PAUL J. SIFLER COLLECTION

RUTH T. WATANABE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
SIBLEY MUSIC LIBRARY

Prepared by Mary J. Counts
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DESCRIPTION OF COLLECTION

Location: M2B 3, 5-6
Extent:  5 linear feet

Biographical Sketches

John La Montaine (b. 17 March 1920) – A native of Chicago, Illinois, John La Montaine studied composition with Bernard Rogers and Howard Hanson at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, receiving a Bachelor’s degree in 1942. He also studied with Bernard Wagenaar at the Juilliard School and Nadia Boulanger at the American Conservatory in Fontainebleau. An accomplished pianist, La Montaine served with the NBC Symphony under Arturo Toscanini (1950-54) and later, served for short periods of time, in major educational institutions: Eastman School of Music (1964-5), The University of Utah, North Texas State University, and Whittier College. The compositions of John La Montaine include symphonic, chamber, ballet, opera, choral and solo works. His works have been performed by major orchestras including The National Symphony Orchestra, the Boston Symphony, The Philadelphia Orchestra, The Chicago Symphony, The New York Philharmonic, The Los Angeles Philharmonic, and the San Francisco, Cincinnati and Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestras. One of La Montaine’s earliest works, the Concerto for Piano and Orchestra, Op. 9, commissioned by the Ford Foundation, was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1959. Two Guggenheim fellowships followed, and commissions from the Koussevitsky Foundation, and the William Inglis Morse Trust for Music. Other honors include an award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters (1962), accompanied by a grant to record his Piano Concerto, an Eastman School Distinguished Alumni Award, and an appointment to serve in 1962 as Composer-in-Residence at the American Academy in Rome. In 1977 he was named Nixon Distinguished Scholar and holder of the Nixon chair at Whittier College. The premieres of La Montaine’s three Christmas operas took place in the Washington Cathedral. The second of the operas, The Shephardes Playe, Op. 38, was televised nationally by ABC. The Joffrey Ballet created the ballet Nightwings from the score Birds of Paradise, Op. 34. The String Quartet, Op. 16 was awarded the Rheta Sosland Prize for Chamber Music. The Wilderness Journal, Symphony for Bass-Baritone, Organ and Orchestra, Op. 41 was commissioned by Mrs. Jouett Shouse and opened the second season at Kennedy Center, to celebrate the dedication of the Filene Organ. Sarah Caldwell, with the Pittsburgh Symphony, and the Pennsylvania State University Choirs presented the premiere of the Bicentennial opera, Be Glad then America, Op. 43. A documentary on the creation of the opera was televised nationally on PBS.

Paul J. Sifler (1911-2001) – Paul J. Sifler was born and lived in Ljubljana, Slovenia until emigrating to the United States at the age of eleven. Becoming an American citizen, he resided in Hollywood, California. His large body of compositions reflect this multi-cultural background. Sifler’s organ and choral works brought him international recognition and his tragic work for organ, The Despair and Agony of Dachau has been performed in most of the capitals of Europe and across the United States. As an outstanding concert organist, Sifler appeared extensively both in the United States and in Europe. He gave a year-long series of
historical organ recitals in St. Paul’s Chapel in New York City and has appeared as a soloist in his Piano Concerto. In 1975, John La Montaine and Paul J. Sifler founded Fredonia Press, for the purpose of publishing exclusively the works of the two composers. In 1977 they extended their successful enterprise by establishing Fredonia Discs.

**Provenance**

The materials in this collection were collected by Paul J. Sifler and then given to the Sibley Music Library.

**Scope and Content**

This collection contains materials produced by John La Montaine throughout his career including sketch books, manuscripts, and published works. Some of the scores were the personal copies of La Montaine and contain his markings and corrections. Also included in the collection are recordings of his works and source materials from which the librettos of his *Christmas Trilogy* were constructed.

**Restrictions**

The collection donor, the late Paul J. Sifler, placed no restrictions on the use of the materials of the Paul J. Sifler Collection. Reproduction of its contents will, however, be provided to patrons only in accordance with the provisions of the United States Copyright Law (1976) and its revisions.

**Associations**

The Sibley Music Library houses the collections of many other Eastman School of Music alumni composers. Included among them are the collections of: Wayne Barlow (’37), Gordon Binkerd (’41), Alexander Courage (’41), Homer Todd Keller (’37, ’38), Gardner Read (’36, ’37) and Malcolm Seagrave (’62).
DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

Series 1: Published Works

This series contains published copies of John La Montaine’s works. It is subdivided into seven sub-series according to type. Within each sub-series, the works are arranged in alphabetical order by title. To preserve the organizational system that Mr. Sifler created, some published works are included in Series 3 (Evolution of Concerto IV) instead of in Series 1. Sub-series are as follows:

Sub-series A: Piano Solo
Sub-series B: Piano Duets
Sub-series C: Piano with Orchestra
Sub-series D: Chamber Music
Sub-series E: Choral Works
Sub-series F: Opera
Sub-series G: Works in Orchestral Parts

Series 2: Manuscripts

This series contains manuscript resources relating to the compositions of John La Montaine. The items include reproductions of unpublished manuscripts, fair copies, ozalid copies, master copies for reproduction and sketch books. The series is divided into three sub-series according to type, which are arranged in alphabetical order by title. To preserve the organizational system that Mr. Sifler created, some manuscripts are included in Series 3 (Evolution of Concerto IV) instead of Series 2. Sub-series are as follows:

Sub-series A: Manuscript Reproductions
Sub-series B: Ozalid Copies
Sub-series C: Sketches

Series 3: Evolution of Concerto IV

This series contains both published and manuscript scores of John La Montaine’s works. Because Mr. Sifler provided documentation indicating that all of the works in this series were related to the development of Concerto IV, that grouping has been maintained. Within this series, the scores are arranged in alphabetical order by title.
**Series 4: Recordings**

This series contains recordings of John La Montaine’s work. These recordings include performances by the composer as well as premiere performances of various works. Sub-series are as follows:

- Sub-series A: Cassettes
- Sub-series B: LPs
- Sub-series C: CDs

**Series 5: Literary Works**

As indicated by the documentation of Mr. Sifler, this series includes the principal source materials from which John La Montaine constructed the librettos of *The Christmas Trilogy*. The bulk of this series is books but also contains two pamphlets, one newspaper clipping, and reproductions of excerpts from a book. Sub-series are as follows:

- Sub-series A: Books
- Sub-series B: Pamphlets
- Sub-series C: Newspaper Clippings
- Sub-series D: Reproductions
INVENTORY

Series 1: Published Works

Sub-series A: Piano Solo

Box 1


folder 6 Sonata, Op. 3. MS repro.


Sub-series B: Piano Duets

Box 2


Sub-series C: Piano with Orchestra

Box 1


Box 2


Box 8


Sub-series D: Chamber Music

Box 2

Sub-series E: Choral Works

Box 2


Sub-series F: Opera

Box 1


Box 3


Sub-series G: Works in Orchestral Parts

Box 4


folder 8  Erode the Greate, Op. 40. MS repro. Wind Parts.


Box 5

folder 1  Novellis, Novellis, Op. 31. MS repro. Wind Parts.


Series 2: Manuscripts

Sub-series A: Manuscript Reproductions

Box 3


folder 8 Jugoslav Dance. 1974. MS repro.

Box 8


Box 3


Sub-series B: Ozalid Copies

Box 8


folder 5 Jugoslav Dance. 1974. MS ozalid copy.

Box 6


Box 8


Box 6

folder 2 Three Pieces for Solo Piano. MS ozalid copy.
Sub-series C: Sketches

Box 3


Series 3: Evolution of Concerto IV

Box 6


folder 4 Gigue for Piano. MS repro.


folder 7  Incantation for Jazz Band, movement 2: Scherzo. MS repro.


Box 8

folder 7  Invocation, Op. 4. 1945. MS repro.

folder 8  Scherzo for 32 Trombones. “This version probably 1962” – note on last page. MS repro.

Box 6


Series 4: Recordings

Sub-series A: Cassettes

Box 9


item 5  La Montaine:  Piano Concerto No. IV, Op. 59. “Composer at one piano, recorded the day that the concerto was completed.” – on label. Archive Editions, 1998. Cassette.

item 6  John La Montaine:  The Evolution of Piano Concerto IV: Earlier Works Related to the Development of the Fourth Concerto. That Special Part of You, version #1 (Brad Comer, voice and electronic keyboard); That Special Part of You, version #2 arranged for electronic keyboard solo (La Montaine, keyboard); That Special Part of You, version #3 (Azell Taylor and Posee, Tony Churchill, sax); Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer’s Day (Polly Jo Baker, soprano, John La Montaine, piano); Venice West Blues (La Montaine, piano); The Lord is My Shepherd (Pat Neway, soprano, La Montaine, piano); Invocation, Op. 4 (Pat Neway, soprano, La Montaine, piano); Incantation for Jazz Band, Op. 39 (Eastman Jazz Ensemble, Ray Wright, director). Hollywood: Fredonia Discs. Cassette.

item 7  John La Montaine:  The Evolution of Piano Concerto IV: Earlier Works Related to the Development of the Fourth Concerto. That Special Part of You, version #1 (Brad Comer, voice and electronic keyboard); That Special Part of You, version #2 arranged for electronic keyboard solo (La Montaine, keyboard); That Special Part of You, version #3 (Azell Taylor and Posee, Tony Churchill, sax); Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer’s Day (Polly Jo Baker, soprano, John La Montaine, piano); Venice West Blues (La Montaine, piano); The 23rd Psalm, Op. 36 (Pat Neway, soprano, La Montaine, piano); Invocation, Op. 4 (Pat Neway, soprano, La Montaine, piano); Incantation for Jazz Band, Op. 39 (Eastman Jazz Ensemble, Ray Wright, director). Hollywood: Fredonia Discs. Original Master, DAT.

Sub-series B: LPs

Box 9


Sub-series C: CDs

Box 9


Series 5: Literary Works

Sub-series A: Books

Box 7


item 4  Daugherty, Harold Alexander, Jr. *A Study of John La Montaine's Trilogy of Pageant-Operas for Christmas*: A Dissertation Presented to the Faculty of the School of Music University of Southern California in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree Doctor of Musical Arts (Church Music). 1976.


item 7  Harris, Mary Dormer, ed. *The Coventry Leet Book: or Mayor's Register, Containing the Records of the City Court Leet or View of Frankpledge, A.D. 1420-1555, with Divers Other Matters, Part I*. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co., 1907.

item 8  Harris, Mary Dormer, ed. *The Coventry Leet Book: or Mayor's Register, Containing the Records of the City Court Leet or View of Frankpledge, A.D. 1420-1555, with Divers Other Matters, Part II*. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co., 1908.


item 10  Harris, Mary Dormer, ed. *The Coventry Leet Book: or Mayor's Register, Containing the Records of the City Court Leet or View of Frankpledge, A.D. 1420-1555, with Divers Other Matters, Part IV*. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co., 1913.


*Sub-series B: Pamphlets*

Box 7


*Sub-series C: Newspaper Clippings*

Box 8


*Sub-series D: Reproductions*

Box 8