

MARIE ERHART PEARSON  
COLLECTION

Special Collections 2005/2/8

RUTH T. WATANABE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS  
SIBLEY MUSIC LIBRARY

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# DESCRIPTION OF COLLECTION

Shelf location: M3A 7, 3-4  
Physical extent: 7 linear feet

## **Biographical Sketch**

After completing her secondary education at St. Benedict Academy (Erie, PA), Marie (Knowles) Erhart Pearson commenced piano study at the Eastman School of Music in 1921 as a scholarship student in the class of Alf Klingenberg. She earned the Bachelor of Music degree in 1933, and subsequently completed coursework for the Master of Arts. Erhart's teaching career began in 1923, while she was still an undergraduate at Eastman. In that year, the English pedagogue Dr. T. H. Yorke Trotter selected Marie Erhart to lead classes in his "Creative Rhythmic Approach to Musicianship" method at Rochester's Hochstein Music School. Erhart's success led to her subsequent appointment as an instructor of musicianship and piano in Eastman's Preparatory Department. She taught piano and elementary music theory in the Preparatory Department (later the Community Education Division) until her retirement in 1971; she earned a promotion to the rank of Senior Instructor in 1961. Following her retirement from Eastman, Erhart continued to teach piano in the Rochester community as a member of the National Guild of Piano Teachers and the Music Teachers' National Association. In addition to her activities as a teacher, Erhart composed pedagogical piano music; she studied composition with Edward Royce, Bernard Rogers, Ernst Bloch, and Alan Hovhaness during her years at Eastman. Marie Erhart wed Dr. Ovid Abou Fletcher Pearson, a Rochester physician, following her retirement from Eastman. Marie Erhart Pearson died on November 19, 1991.

## **Provenance**

The materials comprising the Marie Erhart Pearson Collection were given to the Sibley Music Library for deposit in the Eastman School Archives following the death of Dr. Ovid Pearson (December 16, 1992). At the time of deposit, the collection included approximately 40 cubic feet of piano music and six linear feet of books. The piano music was integrated into the Sibley Music Library's circulating collection; the books were disposed of in the library's annual book sale.

## **Scope and Content**

The collection contains materials documenting Marie Erhart Pearson's 48-year teaching career at the Eastman School of Music and in the Rochester community. Personal items, the first large segment of the collection, include correspondence, photographs, and student notebooks, some of which date back to Marie Erhart's secondary education in the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Teaching materials for piano and for elementary music theory comprise the bulk of the collection; student rosters, teaching plans, classroom exercises, and student workbooks are all included. Marie Erhart's activities as a composer are documented through the sketches, drafts, and final manuscripts included in this collection. Finally, the Marie Erhart Pearson Collection contains a number of unique

documents pertaining to Eastman's Preparatory Department and Community Education Division, including interdepartmental correspondence, recital programs, and evaluative materials.

### **Restrictions on Use**

No restrictions have been placed on the use of these materials.

### **Associations**

The Marie Erhart Pearson Collection is one component of a growing corpus of music-education-related materials and archival collections. Among these are the Eastman-Rochester Partnership Archive (the dissertation papers of Dr. Mitchell Robinson, Ph.D., 1999); the Donald Shetler Research Collection; the Lottie Ellsworth Coit Collection; and the Isabel McNeill Carley Library of the American Orff-Schulwerk Association.

## DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

The Marie Erhart Pearson collection has been organized into four series: personal papers, compositions, teaching materials, and Preparatory Department/Community Education Division. These are further divided into sub-series as described below.

### **Series 1: Personal Papers**

#### *sub-series A: General Personal Materials*

This sub-series preserves such documents as Marie Erhart Pearson's private correspondence; photographs; poetry; materials pertaining to the Eastman alumnae chapter of Mu Phi Epsilon; and organizational materials for the 30<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> class reunions of the Eastman School of Music's Class of 1933.

#### *sub-series B: Student Notebooks*

Included here are lecture notes and homework exercises generated by Marie Erhart throughout her own secondary and post-secondary education, begun at St. Benedict Academy (Erie, PA) and completed at the Eastman School of Music.

### **Series 2: Compositions**

This series preserves sketches, fair copies, and final copies of music composed by Marie Erhart Pearson. The majority of these works are for elementary-level piano solo.

### **Series 3: Teaching Materials**

#### *sub-series A: Piano Instruction*

This sub-series includes studio rosters, recital programs, evaluations, and adjudication records documenting Marie Erhart Pearson's piano teaching career as a faculty member at the Eastman School of Music and as a private instructor in the Rochester community.

#### *sub-series B: Elementary Music Theory Instruction*

This sub-series contains class lists, evaluations, instructional materials, and student assignments from Marie Erhart Pearson's years as a theory instructor in the Preparatory Department/Community Education Division.

### **Series 4: Preparatory Department/Community Education Division**

This series preserves recital programs and interdepartmental correspondence generated by the Eastman School of Music's Preparatory Department. Most items date from the 1930s through the 1960s. Practice recital programs and honor election ballots are included.

# INVENTORY

## **Series 1: Personal Papers**

### *sub-series A: General Personal Materials*

#### Box 1

- folder 1      Biographical information
- folder 2      “The Unconquerable Pierre” script
- folder 3      Alumni Association citation
- folder 4      Memorabilia
- folder 5      Poetry; notes about poets
- folder 6      Reunions
- folder 7      Photographs
- folder 9      Correspondence
- folder 10     Mu Phi Epsilon alumnae chapter

#### Box 5

- folder 2      Personal notebooks

#### Box 11

- folder 1      Miniature orchestral scores
- folder 3      Composers’ Forum programs

### *sub-series B: Student Notebooks*

#### Box 2

- folder 1      Counterpoint and Acoustics
- folder 2      Miscellaneous Notebooks

folder 3 Student Notebooks (St. Benedict Academy)

Box 3

folder 1 Student Notebooks (ESM/U. of R.?)

folder 2 Harmony tablets

Box 4

folder 1 Student papers: music history, psychology, English

folder 2 Student papers: music history, psychology, English

folder 3 Student papers: music history, psychology, English

folder 4 Student Notebooks (ESM/U. of R.?)

Box 5

folder 1 Music theory coursework

**Series 2: Compositions**

Box 6

folder 1 Broken cassette tape

folder 2 Compositions by David Fetler, Marjorie Truelove McKown

folder 3 Miscellaneous sketches, drafts, fair copies

folder 4 Onion skins

folder 5 Miscellaneous fair and final copies

**Series 3: Teaching Materials**

*sub-series A: Piano Instruction*

Box 1

folder 1 Piano Pedagogy

Box 5

folder 3 Piano music catalogue

folder 4 Teaching materials (piano)

Box 9

folder 1 Evaluations and reports

folder 2 Evaluations and reports

folder 3 Evaluations and reports

Box 10

folder 5 Miscellaneous draft programs

Box 11

folder 2 ESM faculty-generated materials

folder 4 Piano Teachers' Workshop

*sub-series B: Elementary Music Theory Instruction*

Box 7

folder 1 Teaching materials for Elementary Theory

folder 2 Teaching materials for Elementary Theory

folder 3 Teaching materials for Elementary Theory

folder 4 Teaching materials for Elementary Theory

folder 5 Teaching materials for Elementary Theory

folder 6 Teaching materials for Elementary Theory

folder 7 Teaching materials for Elementary Theory

Box 8

folder 1 Teaching materials for Elementary Theory



folder 2 Teaching materials for Elementary Theory

folder 3 Teaching materials for Elementary Theory

folder 4 Teaching materials for Elementary Theory

folder 5 Rosters

Box 9

folder 1 Evaluations and reports

folder 2 Evaluations and reports

folder 3 Evaluations and reports

Box 12

(no folder) Spiral-bound notebooks containing student exercises and classroom drills

Box 13

(no folder) Instruction manuals: sight-singing; T.H. Yorke Trotter's harmony method, etc.

**Series 4: Preparatory Department/Community Education Division**

Box 9

folder 1 Evaluations and reports

folder 2 Evaluations and reports

folder 3 Evaluations and reports

folder 4 Syllabi and regulations

folder 5 Miscellaneous Preparatory/CED Documentation

folder 6 Marie Erhart Pearson Scholarship Fund

folder 7 Beethoven lecture for "Appreciation of Music" series

folder 8 Preparatory/CED master classes, lectures, special programs

<u>folder 9</u>	Preparatory Department Commencement Programs
<u>folder 10</u>	Kilbourn Hall election ballots
<u>folder 11</u>	Kilbourn Hall election notices
<u>folder 12</u>	Practice recital criticisms
<u>folder 13</u>	Preparatory Department recital programs
<u>folder 14</u>	Preparatory/CED programs
<u>Box 10</u>	
<u>folder 1</u>	Practice recital programs
<u>folder 2</u>	Practice recital programs
<u>folder 3</u>	Practice recital programs
<u>folder 4</u>	Public recital programs
<u>folder 5</u>	Miscellaneous draft programs
<u>Box 11</u>	
<u>folder 5</u>	Miscellaneous interdepartmental correspondence—Preparatory Department
<u>folder 6</u>	Miscellaneous interdepartmental correspondence—ESM
<u>folder 7</u>	UR/ESM faculty bulletins and senate minutes
<u>folder 8</u>	UR/ESM newsletters and announcements
<u>folder 9</u>	Miscellaneous newspaper clippings