1981 July 9

OHVI 930 a

Approximate Running Time: 47 mins

Transcript Page Count: 20 pages

Owens, William , interviewer

[\[Aviary\] OHVI 930 a](#)

New York, NY

Names:

Orbón, Julián, 1925-1991 , interviewee

Palmer, Robert

Palmer, Robert

1983 May 12

OHVI 941 a

Approximate Running Time: 32 mins

Transcript Page Count: 16 pages

Perlis, Vivian , interviewer

[\[Aviary\] OHVI 941 a](#)

By telephone

Names:

Palmer, Robert, 1915-2010 , interviewee

Perry, Tod

Perry, Tod

1987 July 31

OHVI 955 a-b

Approximate Running Time: 93 mins

Transcript Page Count: 44 pages

Perlis, Vivian , interviewer

[\[Aviary\] OHVI 955 a-b](#)

West Stockbridge, MA

Names:

Perry, Tod , interviewee

Pope, Stuart

Pope, Stuart

1988 July 7

OHVI 958 a-b

Approximate Running Time: 92 mins

Transcript Page Count: 45 pages

Perlis, Vivian , interviewer

[\[Aviary\] OHVI 958 a-b](#)

New York, NY

Names:

Pope, Stuart, 1921-2005 , interviewee

Ramey, Phillip

Ramey, Phillip
OHVI 956 a-d
Approximate Running Time: 115 mins
Transcript Page Count: 64 pages
Perlis, Vivian , interviewer
[\[Aviary\] OHVI 956 a-d](#)
New York, NY

1987 November 10

Names:

Ramey, Phillip, 1939- , interviewee

Robbins, Jerome

Robbins, Jerome

1980 June 19

OHVI 912 a

Approximate Running Time: 30 mins

Transcript Page Count: 13 pages

Perlis, Vivian , interviewer

[\[Aviary\] OHVI 912 a](#)

New York, NY

Names:

Robbins, Jerome, 1918-1998 , interviewee

Roem, Ned

Roem, Ned
OHVI 949 a-c
Approximate Running Time: 76 mins
Transcript Page Count: 35 pages
Perlis, Vivian , interviewer
[\[Aviary\] OHVI 949 a-c](#)
New Haven, CT

1987 January 21

Names:
Roem, Ned, 1923- , interviewee

Schuman, William

Schuman, William
OHVI 942 a
Transcript Page Count: 23 pages
Perlis, Vivian , interviewer
[\[Aviary\] OHVI 942 a](#)
New York, NY

1983 June 2

Names:

Schuman, William, 1910-1992 , interviewee

Shanet, Howard

Shanet, Howard
OHVI 957 a-d
Approximate Running Time: 129 mins
Transcript Page Count: 51 pages
Perlis, Vivian , interviewer
[\[Aviary\] OHVI 957 a-d](#)
New York, NY

1987 November 17

Names:
Shanet, Howard , interviewee

Shapero, Harold

Shapero, Harold
OHVI 908 a-b
Approximate Running Time: 73 mins
Transcript Page Count: 33 pages
Perlis, Vivian , interviewer
[\[Aviary\] OHVI 908 a-b](#)
Natick, MA

1980 October 4

Names:
Shapero, Harold, 1920-2013 , interviewee

Siegmeister, Elie

Siegmeister, Elie
OHVI 934 a-b
Approximate Running Time: 62 mins
Transcript Page Count: 26 pages
Owens, William , interviewer
[\[Aviary\] OHVI 934 a-b](#)
Great Neck, NY

1982 January 26

Names:

Siegmeister, Elie, 1909-1991 , interviewee

Smit, Leo

Smit, Leo
OHVI 914 a-c
Approximate Running Time: 119 mins
Transcript Page Count: 51 pages
Perlis, Vivian , interviewer
[\[Aviary\] OHVI 914 a-c](#)
New York, NY

1981 January 29

Names:
Smit, Leo, 1921-1999 , interviewee

Sykes, Gerald

Sykes, Gerald
OHVI 906 a-b
Approximate Running Time: 78 mins
Transcript Page Count: 30 pages
Perlis, Vivian , interviewer
[\[Aviary\] OHVI 906 a-b](#)
New York, NY

1980 October 24

Names:
Sykes, Gerald, 1903- , interviewee

Thomson, Virgil

Thomson, Virgil
OHVI 902 a-b
Approximate Running Time: 56 mins
Transcript Page Count: 20 pages
Perlis, Vivian , interviewer
[\[Aviary\] OHVI 902 a-b](#)
Chelsea Hotel, New York, NY

1979 June 6

Names:

Thomson, Virgil, 1896-1989 , interviewee

Uris, Harold

Uris, Harold

OHVI 911 a

Approximate Running Time: 28 mins

Transcript Page Count: 14 pages

Perlis, Vivian , interviewer

[\[Aviary\] OHVI 911 a](#)

New York, NY

1980 November 25

Names:

Uris, Harold D., 1905-1982 , interviewee

Walker, David

Walker, David
OHVI 959 a
Approximate Running Time: 6 mins
Transcript Page Count: 3 pages
Perlis, Vivian , interviewer
[\[Aviary\] OHVI 959 a](#)
Weston, CT

1988 September 27

Names:

Walker, David , interviewee

Warfield, William

Warfield, William
OHVI 961 a
Approximate Running Time: 25 mins
Transcript Page Count: 12 pages
Perlis, Vivian , interviewer
[\[Aviary\] OHVI 961 a](#)
By telephone

1989 February 8

Names:
Warfield, William , interviewee

Warfield, William
OHVI 961 b
Pfeiffenberger, Matthew , interviewer
Boston, MA

2002 April 27

Names:
Warfield, William , interviewee

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.

Occupations

Composers -- United States -- 20th Century

Names

Copland, Aaron, 1900-1990