Photograph of Homer Todd Keller conducting the 548th Army Air Force Band (ca. 1943).
From Homer Todd Keller Library, Box 11, Item 1 (scrapbook).

Photograph of Homer Todd Keller (ca. 1943). From Homer Todd Keller Library, Box 11, Item 1 (scrapbook).
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DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Shelf location: M3A 6,2-6

Physical extent: 14 linear feet

Biographical Sketch

Homer Todd Keller, composer and music educator, was born February 17, 1915, in Oxnard, California. He studied composition with Howard Hanson and Bernard Rogers at the Eastman School of Music and received the Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees in 1937 and 1938, respectively. Following his studies at Eastman, Keller joined the music faculty of Fort Hays Kansas State College, where he remained until 1941. Subsequent faculty positions included Visiting Instructor at the Indiana University School of Music (1941-42), Instructor and Assistant Professor at the University of Michigan (1947-55), and Guest Lecturer at the University of Hawaii and Punahou Settlement (HI) Music School (1955-57). Between 1942 and 1947, Keller undertook a tour of duty in the United States Army, serving in the South Pacific as leader of the 548th Army Air Force Band and teaching music history at Manila's De La Salle College for the Armed Forces. During the summers of 1947-1953, Keller was on the composition faculty of the National Music Camp at Interlochen, Michigan. His longest academic appointment was at the University of Oregon, where he taught from 1958 until his retirement in 1978. Homer Keller's first major recognition as a composer came in 1940, when his Symphony No. 1 in A minor (completed as his ESM master's thesis) won the Henry Hadley Foundation prize and was performed in Carnegie Hall. In 1949, Ojai Festivals, Inc., commissioned a piano concerto from Keller, which was premiered at the festival that summer by Shura Cherkassky. In 1950, Keller received a Fulbright grant, which enabled him to study composition with Arthur Honegger at the Ecole Normale de Musique in Paris, France. Also in 1950, the National Symphony Orchestra performed Keller's Symphony No. 2. In 1956, the
Honolulu Symphony premiered the Symphony No. 3 in E major. In addition to the Piano Concerto and the three symphonies, Keller's large works include a Chamber Symphony (1941) and a Symphony for Band (1960?). Large works incorporating voices include *The Raider* (1943), for men's chorus and brass instruments, and *Magnificat* (1948), for mixed chorus and wind instruments. His many chamber works include sonatas for bassoon, viola, organ, and flute; two Piano sonatinas; three string quartets; and various compositions for mixed ensembles. During his years in Hawaii, Keller developed a strong interest in the folk song of that region, transcribing and arranging many Hawaiian melodies. Keller's publishers included Carl Fischer, H. W. Gray, Robert King, and Associated Music Publishers, Inc. Among his professional affiliations were the American Composers Alliance, Oregon Music Teachers Association, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Pi Kappa Lambda, and the MacDowell Colony, where he was a resident during the summers of 1938 and 1940. Homer Keller died May 12, 1996, in Upland, California, leaving no direct descendants.

**Provenance**

The Homer Todd Keller Library is the gift of the Charles R. Keller, Jr., Family and the John M. Johnston Family, given to the Sibley Music Library in the summer and fall of 2000.

**Scope and Content**

The collection contains materials pertaining to a wide cross-section of Homer Keller's activities. Most prominently represented are the manuscripts of Keller's many compositions; the only major work lacking is the Piano Concerto (1949). A sizeable collection of reel-to-reel magnetic tape recordings complements the manuscript inventory. The development of Keller's career as a composer can easily be traced via the numerous and carefully preserved concert programs, newspaper reviews, and other publicity materials. A selection of correspondence and miscellaneous personal papers gives insight into Homer Keller's extracurricular interests and activities. Unfortunately, this collection contains few materials generated by Keller's career as an educator.

**Restrictions**

There are no restrictions on use, except where copyright, performance rights, and broadcast rights pertain to persons other than Homer Todd Keller.

**Associations**

The Homer Todd Keller Collection forms a part of the growing number of collections—together with those of Gardner Read, Gordon Binkerd, Will Gay Bottje, Malcolm Seagrave, Wayne Barlow, and others—representing the large body of Eastman School alumni from the Howard Hanson era who, on completing their formal education, went on to pursue active careers in composition and academia.
DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

Series 1: Music Manuscripts

This series contains original manuscripts and reproductions of a variety of works by Homer Keller and several of his associates. Although final or fair copies are the most numerous, a few works are represented by sketches or early drafts.

Sub-series A: Works by Homer Keller

Sub-series B: Works by other composers

Series 2: Assorted Papers

The materials in this series, all compiled or preserved by Homer Keller himself, constitute the sole available thing most closely approximating a Keller autobiography. Most useful is the comprehensive collection of programs and reviews, which permit a detailed, if not wholly exhaustive, reconstruction of Keller's activities as a composer. A few materials relating to Keller's personal life date primarily from his younger years.

Sub-series A: Correspondence

A selection of correspondence sent and received, primarily concerning matters of business. The Keller scrapbooks and bound files also contain some articles of correspondence. Correspondence regarding the MacDowell colony is housed with the other items of the MacDowell series.

Sub-series B: Programs

While not necessarily a comprehensive collection, this extensive compilation of programs documents the performances of Homer Keller's works throughout his career. The substantial, though again likely not exhaustive, collection of non-Keller programs provides insight as to what works Keller heard in performance and when. Some additional programs are housed in the Keller scrapbooks and small black binders.

Sub-series C: Clippings

Contains items compiled by Homer Keller as well as by various clipping services. Included are reviews of Keller's compositions; particularly extensive are those regarding the 1949 and 1950 Ojai Festival performances of the Piano Concerto. Also of interest are the many articles on American music and contemporary musical trends and composers. A small collection of general-interest articles is included, which may give insight as to Keller's extra-professional interests.
Sub-series D: Miscellaneous papers

Items from the MacDowell Colony, the National Music Camp at Interlochen, Keller's tour of duty in the Armed Forces, and the few surviving materials documenting Keller's career as an educator are preserved here.

Sub-series E: Photographs and Scrapbooks

Keller's photograph albums and scrapbooks provide a window onto the composer's personal life. One scrapbook was compiled by Keller in his youth; the others serve as a repository for clippings which may be duplicated in the larger, unbound clippings collection. The photograph albums contain black-and-white shots from ca. 1935-50, including pictures of Rochester's High Falls, Keller with his military band, and classified war-era military photographs and maps.

Series 3: Printed Matter

This series contains an assortment of published matter, including music, books, and institutional catalogues and pamphlets.

Sub-series A: Music

This sub-series consists primarily of Piano music and miniature scores. A few are heavily marked in Keller's hand, but most are lightly marked or entirely lacking in annotation.

Sub-series B: Catalogues

Contains alumni publications from various academic institutions, as well as inventory catalogues from music publishers.

Sub-series C: Books

Contains reference works, music textbooks, and a few volumes of poetry and nonfiction.

Series 4: Recordings

This series features primarily master copies of Keller’s own works. Several cassettes contain various performances of organ music recorded by Keller's friend David Hatt. Two discs from the Eastman School's Eastman Audio Archive, recorded during Keller's student years, complete the series.
INVENTORY

**Series 1: Music Manuscripts**

*Sub-series 1: Works by Homer Keller*

**Box 1**

**folder 1**  *Chamber Symphony*. 13 instrumental parts. Manuscript facsimile.

**folder 2**  *Serenade for Clarinet and Strings*. Piano score. 6 pp. Dedicated to Howard Hanson. Manuscript facsimile with emendations in red and blue pencil. Accompanied by a letter from Sally O'Brien, Publication Dept., Carl Fischer, Inc.

**folder 3**  *Sonorities for Orchestra* (II). Piano sketch. Pencil with ink emendations. 8 pp.

**folder 4**  *Sonorities for Orchestra*. 55 instrumental parts. Manuscript facsimile.

**folder 5**  *Symphony No. 1 in A minor*. Instrumental parts: 5 complete, one incomplete. Manuscript facsimile.


**folder 7**  Unidentified. Pencil sketch. Scored for band and vocal. 3 pp.


**folder 10**  *Declaration for Violin, Cello, and Piano*. Instrumental parts (2 violin, 2 cello). Manuscript facsimile.


**Box 2**

**folder 1**  *Duo for Violin and Harpsichord*. July 18, 1960. Harpsichord score (10 pp.) and violin part (3 pp.). Dedicated to Harris Goldman and John Hamilton. Manuscript facsimile.


folder 10  String Quartet (1958).  Score (22 pp.) and parts.  Score is identical to the above, including dedication; parts lack dedication.  Manuscript facsimile.  Emendations in pencil.


Box 3


folder 12  For behold, I create new heavens and a new Earth. Performance parts. Photocopies. Manuscript reproduction with pencil emendations by individual performers. 6 pp. 8 copies. Ink manuscript included.

Box 4


folder 10  Dear old Palama.  Piano score with text.  Manuscript reproduction with emendations in pencil.  1 p.


folder 13  A ree rang (SATB score).  SATB score.  Manuscript reproduction with emendations in pencil.  4 pp.

folder 14  A ree rang (instrumental parts).  Manuscript reproduction.  5 parts.

folder 15  A ree rang (draft).  Short score.  Pencil draft with numerous emendations in ink and red pencil.  4 pp.


folder 18  Imi Au Ia Oe (King's Serenade).  Arranged for Piano and violin.  Manuscript reproduction.  9 pp. total.


folder 27  Oriental folk song arrangement. Song title is given in Oriental characters. Violin part (2 copies) and violin/Piano score (3 copies). Manuscript reproduction. 8 pp. total.

Box 20

folder 1  Symphony for Band (I) (parts). Manuscript reproduction parts.
folder 2  Symphony for Band (I) (parts). Ozalid parts.
folder 3  Symphony for Band (II) (parts). Ozalid parts.
folder 4  Symphony for Band (II) (parts). Ozalid parts.
folder 5  Symphony for Band (III) (parts). Manuscript reproduction parts.
folder 6  Symphony for Band (III) (parts). Ozalid parts. Possibly incomplete.
folder 7  Miscellaneous sketches. Miscellaneous sketches, loose and spiral-bound.
folder 8  Pop arrangements. Various pop and jazz arrangements.
folder 11  Andante con moto and Allegretto for Band. February 1937. Original manuscripts.
folder 12  Andante for Orchestra. February 1937. Original final copy manuscript.
Box 21

folder 1  String Quartet No. 1 (score). Summer 1935. Original manuscript final copy.


folder 3  String Quartet No. 2 (score). June 1937. One ink manuscript; two pencil manuscripts.

folder 4  String Quartet No. 2 (parts). n. d. Ink manuscript parts.


folder 7  Declaration for Violin, Cello, and Piano. October 16, 1966. American Composers Alliance manuscript reproduction. Piano score (2 copies); cello part (one copy; inserted in Piano score copy No. 1). Bound.


folder 11 Bagatelles for Flute and Piano. n.d. Pencil draft; finished Piano score.


item 15 – 17 Continued in Series 4.

Box 28


item 2  Interplay. April 2, 1969. American Composers Alliance manuscript facsimile.


item 8  Chamber Symphony. Mar. 1941. Ink manuscript with pencil emendations. 34 pp.


Box 29

item 1  Piano Compositions, 1935-1937. 1935-37. Spiral-bound manuscript facsimile. Contains Three Pieces; Sonatina No. 1; Sonatina No. 2; Six Preludes. Inscribed, "For Ellen / Love, Homer".


item 3  Symphony No. 2. February 22, 1948. Spiral bound manuscript reproduction. Full score. Performances listed in pencil inside front cover.

item 4  Symphony No. 2. February 22, 1948. Spiral bound manuscript reproduction with emendations in pencil. Full score. Program from premiere performance taped inside front cover.

item 5  Sonorities for Orchestra. December 1970. Manuscript reproduction with pencil
emendations. Full score. 36 pp.

item 6 Chamber Symphony. March 24, 1941. Spiral bound manuscript reproduction with emendations in red pencil. Full score. 31 pp.

item 7 Serenade for Clarinet and Strings. 1947. Folder contains manuscript reproductions of string parts and the full score; a pencil copy of the clarinet part; and the original manuscript score, which is inscribed to Mrs. Castle.

item 8 Chamber Symphony. March 24, 1941. Spiral-bound manuscript reproduction. Full score. 31 pp.

Box 30


item 5 Symphony for Band. May 10, 1960. Ink manuscript with emendations in red pencil. Full score.

item 6 Symphony for Band. November 21, 1959. Spiral-bound ink manuscript, first movement only. With unbound ozalid copy of all three movements.

Sub-series B: Works by other composers

Box 4


folder 34 [Various]. Contains photocopies of works by Cage, Debussy, Roger Nixon, and Josquin, and an original imprint of "Interlochen Themes" by Howard Hanson.
Box 20

folder 9  Becker, David.  Five Pieces for Clarinet and Bassoon.  Manuscript score reproduction.

folder 10  Riley, Terry.  In C.  Parts and background information.

Box 21


Box 30

item 7  Appleton, Jon.  After Nude Descending A Staircase.  n.d.  Spiral-bound manuscript facsimile.  Full score.  Inscribed "For my friend and professor, Homer Keller with respect and admiration / Jon Appleton".

**Series 2: Assorted Papers**

*Sub-series A: Correspondence*

Box 5

folder 1  Correspondence sent (professional), 1948-77.

folder 2  Correspondence received (personal), 1947-76.

folder 3  Miscellaneous envelopes.

Box 6

folder 1  Correspondence received (professional), 1949-67.

folder 2  Correspondence received (professional), 1968-81.

*Sub-series B: Programs*

Box 7

folder 1  1930-49.  Programs featuring compositions of, or performances by, Homer Keller.

folder 2  1950-59.  Programs featuring compositions of, or performances by, Homer Keller.
folder 3 1960-69. Programs featuring compositions of, or performances by, Homer Keller.

folder 4 1970-79. Programs featuring compositions of, or performances by, Homer Keller.

folder 5 1980-89 and undated. Programs featuring compositions of, or performances by, Homer Keller.

folder 6 1930-39. Programs that do not include Homer Keller as a participant.

folder 7 1940-49. Programs that do not include Homer Keller as a participant.

folder 8 1950-59. Programs that do not include Homer Keller as a participant.

folder 9 1960-69. Programs that do not include Homer Keller as a participant.

folder 10 1970-79. Programs that do not include Homer Keller as a participant.

folder 11 Undated. Programs that do not include Homer Keller as a participant.

Box 9

item 1 Notebook of programs, Fall 1935-Spring 1938. Includes programs from such groups as the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the University of California Symphony Orchestra as well as ESM ensembles.

item 2 Notebook of programs, Fall 1938-Spring 1941.

Box 22

item 1 Notebook of programs, Fall 1935-Spring 1938. Includes programs from the New York Philharmonic, University of California, Boston and Philadelphia orchestras, and others. Some programs bear autographs.


item 3 Notebook of programs. 1938-41. Contains programs from the Eastman American Composers' Concerts and other Eastman and non-Eastman performances.

item 4 Notebook of programs, 1941-42. 1941-42. Contains programs from Fort Hays, Eastman, and elsewhere.
Sub-series C: Clippings

Box 7

folder 12  1949 Ojai Festival.
folder 13  1950 Ojai Festival.
folder 14  Miscellaneous reviews.

Box 8

folder 1  Activities in Eugene, Oregon.
folder 3  Fulbright-year (1950) clippings.
folder 4  Military clippings.
folder 5  Miscellaneous clippings. Includes a human interest article from a Hawaii newspaper, the script for a radio broadcast, a press release relating to a Keller pupil, and the October 1958 issue of Music of the West (Keller cover).
folder 7  General press clippings, 1951-58.
folder 8  General press clippings, miscellaneous and undated.
folder 9  General press clippings, miscellaneous and undated.
folder 10  General press clippings, miscellaneous and undated.

Box 10

Sub-series D: Miscellaneous papers

Box 8

folder 12       Health-related materials (exercise guides, clinical records, information packets).
folder 13       Materials pertaining to Keller's employment at the University of Oregon
folder 14       Miscellaneous personal papers.
folder 15       Miscellaneous personal papers.

Box 18

folder 1       National Music Camp, Interlochen: pre-1968
folder 3       National Music Camp, Interlochen: 1969
folder 5       National Music Camp, Interlochen: 1971
folder 9       National Music Camp, Interlochen: 1975
folder 10      National Music Camp, Interlochen: 1976
folder 11      National Music Camp, Interlochen: 1977

Box 19

folder 1       Personal papers (military service), ca. 1940-1950.
folder 2       Personal papers (MacDowell Colony), 1938-1982.
folder 3       Personal papers (society bulletins from the American Composers Alliance, American Music Center, National Association of Composers, Oregon Music Teachers Association, and other groups).
folder 4  Personal papers (evaluations and student papers from Keller's teaching career).

folder 5  Personal papers (Fulbright materials), ca. 1950.

Box 23


Box 24

folder 1  “Private Papers--Special Orders. ca. 1942-45.” Miscellaneous bound documents pertaining to Keller's tour of duty in the U. S. Army. Some leaves have suffered fire damage.


Sub-series E: Photographs and Scrapbooks

Box 9

folder 1  Oxnard Union High School Yearbook, 1933. Photocopy.

folder 2  Miscellaneous photographs.

folder 3  Loose scrapbook pages; Hadley mementos.

item 3  Photograph album. Contains photographs from Rochester, Chicago, Kansas, Florida, California, and elsewhere; many are labeled.

item 4  Photograph album. Contains loose and mounted pictures related to World War II (band performances, base photographs, etc.). Some maps are included as well.

Box 11

item 1  Scrapbook, ca. 1943. Contains items relating primarily to Keller’s tour of duty during World War II.

Box 12

item 1  Scrapbook, ca. 1925.
Box 13

item 1  Scrapbook, ca. 1937-45.

Box 22


item 7  n.d.  Pencil sketch of a coat. Unsigned.

item 8  n.d.  Ink and colored pencil sketch of a sailboat. Signed R. Trumble?.

Series 3: Printed Matter

Sub-series A: Music

Box 14


item 23  *Fifty-One Piano Pieces from the Modern Repertoire.* New York: G. Schirmer, 1940.

Box 15


item 27  *Wings of the Spirit*.  Independently published, spiral-bound hymnal.

Box 22

item 6  Hindemith, Paul.  Framed leaf of "In Praise of Music."  Inscribed "To Homer Keller with best wishes.  Paul Hindemith."  ca. 1943?


item 7  Framed page of "Dies Irae" in ligature notation.

item 8  Framed chant fragment from a personal devotional volume.  Late fifteenth century; provenance unknown.

Sub-series B: Catalogues

Box 13

folder 1  Publishers' catalogues, ca. 1940-1986: Carl Fischer, AMP, BMI, Ludwig, CRI, AMC, others. Larger publications are housed, unfolded, in Box 13.


Sub-series C: Books

Box 16

item 1  Baker's Biographical Dictionary of Musicians. New York: G. Schirmer, 1940.


item 11  Information for Bearers of Passports. U.S. Department of State: Passport Division, 1950.


item 6  Bortolini, Memi.  *Italy.* Edizione E.N.I.T. Italie, [n.d.].


item 15  *Alice in Wonderland and Other Favorites.* New York: Pocket Books, 1951.


**Series 4: Recordings**

**Box 21**


item 16  Americana for Solo Winds and String Orchestra. Howard Hanson, conductor. Eastman Rochester Symphony Orchestra. LP.


**Box 25**

item 1  Keller, Homer. Flute Sonata. [n.d.]. 7" reel.


item 6  Keller, Homer. KWAX interview. October 22, 1979. 7" reel.


item 8  Keller, Homer. Retirement concert. May 1, 1977. 7" reel.

item 9  Keller, Homer. Sonorities for Orchestra. [n.d.]. 7" reel.
item 10  Keller, Homer.  Symphony No. 3. December 9, 11, 1956.  7” reel.

item 11  Keller, Homer.  [Selections].  [n.d.].  7” reel.

item 12  Ravel, Maurice.  Daphnis et Chloe (complete).  7” reel.

item 13  Unidentified.  [n.d.].  7” reel.

Box 26

item 1  Keller, Homer.  Americana; Serenade.  [n.d.].

item 2  Keller, Homer.  [Unknown].  November 1986?


item 5  Keller, Homer.  [Selections].  [n.d.].

item 6  Keller, Homer.  Piano Sonata.  September 3, 1993?


item 8  Keller, Homer.  Sonorities for Orchestra.  [n.d.].

items 9-13  [Unknown].  Five cassettes.  [n.d.].

item 14  Adams, John.  Harmonium.  [n.d.].

item 15  Hanson, Howard.  [Selections].  [n.d.].

item 16  Scriabin, Alexander.  [Selections].  [n.d.].

item 17  Mumma, Gordon.  Selections from the Sixpac Sonatas.  [n.d.].

item 18  Rachmaninoff, Sergei.  Symphony No. 2.  [n.d.].

item 19  Perspectives of New Music, Vol. 25.  1987.


item 22  [Selections.]  David Hatt, organist.  [n.d.].
item 23  [Selections.]  David Hatt, organist.  [n.d.].


item 25  Pre-Encounter Hypnosis with Dick Sutphen.  1978.


item 28  Homer Keller, Symphony #3.  George Barati – Honolulu Symphony Orchestra.  Schubert, Quartet for Flute, Guitar, viola and Cello.  Hoffmann, Mandolin Concerto.  #7 reel.

Box 27


item 3  Keller, Homer.  Declaration.  November 12, 1967.  5” reel.


item 5  Keller, Homer.  Interplay Tape Part.  [n.d.].  5” reel.


item 7  Keller, Homer.  Sonata for cello and Piano.  [n.d.].  5” reel.

item 8  Keller, Homer.  Sonata for cello and Piano.  [n.d.].  5” reel.


item 10  Keller, Homer.  Symphony No. 3.  December 11, 1956.  5” reel.


item 14  [Selections].  [n.d.].  Keller, Homer.  5” reel.
item 15 [Selections]. [n.d.]. Keller, Homer. 5" reel.

item 16 [Selections], copy 1. [n.d.]. Keller, Homer. 5" reel.

item 17 [Selections], copy 2. [n.d.]. Keller, Homer. 5" reel.


item 26 Martino, Donald and Chris Dench. Quodlibets II; Pianississimo: A Sonata for Piano; Sulle Scale della Fenice. Perspectives of New Music, Vol. 29. 1991.