DAVID DIAMOND–BERNARD ROGERS
CORRESPONDENCE
Special Collections 1996.24

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UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

Processed in Spring 2006;
revised by David Peter Coppen.
Subsequently revised by Gail E. Lowther, November 2020
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Description of Collection 3

Description of Series 5

**INVENTORY**

Series 1: Correspondence 7
DESCRIPTION OF COLLECTION

Shelf location:  M1B 4, 1
Physical extent:  1 linear foot

Biographical Sketch

The composer David Diamond was born in Rochester, New York on July 9, 1915. He began playing the violin at the age of seven and would often experiment with his own compositions. He did not receive formal musical training, however, until 1927, after his family moved to Cleveland, OH; there, his talent came to the attention of Andre di Ribaupierre, who arranged for the young violinist to study with him at the Cleveland Institute of Music (1928–29). After the Diamond family returned to Rochester, Diamond studied composition with Bernard Rogers at the Eastman School of Music (1930–34) and, thereafter, with Roger Sessions at the New Music School in New York, NY. In 1936, Diamond traveled to Paris, where he studied with Nadia Boulanger. Throughout the 1940s, Diamond’s income was derived primarily from composition, facilitated by numerous grants and awards, including multiple Guggenheim Fellowships (1938, 1941, 1958), the Prix du Rome (1942), a National Academy of Arts and Letters grant (1944), and a commission from the Koussevitzky Foundation (1945, for his Symphony No. 4).

From 1951–52, Diamond served as the Fulbright Professor at the University of Rome, after which he settled in Florence for the next decade. He returned to the US temporarily in 1961 and 1963 to teach at SUNY Buffalo as Slee Visiting Professor in Music and then, in 1965, more
permanently. He taught at the Manhattan School of Music in the mid-1960s and subsequently at the University of Colorado at Boulder (1970) and the American Academy in Rome (1971–72) before securing an appointment as professor of composition at the Julliard School of Music in 1973; he remained at Juilliard until his retirement in 1986.

Diamond has been regarded as one preeminent American composers of his generation, as evidenced by his receipt of some of the most significant honors in composition, including the William Schuman Lifetime Achievement Award (1986), the Gold Medal of the American Academy of Arts and Letters (1991), the Edward MacDowell Medal (1991), and the American National Medal of the Arts (1995).

Diamond died on June 13, 2005, in Rochester, NY, at the age of 89.

**Provenance**

This correspondence is presumed to have been the gift of David Diamond, though no records pertaining to its provenance have been preserved in the department.

**Scope and Content**

The collection contains letters from Bernard Rogers to David Diamond, dating from immediately after Diamond left the Eastman School until the time of Rogers’s death.

**Restrictions**

There are no restrictions to access to this collection.

**Associations**

The Bernard Rogers Collection is the collection most closely related to the Diamond Correspondence, the former comprised of Rogers’s manuscripts and professional papers.

Additionally, RTWSC holds other collections that contain some, albeit more limited, correspondence between Eastman composition faculty and their students. The Samuel Adler Collection (1999–2018 gifts) contains a substantial sequence of correspondence, including various letters to or from some his students. The Gardner Read Collection also contains some correspondence between Read and Howard Hanson, his composition teacher at Eastman.

An archive of David Diamond’s manuscripts and professional papers is held at the Library of Congress.
DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

Series 1 Correspondence

The series comprises letters, postcards, notes, and aerograms received by Diamond from his teacher, Bernard Rogers. Items are ordered chronologically.
Letter from Bernard Rogers to David Diamond; dated October 21, 1936.
From David Diamond Correspondence, Box 1, Folder 41.
INVENTORY

**Series 1: Correspondence**

**Box 1**

folder 1  22 October 1934.  Rogers to Diamond.  Handwritten; one page.

folder 2  26 October 1934.  Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; 2 sides of 1/2 letter size.

folder 3  8 November 1934.  Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; one page.  Has sustained fire damage.

folder 4  16 November 1934.  Rogers to Diamond.  Handwritten; 4 pages of 1/2 letter size.

folder 5  24 November 1934.  Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; postcard.

folder 6  15 December 1934.  Rogers to Diamond.  Handwritten; one page.

folder 7  26 December 1934.  Rogers to Diamond.  Handwritten; note card.

folder 8  28 December 1934.  Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; note card.  Has sustained fire damage.

folder 9  1935.  Rogers to Diamond.  Two items: one handwritten note card; one typed letter.


folder 11  5 February 1935.  Rogers to Diamond.  Typed; one page.

folder 12  6 February 1935.  Rogers to Diamond.  Handwritten; one page.  Has sustained fire damage.

folder 13  6 March 1935.  Rogers to Diamond.  Handwritten; two pages.


folder 15  21 April 1935.  Rogers to Diamond.  Handwritten; one page.

folder 16  3 June 1935.  Rogers to Diamond.  Typed; one page.

folder 17  4 June 1935.  Rogers to Diamond.  Typed; postcard.

folder 18  20 July 1935.  Rogers to Diamond.  Handwritten; one page.
folder 19  3 September 1935. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; one page.
folder 21  December 1935. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; two postcards.
folder 22  16 December 1935. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; one page.
folder 23  22 August 1935. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; one page.
folder 24  10 and 18 December 1935. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; two postcards.
folder 25  10 January 1936. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; one page.
folder 26  1936. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; one page. Has sustained fire damage.
folder 27  21 January 1936. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; one page.
folder 28  18 February 1936. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; postcard.
folder 29  Undated fragment. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; one page. Has sustained fire damage.
folder 30  4 March 1936. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; one page.
folder 31  1 April 1936. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; one page.
folder 32  11 April 1936. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; one page.
folder 33  22 May 1936. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; postcard.
folder 34  3 July 1936. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; three pages. Has sustained fire damage.
folder 35  26 August 1936. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; one page both sides.
folder 36  Undated items (2). Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; one and two pages, respectively.
folder 37  22 September 1936. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; postcard.
folder 38  7 October 1936. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; postcard.
folder 39  2 October 1936. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; postcard.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder Number</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Author to Recipient</th>
<th>Document Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>63</td>
<td>13 March 1939</td>
<td>Rogers to Diamond</td>
<td>Handwritten; postcard.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64</td>
<td>25 April 1939</td>
<td>Rogers to Diamond</td>
<td>Handwritten; postcard.</td>
</tr>
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<td>65</td>
<td>8 June 1939</td>
<td>Rogers to Diamond</td>
<td>Handwritten; postcard.</td>
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<td>66</td>
<td>5 August</td>
<td>Rogers to Diamond</td>
<td>Handwritten; one page both sides.</td>
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<td>67</td>
<td>December 1939</td>
<td>Rogers to Diamond</td>
<td>Handwritten; four note cards.</td>
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<td>68</td>
<td>13 March 1940</td>
<td>Rogers to Diamond</td>
<td>Handwritten; one page.</td>
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<td>69</td>
<td>30 March 1940</td>
<td>Rogers to Diamond</td>
<td>Handwritten; one page both sides.</td>
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<td>70</td>
<td>18 May 1940</td>
<td>Rogers to Diamond</td>
<td>Handwritten; postcard.</td>
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<td>71</td>
<td>3 September 1940</td>
<td>Rogers to Diamond</td>
<td>Handwritten; postcard.</td>
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<td>72</td>
<td>10 December 1940</td>
<td>Rogers to Diamond</td>
<td>Handwritten; one page both sides.</td>
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<td>73</td>
<td>27 February 1940</td>
<td>Rogers to Diamond</td>
<td>Two pages.</td>
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<td>74</td>
<td>27 January 1941</td>
<td>Rogers to Diamond</td>
<td>Handwritten; postcard.</td>
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<td>75</td>
<td>24 February 1941</td>
<td>Rogers to Diamond</td>
<td>Handwritten; postcard.</td>
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<td>76</td>
<td>Undated</td>
<td>Rogers to Diamond</td>
<td>Two letters; handwritten; one page each.</td>
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<td>77</td>
<td>10 March 1941</td>
<td>Rogers to Diamond</td>
<td>Handwritten; postcard.</td>
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<tr>
<td>78</td>
<td>22 March 1941</td>
<td>Rogers to Diamond</td>
<td>Handwritten; postcard.</td>
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<td>79</td>
<td>31 March 1941</td>
<td>Rogers to Diamond</td>
<td>Handwritten; postcard.</td>
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<td>80</td>
<td>14 April 1941</td>
<td>Rogers to Diamond</td>
<td>Handwritten; postcard.</td>
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<td>81</td>
<td>31 March 1941</td>
<td>Rogers to Diamond</td>
<td>Handwritten; postcard.</td>
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<tr>
<td>82</td>
<td>Undated</td>
<td>Rogers to Diamond</td>
<td>Two items; handwritten; two pages both sides and one page one side, respectively.</td>
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<td>1 December 1941</td>
<td>Rogers to Diamond</td>
<td>Handwritten; postcard.</td>
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<td>84</td>
<td>22 December 1941</td>
<td>Rogers to Diamond</td>
<td>Handwritten; one page.</td>
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<td>Folder</td>
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<td>Author</td>
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<td>85</td>
<td>7 February 1942</td>
<td>Rogers</td>
<td>Diamond</td>
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<td>Undated, ca. 1941-42</td>
<td>Rogers</td>
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<td>87</td>
<td>15 March 1942</td>
<td>Rogers</td>
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<td>23 March 1942</td>
<td>Rogers</td>
<td>Diamond</td>
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<td>Rogers</td>
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<td>7 August 1942</td>
<td>Rogers</td>
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<td>5 October 1942</td>
<td>Rogers</td>
<td>Diamond</td>
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<td>92</td>
<td>9 December 1942</td>
<td>Rogers</td>
<td>Diamond</td>
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<td>19 December 1942</td>
<td>Rogers</td>
<td>Diamond</td>
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<td>Undated, ca. 1942-43</td>
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<td>Diamond</td>
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<td>Undated, ca. 1943-45</td>
<td>Rogers</td>
<td>Diamond</td>
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<td>96</td>
<td>8 February 1943</td>
<td>Rogers</td>
<td>Diamond</td>
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<td>97</td>
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<td>Rogers</td>
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<td>10 September 1943</td>
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<td>Undated, ca. 1943-44</td>
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<td>104</td>
<td>20 October 1943</td>
<td>Rogers</td>
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<td>105</td>
<td>6 November 1943</td>
<td>Rogers</td>
<td>Diamond</td>
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<td>106</td>
<td>15 November 1943</td>
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<td>107</td>
<td>29 November 1943</td>
<td>Rogers</td>
<td>Diamond</td>
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folder 108  Undated, ca 1943/44. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; one page.
folder 109  12 January 1944. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; one page.
folder 110  31 January 1944. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; postcard.
folder 111  14 February 1944. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; one page both sides.
folder 112  16 February 1944. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; postcard.
folder 113  21 February 1944. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; two pages.
folder 114  8 May 1944. Rogers to Diamond. Two postcards, both handwritten.
folder 115  25 May 1944. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; postcard.
folder 117  4 September 1944. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; card, both sides.
folder 118  15 October 1944. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; one page.
folder 119  23 October 1944. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; postcard.
folder 120  21 February 1945. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; postcard.
folder 121  26 June 1945. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; postcard.

Box 2

folder 1  13 September 1945. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; postcard.
folder 2  23 October 1945. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; postcard.
folder 3  26 February 1946. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; postcard.
folder 4  August - October 1946. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; three postcards.
folder 5  Undated. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; one page.
folder 6  16 January 1947. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; one page both sides.
folder 7  
22 January 1947. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; one page both sides.

folder 8  

folder 9  
10 January 1948. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; one page both sides.

folder 10  
6 February 1948. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; one page both sides.

folder 11  

folder 12  
16 April. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; one page.

folder 13  
18 May 1948. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; one page.

folder 14  
16 October 1948. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; one page both sides.

folder 15  
October 1948. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; postcard.

folder 16  
12 November 1948. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; one page.

folder 17  
31 December 1948. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; one page.

folder 18  
Undated. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; one page.

folder 19  
26 February 1949 Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; postcard.

folder 20  

folder 21  
4 December 1958. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; three pages.

folder 22  
20 December 1958. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; aerogram.

folder 23  

folder 24  
7 February 1959. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; aerogram.

folder 25  

folder 26  
16 March 1959. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; one page both sides.

folder 27  

folder 28  

folder 29  
2 August 1959. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; aerogram.
folder 30  10 August 1959. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; one page both sides.
folder 31  26 October 1959. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; aerogram.
folder 32  8 December 1959. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; aerogram.
folder 33  2 April 1960. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; aerogram.
folder 34  30 November 1960. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; aerogram.
folder 40  18 December 1962. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; aerogram.
folder 48  13 November 1963. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; one page both sides.
folder 49  20 November 1963. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; one page.
folder 51  9 August 1964. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; aerogram.
folder 52  13 November 1964. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; aerogram.

folder 54  12 December 1965. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; two pages.


folder 56  Undated, ca 1965-67. Rogers to Diamond. Two items, handwritten; one and two pages, respectively.

folder 57  15 March 1966. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; one page.


folder 60  25 May 1967. Rogers to Diamond. Handwritten; one page.

folder 61  Items from Betty Rogers to Diamond, 1968. Includes a list of Rogers' works and two handwritten note cards.