

JEROME NEFF COLLECTION

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SIBLEY MUSIC LIBRARY

EASTMAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

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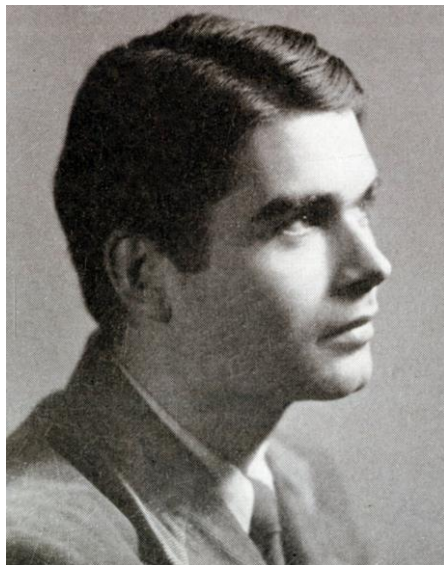
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DESCRIPTION OF COLLECTION

Shelf location: M2A 6,6

Physical extent: .25 linear feet

Biographical Sketch



Photograph from The Score (1951).

Jerome (Jerry) P. Neff—composer and percussionist—was born on January 1, 1930, in New Rochelle, NY. He grew up in Birmingham, MI, where he attended Cranbrook School and Baldwin High School. Before matriculating to the Eastman School of Music, Neff won first prize in the Scholastic magazine’s competition for high school composers for two consecutive years. At Eastman, he studied composition and percussion, earning a bachelor’s degree in 1951, after which he completed graduate studies at the University of Michigan (MM 1957) and pursued further studies at Trinity College of Music in London and with Nadia Boulanger in Paris.

Neff taught briefly at Hollins College in Virginia, the University of Buffalo, Millbrook School, and the Vermont Academy before ultimately settling in California. By 1969, he had joined the Oakland Symphony as a percussionist; he would later become the symphony’s principal percussionist. In 1979, Neff launched the symphony’s “Wee Pals” concert series for young children, a collaboration between Neff and the cartoonist Morrie Turner. The highly popular concerts featured projections of characters from Turner’s syndicated “Wee Pals” strip accompanied by music conducted and narrated by Neff. In the 1980s, Neff also served as host-conductor for the symphony’s imaginative “Discovery” programs at the Oakland Museum.

In 1970, Neff joined the faculty of California State University, East Bay, in Hayward, where he taught percussion as well as a wide variety of music classes for majors and non-majors. He also performed and collaborated with several instrumental groups in the Bay Area, including

the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players, the Mills Performing Group, and the Jerome Neff Percussion Ensemble. He retired from full-time teaching at CSU East Bay in 1986 and participated in the university's Faculty Early Retirement Program through 1992.

Jerome P. Neff passed away on October 24, 2013, at his home near Canterbury, England, where he had been living with his wife, Jill, since his retirement in 1986.

Provenance

Unknown, but presumably a gift of Neff.

Scope and Content

The collection contains eight music manuscripts, all apparently composed by Neff while a student at the Eastman School of Music.

Restrictions

None, save for those of United States copyright law (where applicable).

Associations

RTWSC holds a growing number of collections that document the careers of composer-graduates of the Eastman School of Music, several of which contain multiple student works from the respective composers' studies at Eastman. Among this number are the collections of Wayne Barlow (BM 1934, MM 1935, PhD 1937), John La Montaine (BM 1942), and Burrill Phillips (BM 1932, MM 1933). Additionally, although the collections of William Bergsma (BA 1942, MM 1943), Leon Dallin (BM 1940, MM 1941), Louis Angelini (MM 1960, PhD 1968), Edward C. McIrvine (BM 1977), and D. Lee Gannon (BM 1988) do not feature a distinct series or sub-series of student works, these collections do preserve several manuscripts that date from the composers' studies at Eastman.

The Sibley Music Library also maintains archival copies of student degree compositions as well as the papers of several composition faculty members.

DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

Series 1: Manuscripts

This series contains manuscripts of eight original compositions by Jerome Neff, represented as holograph scores and/or performing sets of parts. The works, all of which appear to date from Neff's undergraduate studies at Eastman, have been arranged alphabetically by title.

INVENTORY

Series 1: Manuscripts

Box 1

- folder 1 *A²C*. For orchestra.
Holograph instrumental parts. Ink MS, including transparencies of string parts. 58 pp. of music. Undated.
- Parts represented (31 parts): Violin I (9 copies), Violin II (6 copies), Viola (6 copies), Cello (6 copies), Bass (5 copies), Piccolo, Flute I, Flute II, Oboe I, Oboe II, English horn, Clarinet I, Clarinet II, Bass Clarinet, Bassoon I, Bassoon II, Bassoon III, Horn II, Horn III, Horn IV, Trumpet I, Trumpet II, Trumpet III, Trombone I, Trombone II, Bass Trombone, Tuba, Tympani, Percussion I, Percussion II, Percussion III.
- folder 2 *Dos poemas de Xavier Abril*. For voice and piano.
Two movements: “Amanecer (Dawn)” ; “Nocturno.”
Holograph piano-vocal score in pencil. 11 pp. of music. Dated May–October 1949.
- folder 3 *Hey Nonny No!* For voice and piano.
Holograph piano-vocal score. 1 transparency, 1 MS repro (from transparency). 3 pp. of music, each. Undated.
- folder 4 *Movements*. For percussion ensemble.
Holograph condensed score in pencil. 2 pp. of music; diagram of instrument positioning on a third page. Undated.
- folder 5 *Primum Mobile Overture (Outer Space)*. For orchestra.
Holograph full score in ink (incomplete; consists of pp. 1–14 only). 14 pp. of music. Undated. Concluding leaves absent.
- folder 6 *Two Interludes for the Theater*. For orchestra.
Holograph instrumental parts. String parts MS repro, with inserts (ink MS); wind and percussion parts ink MS. 60 pp. of music. Undated.
- Parts represented (18 parts): Violin I (8 copies), Violin II (6 copies), Viola (4 copies), Celli (4 copies), Bass (2 copies), Flute, Piccolo, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, Horn I, Horn II, Trumpet I, Trumpet II, Trombone, Percussion, Piano, Harp.

folder 7

Winter. For voice and piano. Text by Percy Bysshe Shelley.

Holograph piano-vocal score (MS repro). Two copies. 2 pp. of music, each.
Undated.

folder 8

Arrangements of six Bartok songs. For orchestra.

*Movement titles: "At Doboz Inn," "Oh, oh, what's for supper," "Under
Pozson the Banks of the Danube are Green," "Near the Borders of
Bisztro," "String, string, string, turn the string," "Dawn."*

Holograph full score in ink. 43 pp. of music. Undated.

Holograph instrumental parts. String parts MS repro; wind and percussion
parts ink MS. 95 pp. of music. Undated.

Parts represented (26 parts): Violin I (8 copies), Violin II (6 copies), Viola (5
copies), Cello (5 copies), Bass (5 copies), Flute I, Flute II, Oboe I, Oboe II
and English Horn, Clarinet I, Clarinet II, Bassoon I, Bassoon II, Horn I,
Horn II, Horn III, Horn IV, Trumpet I, Trumpet II, Trombone I, Trombone
II, Trombone III, Piano and Celesta, Harp, Timpani, Percussion.