

NEWTON HOFFMANN COLLECTION
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UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

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DESCRIPTION OF COLLECTION

Shelf location: M2B 8,5 – 8,6

Physical extent: 3.5 linear feet

Biographical Sketch



*Photograph from Newton Hoffmann
Collection, Box 7, Folder 9, Sleeve 1.*

Newton Hoffmann was born on July 16, 1921, in Chicago to parents Jacob Hoffmann and Minna Bonner Hoffmann. He began studying piano at a young age, and while attending Highland Park High School, began to play the oboe, as well. Following his high school graduation, Hoffmann devoted himself primarily to music. In 1938–1940 he studied piano, theory, and composition with Alexine Whisnant while also performing as an oboist with the Chicago Civic Orchestra (1938–1939). In 1941–1944 Hoffmann attended the Longy School of Music of Bard College, studying with Boris Goldovsky and Nadia Boulanger. He transferred to the Eastman School of Music in 1945 to study theory, eventually earning the degrees Bachelor of Music (1947), Master of Music (1949), and Doctor of Philosophy (1955). After completing his education, he served on the faculties of the Shenandoah Conservatory of Music, the University of Bridgeport, and Hartwick College, and then was appointed to the faculty of Ball State University, where he served from 1962 until his death in 1983. He was also an active church musician, performing on piano and organ.

Newton Hoffmann died on January 27, 1983, aged 61. He was survived by his elder brother Bonner Hoffmann and younger sister Flora Hoffmann Leguin.

Provenance

The collection's exact origin and date of acquisition are unknown.

Scope and Content

The Newton Hoffmann Collection contains materials documenting Hoffmann's career, including correspondence, concert programs, clippings, course materials, and personal items. The majority of the contents date from approximately 1935–1950. Among the highlights of this collection are a set of ten letters from Nadia Boulanger to Hoffmann. There are also two copies of printed course lecture notes written by Boulanger. Numerous letters written by Hoffmann to his family offer further insight into his experience with one of the most renowned pedagogues of the twentieth century.

Restrictions

There are no restrictions on the use of the Newton Hoffmann Collection, save those imposed by the United States Copyright Law and its revisions.

Associations

The Sibley Music Library holds archival and circulating copies of the manuscripts of Newton Hoffmann's M.Mus. and PhD theses, entitled *Overture for Symphony Orchestra* and *Symphony No. 1*, respectively.

RTWSC holds the papers of numerous Eastman composition students and faculty members who were contemporaries of Hoffmann, including those of ESM alumni Francis James Brown (BM 1947), Donald H. White (MM 1947, Ph.D. 1952), P. Peter Sacco (MM 1954, DMA 1958), and Carl Amt (Ph.D. 1956); composition professors Wayne Barlow and Bernard Rogers; and piano professor Sandor Vas. Given that two central components of Hoffmann's collection are his personal correspondence and class materials dating from his high school and undergraduate years, the Bruce Campbell Decker Collection (BM 1951) may be of particular interest, as the central thrust of the latter collection is Decker's diary, which documents his high school years and his first semesters of undergraduate studies at Eastman.

Of familial interest, Amy Bonner, Hoffmann's maternal aunt, was an American poet and journalist, and a collection of her papers is held at Pennsylvania State University's Eberly Family Special Collections Library.

DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

Series 1: Correspondence

This series contains voluminous correspondence between Newton Hoffmann and members of his immediate family. Also included are ten letters to Hoffmann from Nadia Boulanger and one letter from Walter Piston. The letters from Boulanger and Piston are foldered separately by sender; all other correspondence is organized chronologically, with undated correspondence foldered separately at the end of the series.

Series 2: Programs

This series comprises concert and other event programs from 1911 to 1950. Although the majority of these are from performances that Hoffmann attended, several do include him as a performer.

Series 3: Clippings

This series contains clippings taken from a variety of newspapers including the *Boston Globe* and the *Christian Science Monitor*. Most are concert reviews or articles about musical topics, whereas others are news items of general or local/familial significance; they do not necessarily pertain directly to Newton Hoffmann.

Series 4: Course Materials

The bulk of this series comprises lecture notes taken by Hoffmann during his Eastman theory and composition classes. One set of notes appears to have been generated by Hoffmann for his use as an instructor at the Shenandoah Conservatory of Music.

Series 5: Ephemera

This series contains a wide variety of personal items, including awards, report cards, photographs and devotional materials.

INVENTORY

Series 1: Correspondence

Box 1

- folder 1 General correspondence, 1913–37.
108 letters and postcards; primarily personal correspondence to/from members of the Hoffmann family, the bulk of which are to or from Newton Hoffmann.
- folder 2 General correspondence, 1938–40.
57 letters and postcards; primarily personal correspondence between Newton Hoffmann and family or friends; includes some correspondence pertaining to Hoffmann’s musical and high school studies.
- folder 3 General correspondence, 1941.
71 letters, postcards, and telegrams; primarily personal correspondence between Newton Hoffmann and his immediate family.
- folder 4 General correspondence, 1942.
51 letters and postcards; primarily personal correspondence between Newton Hoffmann and his immediate family.
- folder 5 General correspondence, 1943.
81 letters, postcards, and telegrams; primarily personal correspondence between Newton Hoffmann and his immediate family.
- folder 6 General correspondence, January–May 1944.
54 letters and postcards; primarily personal correspondence between Newton Hoffmann and his immediate family.
- folder 7 General correspondence, June–December 1944.
66 letters and postcards; primarily personal correspondence between Newton Hoffmann and his immediate family; includes a few items pertaining to Hoffmann’s professional activities.

Box 2

- folder 1 General correspondence, 1945.
61 letters and postcards; primarily personal correspondence between Newton Hoffmann and his immediate family; includes correspondence pertaining to Hoffmann’s transfer to Eastman.

- folder 2 General correspondence, 1946.
42 letters and postcards; primarily personal correspondence between Newton Hoffmann and his immediate family.
- folder 3 General correspondence, 1947–48.
69 letters, postcards, and cards; primarily personal correspondence between Newton Hoffmann and his immediate family.
- folder 4 General correspondence, 1949–53.
43 letters, postcards, and cards; primarily personal correspondence between members of the Hoffmann family; also includes personal correspondence to Newton Hoffmann from various friends and students.
- folder 5 Nadia Boulanger correspondence, 1941–45.
10 letters, enclosed in plastic sheets.
- folder 6 Walter Piston correspondence, 1949.
1 letter, dated October 17, 1949, enclosed in plastic sheet.
- folder 7 Correspondence to/from Minna and Jacob Hoffmann; undated.
92 letters and postcards; primarily correspondence between Newton Hoffmann and his parents; includes partial or incomplete letters.
- folder 8 Correspondence to/from Flora Hoffmann Leguin; undated
49 letters and cards; primarily correspondence from Flora Hoffmann Leguin to Newton Hoffmann; also includes letter from Flora to Minna Hoffmann and correspondence from Newton Hoffmann to Flora.
- folder 9 Other correspondents; undated.
100 letters, postcards, and cards; primarily correspondence from extended family, personal friends, and family friends to Newton Hoffmann; includes some correspondence to other members of Hoffmann family.
Also in folder: 3 blank postcards with images from Lake Winnepesaukee, NH.
- folder 10 Holiday cards; undated.
37 holiday cards, undated.
- folder 11 Correspondence from Newton Hoffmann; undated.
11 letters or drafts, including partial letters, undated; most lack name of correspondent.
Also in folder: 13 leaves extracted from date book; likely part of personal diary.

Series 2: Programs

Box 3

- folder 1** Programs, 1911–1938.
55 items, including duplicate copies; primarily school concerts and programs; also includes several programs from the Philharmonic-Symphony Society of New York (1937–38 season).
- folder 2** Programs, 1939–40.
29 items, including duplicate copies; includes several copies of programs from the Chicago Civic Orchestra and the Civic Music Association of Chicago.
- folder 3** Programs, 1941–43.
36 items, including duplicate copies; primarily programs from Boston-area concerts.
- folder 4** Programs, 1944.
32 items, including duplicate copies; primarily programs from Boston-area concerts.
- folder 5** Programs, 1945.
35 items, including duplicate copies; includes programs from Boston-area concerts (primarily January–August) and Eastman/Rochester-area concerts (October–December).
- folder 6** Programs, 1946–48.
35 items, including duplicate copies; primarily programs from Eastman/Rochester-area concerts.
- folder 7** Programs, January–June 1949.
24 items, including duplicate copies; all programs from Eastman/Rochester-area concerts.

Box 4

- folder 1** Programs, August 1949–May 1950.
33 items, including duplicate copies; primarily programs from Eastman and the University of Bridgeport concerts.
- folder 2** Undated programs.
23 items, including duplicate copies; primarily programs from Boston-area concerts.

Series 3: Clippings

Box 4 [cont.]

- folder 3 Clippings, 1929-37.
27 press clippings, articles, and newspaper issues, including duplicate copies; includes newsletters and newspapers issued by the Chicago Junior School, Deerfield-Shields High School (Highland Park, IL), and Culver Summer Schools (Culver, IN).
- folder 4 Clippings, 1938-43.
17 press clippings, newsletters, and newspaper issues, including duplicate copies; includes publications from Highland Park and Chicago, IL, as well as Boston.
- folder 5 Clippings, 1944-83.
43 press clippings, including duplicate copies; includes several clippings of personal or familial importance (e.g., pertaining to Nadia Boulanger, Flora Hoffmann's wedding announcement, 1949 University of Rochester commencement, etc.), but the bulk appear to be clippings of general interest.
- folder 6 Undated clippings.
63 press clippings; the bulk appear to be clippings of general interest.

Series 4: Course Materials

Box 4 [cont.]

- folder 7 Printed lecture notes from Nadia Boulanger's Beethoven lectures series.
Printed handouts (manuscript facsimile) containing analytical notes and themes from Beethoven's oeuvre. Compositions represented:
- String Quartet Op. 18, No. 1 in F. 4 pp.
 - String Quartet Op. 18, No. 2 in G. 4 pp.
 - Sonata Op. 53. 2 pp.
 - String Quartet Op. 59, No. 1 in F. 4 pp.
- folder 8 Printed lecture notes of Nadia Boulanger (harmony class)
"Harmony Course: Nadia Boulanger." Printed lecture notes, including exercises to be completed. Manuscript facsimile. 10 pp.
"Nadia Boulanger—Harmony Course: Chords of the Sixth." Printed lecture notes. Manuscript facsimile. 8 pp.

- folder 9 Composition class notes.
Manuscript notes (pencil and ink) and 2 mimeograph handouts; includes pages labeled "Composition 101," "Music 109," and "MUS 209 Sightsinging." 15 leaves.
- folder 10 Harmonic analysis exercises.
Facsimiles of 3-page handout containing four-part harmonic exercises with chord analysis. Manuscript facsimile, in Newton Hoffmann's hand. 5 copies. 3 pp., each.
- folder 11 Harmony and Counterpoint notebooks [1].
4 notebooks, containing untitled counterpoint exercises and assorted pencil sketches.
- Box 5
- folder 1 Harmony and counterpoint notebooks.
4 notebooks, containing untitled counterpoint exercises and assorted pencil sketches.
- folder 2 Harmony and counterpoint notes, exercises, sketches, etc.
Loose notes, including sketches, drafts, exercises, assignments, and written class notes. 100 leaves.
Notebook containing exercises on church modes. 7 pp. of music.
Notebook containing sketches for *The Three Scholars*. For baritone, bass-baritone, tenor, mixed chorus and string orchestra. 24 pp. of music.
- folder 3 Harmonic analysis exercises.
Contents removed from original 2-ring binder.
Untitled harmonic exercises and sketches. Pencil. 93 leaves.
- folder 4 Keyboard harmony book.
Heacox, Arthur E. *Keyboard Training in Harmony*. Part I. Published book (Boston: Arthur P. Schmidt Co., 1917). 59 pp. Front cover missing.
Heacox, Arthur E. *Keyboard Training in Harmony*. Part II. Published book (Boston: Arthur P. Schmidt Co., 1917). 63 pp.
- folder 5 Orchestration class materials.
Assorted class materials, including 1 pocket-sized notebook, 1 written exam, class notes, sketches, and drafts. 66 leaves.
- folder 6 Orchestration notes.
Contents removed from original 3-ring binder.
Class notes and mimeographed copy of untitled script (page 1 missing). 68 leaves.

- folder 7 Sight-singing class syllabus and materials.
Typescript copy of syllabus for Music 209-210 [theory class comprised of dictation, counterpoint, and sight-singing]; likely taught by Newton Hoffmann. 9 pp.
Mimeographed handouts, with manuscript drafts of text, for sight-singing class. 11 leaves.
- folder 8 Brochures on theory and jazz.
3 brochures pertaining to musicianship and theory (self-study materials).
Hayakawa, S. I. "Reflections on the History of Jazz." Reprint of article from a Poetry Magazine Modern Arts Series Lecture given March 17, 1945. 8 pp.
- folder 9 Theory course syllabus and materials.
Syllabi for Theory 1–2 and Theory 3–4, class handouts, and lecture notes, including two notebooks containing harmonic exercises. [Materials dated 1949–1950.] 48 leaves.
- folder 10 Theory course syllabus and materials.
Syllabus for Theory I and class handouts, including duplicate copies. 43 leaves.
- Box 6
- folder 1 Theory course materials.
Syllabus for Theory III and class handouts, including duplicate copies. 48 leaves.
Notebook, labeled "N. Hoffmann, Freshman–Sophomore Theory, Shenandoah Conservatory of Music," containing harmonic exercises, lecture notes, and sketches. 19 leaves with music or text.
- folder 2 Theory notes [1].
Assorted materials, including 1 notebook containing notes, sketches, and exercises; excerpt from unidentified sight-singing textbook (front cover missing); and loose sketches, drafts, exercises, assignments, and written class notes. 145 leaves of loose material.
- folder 3 Theory notes [2].
Assorted materials, including loose class notes, handouts, sketches, exercises, and assignments as well as 4 notebooks containing exercises and lecture notes. 58 leaves of loose material.
- folder 4 Theory notebooks [1].
Contents removed from original 3-ring binder; see photocopies of annotations on inside of binder.

Assorted materials, including two notebooks containing notes, exercises, and sketches as well as loose class notes, handouts, and assignments. 62 leaves of loose material.

folder 5 Theory notebook [2].
Contents removed from original 2-ring binder.
Untitled harmonic exercises and sketches. Pencil. 86 leaves.

folder 6 Theory notebook [3].
Contents removed from original 3-ring binder.
4 notebooks containing counterpoint exercises and sketches.
Untitled harmonic exercises and sketches. Pencil. 90 leaves.

folder 7 Theory notebook [4].
Contents removed from original 3-ring binder.
1 notebook containing sketches. 4 pp. of music.
Untitled harmonic exercises and sketches. Pencil and ink. 83 leaves.

Box 7

folder 1 Theory notebook [5].
Contents removed from original 3-ring binder.
Chaconne. For solo piano. Score. Mimeograph facsimile. 2 pp.
Untitled harmonic exercises and sketches. Pencil. 18 leaves.

folder 2 English and French notebooks; writer's guide.
Writer's Guide, Vol. I, No. 3 (Spring 1945). 32 pp.
1 notebook containing short essays and poems in French [assignments?]. 13 pp. with text.
Binder containing various essays, assignments, exams, and class projects for non-music courses; includes manuscript autobiography by Newton Hoffmann, dated 1934. 121 leaves of loose material.

Series 5: Ephemera

Box 7 [cont.]

folder 3 Advertisements.
Brochures, circulars, and related material pertaining to various musical programs in which Newton Hoffmann was a participant. 27 items, including duplicates.

folder 4 Childhood drawings.
2 handmade books containing childhood artwork by Newton Hoffmann; accompanied by 3 pp. loose papers of other childhood writing.

- folder 5 Culver Summer School items.
Brochure for Culver Summer Schools, reports and examinations for Newton Hoffmann, and related materials. 7 items.
- folder 6 Grade reports and awards.
7 items (dated 1929–1946).
- folder 7 High school materials.
Athletic letter and accompanying certificate, elementary school diploma, high school grade reports, vocational interest survey results, and recognition letter regarding progress in swimming lessons. 8 items.
- folder 8 Medals.
10 items: Boy Scouts of America Wolf Cub badge; 7 medals issued by the Illinois School Band Association (4 district medals, 3 state medals); National High School Solo Contest Medal for oboe (1936); Culver Medal.
- folder 9 Photographs.
3 sleeves of photographs and 1 packet of tourist photographs. Includes:
1. Portraits of Newton Hoffmann. 3 b/w photographs, ca. 2.5" x 3.5". 15 prints total (5 prints, 9 prints, 1 print).
 2. Family photographs: 2 photos of unidentified family members, 2 baby photos of Elizabeth (Newton's niece). 4 b/w photographs, 2.5–3.5" x 3.5–5".
 3. Landscape/zoo photographs. 8 b/w photographs, ca. 2.5" x 3".
 4. Packet of photographs from Monticello (Charlottesville, VA), produced by Grogan Photo Co. 20 b/w photographs, 1.75" x 2.5".
- folder 10 Poetry.
Various poems, most presumably written, transcribed, or collected by Newton Hoffmann and/or his friends and family; most unattributed, several in the hand of Minna Hoffmann. Includes typescript, mimeographed, and manuscript poems as well as newspaper and magazine clippings. 34 leaves.
- folder 11 Untitled script.
Untitled typescript script. 10 pp.
- folder 12 Receipts.
Various receipts, addressed to Mr. [Jacob] and/or Mrs. [Minna] Hoffmann. 4 items.
- folder 13 Resume and Obituary of Newton Hoffmann.
Facsimile of obituary for Newton Hoffmann, from The Muncie Star (January 28, 1983). 1 p.

Resume for Newton Hoffmann (ca. 1946). Typescript. 2 pp.

- folder 14 Wedding and Birth Announcements.
9 items:
- Birth announcement for Newton Hoffmann (3 copies).
 - Newton Hoffmann's identification card for All-College Band.
 - Wedding announcement for Flora June Hoffmann and Horace George Leguin,
 - Wedding announcement for Helen Frances Ciral and Meyer Ruben Achter.
 - Greeting card from Flora Hoffmann.
 - Family tree for Simon and Minna Black and descendants. Ink manuscript. 2 pp.

Box 8

- folder 1 Religious/devotional items [1].
Press clippings from Christian Science publications; religious brochures, circulars, and publications; manuscript and typescript notes; and other personal items pertaining to religion. 66 loose leaves, 13 items.
- folder 2 Religious/devotional items [2].
Religious brochures, circulars, and publications; manuscript and typescript notes; press clippings; and other personal items pertaining to religion. 9 items, 116 loose leaves.
- folder 3 Religious/devotional notebook [1].
Contents removed from original 2-ring binder.
Manuscript and typescript notes pertaining to religion, originally housed in binder with 10 labeled dividers [see contents]. 87 leaves.
- folder 4 Religious/devotional notebook [2].
Contents removed from original 2-ring binder.
Manuscript and typescript notes pertaining to religion. 71 leaves.
- folder 5 Student prayer notebook.
Binder containing manuscript notes pertaining to prayer. 56 leaves.