Photograph from The Score, 1977.
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DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Shelf location: A3A 1,3

Extent: 2 linear feet

Biographical sketch

Dr. Donald J. Shetler, music educator, was born on July 22nd, 1926, in Bad Axe, Michigan. He received the BS degree in music education from East Tennessee State University, and the M.Mus. and EdD. degrees from the University of Michigan. Shetler also studied violoncello with Oliver Edel, and trumpet with Clifford Lillya. He was awarded research grants from the National Educational Television Research Center and the Rackham Graduate School (University of Michigan). His doctoral dissertation was one of the first to employ computer data analysis and to focus on the new field of educational television. Much of his dissertation research was carried out at the National Music Camp (Interlochen, Michigan), where he was a member of the radio and film staff for several summers.

Dr. Shetler was named Adjunct Professor of Music at Charleston Southern University (North Charleston, South Carolina), and became internationally known for his research in the areas of fetal music response and arts education curriculum development. Thereafter, he served on the faculty of the Eastman School of Music from 1965 until his retirement in 1988, serving part of that time as Chairman of the Music Education department. He was the first Eastman faculty member to be awarded a University of Rochester Bridging Fellowship, which supported inter-disciplinary study by faculty members in schools across the University. In addition to his full-time faculty appointments, Dr. Shetler held visiting professorships at no fewer than 22 colleges over the course of his career.
He was the author of the books *Film Guide for Music Educators* and *In Memoriam Howard Hanson: Future of Musical Education in America*. His study of the influence of music on the pre-natal infant, involving the later development of language and memory skills in children exposed to music in utero, is often cited by other researchers. In 1965 he founded the Suzuki Talent Education Program and served as its first director until 1971. Alongside his academic work, Dr. Shetler maintained a busy schedule as a performing musician. Dr. Shetler served as principal cellist and assistant conductor of the Cleveland Philharmonic Orchestra. He also was a cellist in the civic orchestras of Ann Arbor, Michigan; of Jackson, Michigan; and of Toledo, Ohio. In 1989-90 he conducted the College of Charleston Community Orchestra in 1989 to 1990. He also played trumpet in several jazz groups.

Dr. Shetler died on May 31, 2014, in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

**Provenance**

The collection was the gift of Dr. Shetler, rendered in seven installments between August 2000 and October 2000.

**Scope and content**

The collection is comprised of research papers and other writings by Dr. Donald J. Shetler, extant in the form of published copies, off prints, and unpublished drafts. Certain other documents, including newspaper clippings, reflect Dr. Shetler’s professional interests and Eastman School of Music activities.

**Restrictions on use**

There are no restrictions on use of the collection other than those imposed by the provisions of the United States Copyright Law and its revisions. Due permission must be obtained from all copyright holders before reproductions will be granted.

**Associations**

The Donald J. Shetler Collection is one of numerous collections of professional papers deposited by ESM faculty members at the Ruth T. Watanabe Special Collections. In the field of music education, relevant collections include the papers of Marie Erhart Pearson, Marvin J. Rabin, Mitchell Robinson, and Frederick W. Westphal. In addition, other faculty members’ collections touch on instrumental pedagogy in fundamental ways that parallel and mirror music education; such collections include the papers of John Celentano and George MacNabb. RTWSC also holds, on deposit, the archives of both the New York State School Music Association and the American Orff-Schulwerk Association.
DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

Series 1: Original writings

The collection is comprised of one series, containing research papers and other writings by Dr. Donald J. Shetler, extant in the form of published copies, off-prints, and unpublished drafts. Certain other documents, including newspaper clippings, reflect Dr. Shetler’s professional interests and Eastman School of Music activities.

The sub-division of the series into seven sub-series reflects an arrangement posited by Dr. Shetler himself along thematic grounds, outlined in a letter of August 23, 2000. For the researcher’s enlightenment, the collection holds photocopies of relevant correspondence received from Dr. Shetler (in box 5/10). The seven letters provide citations of the writings herein cited, together with Dr. Shetler’s own commentary on same.
INVENTORY

Box 1

Sub-series 1: Work in audio-visual and instructional technology


folder 4  Film Guide for Music Educators. Published by the MENC, 1961.

folder 5  “The Future is Now.” In: The Instrumentalist, August 1961, pages 33-34.


Sub-series 2: Involvement in public relations, fundraising, and proposal writing


folder 26 “. . .If We Only Had the Money: A Guide to Resources for Funding School Arts Education Programs and Projects.” For the ABC/South Carolina Arts Commission/Arts Leadership Institute at Furman University (Greenville, South Carolina), 1994. 20 pages.

Sub-series 3: Involvement with music and arts education for the handicapped and for the gifted

Box 2


Sub-series 4: Research project on symphony orchestra musicians


Box 3


Sub-series 5:  The Tanglewood Symposium of the MENC (1967)


folder 14  “The Editor Comments” [regularly appearing column; the last in DJS’ capacity as Editor]. In: *Triad: Official Publication of the Ohio Music Education Association*, vol. XXXII, no. 6 (May-June, 1965), pages 4-5.


*Sub-series 6: Neo-natal research*

*Box 4*

folder 1  Newspaper and magazine clippings from the Rochester (New York) press and from the *Charleston News and Courier*, providing citations and commentary on DJS work appearing in *Omni* and *Glamour* magazines.


folder 7  Registration paperwork for ETN course Pre- & Peri-natal Music Response. DJS cited therein as a guest lecturer.

*Sub-series 7: Pertaining to the history of music education*

**Box 5**


folder 3  *Education: Music Education Number*, vol. 74, no. 1 (September, 1953).

folder 4  The Tanglewood Symposium of the MENC on “Music Education in American Society,” convened at Tanglewood (Lenox, Massachusetts) from July 23rd to August 2nd, 1967. Contains numerous memoranda, papers, items of correspondence, and texts of presentations delivered during the Symposium.

folder 5  Unpublished speeches and presentations, the bulk dating from the 1970s.


folder 7  Evaluation reports. Sampling of the more than 23 such reports written by DJS.

folder 8  *SOUTH CAROLINA VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS CURRICULUM STANDARDS*. Published by the South Carolina Department of Education. Includes curriculum standards for all of the arts (music included) required in the schools of the state; the standards were officially adopted by the State Board of Education in 1999.
folder 9  Donald J. Shetler: curricula vitae; lists of masters theses and doctoral dissertations advised; and list of publications (prepared in 1987).

folder 10  Correspondence.
Contains photocopies of seven letters received from Dr. Shetler, dated August 23rd, 2000 (accompanied deposit 1); August 29th, 2000 (accompanied deposit 2); September 1st, 2000 (accompanied deposit 3); September 9th, 2000 (accompanied deposit 4); September 16th, 2000 (accompanied deposit 5); September 29th, 2000 (accompanied deposit 6); and October 11th, 2000 (accompanied deposit 7).