

LEWIS E. ROWELL PAPERS

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UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

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DESCRIPTION OF COLLECTION

Accession no.: 2023/11/17

Shelf location: C4A 10,1

Extent: 8 linear inches

Biographical Sketch



Photograph from The Score (1955).

Lewis Eugene Rowell (*b.* October 18, 1933, Fairport, NY) is a music theorist, composer, and educator whose research interests include time and rhythm, the music of India, and the philosophy of music. He earned his undergraduate degree—a Bachelor of Music with a concentration in music theory (1955)—from the Eastman School of Music, where he also studied trombone and voice as well as composition. He continued at Eastman for his graduate studies, earning the Doctor of Philosophy degree in 1958. His PhD dissertation, which was titled “Four Operas of Antonio Vivaldi” (i.e., *L’Atenaide*, 1729; *La fida ninfa*, 1732; *L’Olimpiade*, 1734; *La Griselda*, 1735), was the first major study of Vivaldi’s operatic output.

In 1958, Dr. Rowell joined the music faculty of the University of Oklahoma as Visiting Assistant Professor of Music History and Theory. His next appointment was at Indiana University, where he served briefly as an Instructor before being promoted to Associate Professor. In 1963, Dr. Rowell left Bloomington after being appointed Assistant Dean and Associate Professor of

Music at the University of Cincinnati College of Music. In 1969, he relocated to Honolulu to begin a position as Professor of Music Theory at the University of Hawaii, where he also served as chair of the graduate program in music. In the late 1970s, he returned to Indiana University as Professor of Music Theory and later, with his growing expertise in the music of India, also joined the university's Ethnomusicology and India Studies faculties. He retired from Indiana University in 2005, whereupon he was awarded emeritus status.

Dr. Rowell has received several awards for his scholarship, including research fellowships from the American Institute of Indian Studies and the Rockefeller Foundation, the American Musicological Society's Otto Kinkeldey Award (1993), and the University of Rochester's Distinguished Scholar Medal (1999). His published writings include the monographs *Thinking about Music: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Music* (University of Massachusetts Press, 1983) and *Music and Musical Thought in Early India* (University of Chicago Press, 1992).

Provenance

The Lewis E. Rowell Papers were the gift of author Robert Gjerdingen and were received by Sibley Music Library in November 2023.

Scope and Content

The Lewis E. Rowell Papers is comprised of material related to 26 unpublished papers of Dr. Rowell, including lecture scripts and notes, handouts, abstracts, and research or reference material. The materials date from the 1970s through the 2010s, and the topics covered—which range from rhythm and meter in Western music to the philosophy of music and metaphysics to the music of India and music in 21st-century culture—attest to the diversity of Dr. Rowell's research interests over the course of his career. The collection also contains four compact discs issued by Nimbus Records as *The Raga Guide: A Survey of 74 Hindustani Ragas* (1999).

Restrictions on use

There are no restrictions on the use of the Collection. Requests for reproductions of material protected by U.S. Copyright Law and its revisions will be granted only upon presentation of the written permission of all associated copyright holder(s).

Associations

RTWSC holds the professional papers and research notes of several musicology faculty and alumni, including performer-scholars. Particularly notable are the collections of Charles Warren Fox (ESM musicology faculty, 1932–70) and Alfred Mann (ESM musicology faculty, 1980–87), both of which preserve research materials and article drafts by the respective scholars;

the collections of Malcolm Frager, Edward Waters (ESM alum, BM 1927, MM 1928), and Abram Loft (ESM chamber music faculty, 1979–1986) also contain distinct series of research materials.

Although the vast majority of the department's holdings and collections pertain to Western Classical music and its performance, RTWSC houses a handful of items relevant to non-Western music scholarship. The Boris Kremenliev Library is comprised of books and research notes relating to Balkan, Slavic, and other Eastern European folk musics. Additionally, the Aaron M. Cohen Papers contain research material pertaining to the performance of European classical music in Japan in the 19th and 20th centuries.

DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

Series 1: Papers

Series 1 is comprised of material relating to 26 unpublished papers by Dr. Rowell. It includes lecture scripts and notes, a transcript of a CBC radio interview, drafts of papers and essays, handouts, abstracts, and research or reference material. These materials were received organized in plastic document folders, which were numbered sequentially to be (according to the accompanying index) roughly in chronological order. That original organization has been preserved here, and dates for each paper, when present on the material or in the index, are included in the finding aid. At the end of the series is a folder containing four copies of a typescript brochure that lists select publications of Dr. Rowell dating from 1961–2008.

Series 2: CDs

Series 2 is comprised of four compact discs issued by Nimbus Records as *The Raga Guide: A Survey of 74 Hindustani Ragas* (1999). The 184-page reference book that accompanied the recordings is lacking.

INVENTORY

Series 1: Papers

Box 1

- Folder 1 “Can Music Survive Science?” (s.d.).
 Description from index: A talk addressing issues raised by Henry Pleasants, George Rochberg, and (yes) Plato.
 Typescript, with emendations in ink. 3 p.
- Folder 2 “Music and Emotion” [1970s].
 Description from index: A public lecture presented in Honolulu in the 1970s.
 Facsimile of emended typescript draft. 21 p.
- Folder 3 “Do Musicians Have, or Need, a Philosophy?” (1985).
 Description from index: Supplies arguments for the obvious answer.
 Typescript; rev. 29 April 1985. 10 p.
- Folder 4 “48 Questions—Mozart” (1983).
 Description from index: A transcript of a CBC radio interview in the “Ideas” series.
 Transcript of December 11, 1983, program; published by CBC (Toronto: CBC, c1984). Typescript. 12 p.
- Folder 5 “Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Sonority” (s.d.).
 Description from index: The “Tristan” chord.
 [1] Handout. Typescript. 2 copies. 3 p., each.
 [2] Wagner, Richard. Prelude to *Tristan und Isolde*. Piano reduction. Excerpt from unidentified published source (p. 187–191). [s.l.: s.n., s.d.]. 5 p.
- Folder 6 “Abhinavagupta on Tala” (1981).
 Description from index: Abhinavagupta on Tala, and on time in general.
 Title on text: “Abhinavagupta’s Treatment of Time in Music.”
 From author’s note in text: edited version of the spoken text as presented at Banaras Hindu University, 30 October 1981, in an International Seminar on “The Contribution of Abhinavagupta to Indian Culture.”
 Typescript. 10 p.
- Folder 7 “Music and Worldmaking” (s.d.).
 Description from index: A lecture to the IU chapter of Pi Kappa Lambda, in which I challenge listeners to describe the role of music in their own worldview and Zeitgeist.
 [1] Lecture script. Typescript, with emendations in ink. 5 p.

[2] “Outline of Music as Mythology: a set of beliefs” handout. Typescript, with annotations in ink. 1 p.

- Folder 8 “Notes from an Article by Whyte on Form” (s.d.).
Description from index: With special application to form in music.
Title on notes: “On Form (from L. L. Whyte’s Accent on Form).”
Notes. Typescript. 2 p.
- Folder 9 “The Concept of Raga” (s.d.).
Description from index: From a lecture series delivered at Indiana University.
Title on handout: “The Concept of Raga and Its Evolution.”
Handout. Typescript. 8 p. Accompanied by copy 2 of p. 3–8 only.
- Folder 10 “The Concept of Raga” supplemental material (s.d.).
Includes draft of handout, “Memo to the Theory Seminar” by Rowell (18 January 1997), and research material on mode (i.e., article, book excerpt, notes/handouts).
- Folder 11 “Why is Time a Problem in Music?” (s.d.)
Description from index: A lecture delivered at McGill University.
Typescript, with emendations in ink. 8 p.
- Folder 12 “Why is Time a Problem in Music?” supplemental material (s.d.).
Includes “Melakarta and Janya Raga Chart” (1984), book excerpts, MS notes by Rowell, “India and the Major Scale” handout from paper by Rowell, and printouts of email correspondence (2005).
- Folder 13 “Afterthoughts of an Editor” [ca. 1985].
Description from index: Reflecting on my three years of editing Music Theory Spectrum [1983–1985].
Title on paper: “Afterthoughts of an Editor: Shoptalk on Music Theory in the USA.”
Paper. Typescript, with emendations in ink. 17 p.
- Folder 14 “What do we know about early Indian music, and what don’t we know?” (s.d.).
Description from index: A preliminary sketch of my book project.
Title on text: “What Do We Know and What Don’t We Know about Early Indian Music?”
Typescript, with emendations and excisions in blue pencil; marked “First draft.” 13 p.
- Folder 15 “Cultural Ideology and the Metaphysics of Music” [1995].
Description from index: The original English text of an article published only in Italian.
Typescript; with emendations in ink. 16 p.

- Folder 16 “The Idea of Music in India and the Ancient West” [1985].
Description from index: A lecture delivered at a philosophy conference at the University of Helsinki in 1985.
 [1] Abstract. Typescript. 1 p.
 [2] Draft of lecture script (compiled from draft of book chapter). Typescript, with emendations in blue pencil and ink. [20] p.
- Folder 17 “Why is there an Accent on the second beat of slow triple meter?” [1989].
Description from index: The original text has been lost, but the detailed outline preserved here contains all the salient arguments and propositions.
Title on handout: “The Accentual Pattern of Triple Meter.”
 Handout for paper [presented at the Texas Society for Music Theory meeting, Sam Houston State University, February 24–25, 1989]. Typescript. 3 copies. 2 p., each.
- Folder 18 “Narrative Beginnings in Music” (1994).
Description from index: Indiana University’s Distinguished Faculty Research Lecture.
 [1] Lecture program, with summary of the Distinguished Faculty Research Lecture Award, a biographical sketch of Rowell, and abstract for his lecture; March 9, 1994. [6] p.
 [2] Lecture script. Typescript, with emendations and excisions in purple pencil; marked “First Draft.” 21 p.
 [3] Handout. Typescript. 2 p.
- Folder 19 “Deconstructing Musical Openings” (s.d.).
Description from index: Portions of the final chapter of a book manuscript that has not been published.
 Typescript. [32] p.
- Folder 20 “Musicology in India” (2009).
Description from index: Objectives, methods, texts, notations.
Title on paper: “Musicology in India: Methods, Traditions, Accomplishments.”
 [1] Paper for Musicology Colloquium Series; October 2, 2009. Typescript, with emendations in ink. 2 copies. 14 p., each.
 [2] Handout. Typescript master. 4 p. Accompanied by duplicate facsimile. 4 p.
- Folder 21 “India and the Major Scale” [after 1993].
Description from index: Texts and handouts.
 [1] Draft of paper. Typescript, with additions, excisions, and emendations in ink. [1]+17+[5] p.
 [2] Handout. Typescript master. 5 p. Accompanied by duplicate facsimile. 5 p.

- Folder 22 “Minor Scales: Here, There, and Elsewhere” [after 1993].
No description in index.
Title on text: “‘Minor’ Scales: From Historical and Cross-Cultural Perspectives.”
 [1] Draft of paper. Typescript, with excisions and emendations in ink. 17 p.
 [2] Handout. Typescript. 7 p.
 [3] Research/reference material, including book excerpts, typescript notes, handout of mode examples, and lecture notes.
- Folder 23 “‘Fallen Chestnuts’: Music and Musical Life in America in the 1940s” (2014).
Description from index: An entertainment for IU’s Emeriti House, contains charts and a useful timeline.
Title on text: “‘Fallen Chestnuts’: A Guided Stroll down Memory Lane.”
 [1] Draft of paper. Typescript, with emendations in ink. 8 p.
 [2] Handout (“Timeline: The 1940s”); September 17, 2014. Typescript. 2 p.
- Folder 24 “Reflections on Tuning” (s.d.).
Description from index: Analysis, historical tuning comparisons, conclusions.
 Draft of paper with accompanying handout/examples. Typescript, with emendations in ink. 14+[7] p. Accompanied by facsimile without emendations. 14+[2] p.
- Folder 25 “Tribal and Folk Musics of India” (s.d.).
Description from index: A double lecture delivered at Princeton University. Political geography and recorded examples, analysis of the “tribal” and “folk” labels.
 [1] Draft of paper. Typescript, with emendations in ink. 11 p.
 [2] Map of India. 1 p.
- Folder 26 “Music about Music” (2013).
Description from index: A short essay written for my 80th birthday concert.
 [1] Essay. Typescript. 2 copies. 2 p., each.
 [2] Faculty recital program (“Eightieth Birthday Celebration Concert, Lewis Rowell, Composer”); October 20, 2013. 3 copies.
 [3] Facsimile of newspaper concert review; October 22, 2013. 2 copies. 1 p., each.
- Folder 27 “The Public Life of Musical Works” [ca. 2000–2007?].
Description from index: A preliminary source for a later article on cultural icons, q.v.
Title on text: “The Public Life of Musical Works: Musical ‘Icons’ and Twenty-First-Century Culture.”
 [1] Draft of text and list of musical examples (used in lectures at CCM, IMGTVA, and Ohio State). Typescript, with excisions and emendations in ink. 18+1 p.

- [2] Draft of text, marked “UConn version.” Typescript, with additions, excisions, and emendations in ink. 16 p.
- [3] Draft version of p. 6–7 and reference list. Typescript, with emendations in ink. [3] p.
- [4] Handout. Typescript. 1 p.
- [5] 2 music reviews clipped from the New York Times. 2 p.

Folder 28 “The Public Life of Musical Works” supplemental material [ca. 2000–2007?]. Includes copies of handout, typescript excerpts from paper, MS notes, correspondence, newspaper clippings, and other handouts.

Box 2

Folder 1 “Venkatamakhin on Tala: A Formative Moment in Indian Music History” (s.d.).
No description in index.
 [1] Paper. Typescript. 6 p.
 [2] Handout (“Devitry and Venkatamakhin: How to Construct a Metric System”). Typescript. 2 copies. 4 p., each.
 [3] Research/reference material, including book excerpts, correspondence, and workshop handout.

Box 2

Folder 2 Index to papers.
 [1] Index to 26 unpublished papers of Lewis Rowell. Typescript. 3 p.
 [2] Draft of index to 27 unpublished papers of Lewis Rowell. Typescript. 2 copies. 2 p., each.

Folder 3 List of publications (brochure).
 Brochure listing select publications of Lewis Rowell (1961–2008). 4 copies.

Series 2: CDs

Box 2

CD 1–4 *The Raga Guide*. Nimbus Records, NI 5536–5539, c1999. 4 CDs (discs only; reference book lacking).
 [A Survey of 74 Hindustani Ragas.]
 [Performed by Hariprasad Chaurasia, flute; Buddhadev Das Gupta, sarod; Shrutti Sadolikar Katkar, female vocals; and Vidyadhar Vyas, male vocals.]
 CD 1: 18 tracks.
 CD 2: 18 tracks.
 CD 3: 20 tracks.
 CD 4: 18 tracks.