Guide to the Leonard B. Meyer Papers 1941-1978
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Descriptive Summary

Identifier  ICU.SPCL.MEYERLB

Title  Meyer, Leonard B. Papers

Date  1941-1978

Size  12.5 linear feet (21 boxes)

Repository  Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center
University of Chicago Library
1100 East 57th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.


Information on Use

Access  The collection is open for research.

Citation  When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Meyer, Leonard B. Papers, [Box #, Folder #], Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

Biographical Note  Leonard B. Meyer was a prolific composer, author, and philosopher. Meyer studied at Columbia University, graduating with a B.A. in Philosophy and an M.A. in Music in 1948. He continued at the University of Chicago, where he was awarded a Ph.D. in the History of Culture in 1954, and served as a professor from 1946 until 1975. A composer, he studied under Stefan Wolpe, Otto Luening, and Aaron Copland. In 1975 was appointed professor of music and the humanities at the University of Pennsylvania and became professor emeritus at Pennsylvania in 1988.

His published works include Emotion and Meaning in Music (1957), which paved the way for cognitive psychological research into music and was influential for theorists in music as well as other fields. Other major written works include The Rhythmic Structure of Music (with Grosvenor Cooper, 1960), "Some Remarks on Value and Greatness in Music" (1959), Music, the Arts, and Ideas (1967), and Explaining Music (1973).
Scope Note
The Leonard B. Meyer collection contains correspondence between Meyer and his colleagues, students, and publishers from the 1950s to 1970s, drafts and notes for book publications as well as shorter essays, and materials from Meyer’s participation in professional conferences and organizations. The collection also contains awards, some personal items, and a set of recordings of Meyer’s original compositions. Series I consists of personal and biographical materials, including datebooks, notebooks, and photographs. Series II contains correspondence. Series III contains academic writings and a wide range of notes related to these subjects. Series IV includes materials from conferences, lectures, and other professional activities. Series V contains artifacts, audio visual materials, and oversized items.

Related Resources
Browse finding aids by topic.

Subject Headings
• Meyer, Leonard B.
• University of Chicago. Dept. of Music
• Music
• Composition (Music)
• Music -- 20th Century
• Composers

INVENTORY
Series I: Personal and Biographical Materials

Box 1
Folder 1
"Leonard B. Meyer: A Bibliography" and biographical sketches

Box 1
Folder 2
Datebooks, 1966-75

Box 1
Folder 3
Notebooks, undated

Box 1
Folder 4
50th birthday celebration, 1968

Box 1
Folder 5
Photographs of Leonard Meyer, undated

Box 1
Folder 6
Miscellaneous photographs, undated

Series II: Correspondence
Box 1
Folder 7
Academic correspondence, 1956-1967
Box 1
Folder 8
Academic correspondence, 1968
Box 2
Folder 1
Academic correspondence, 1969
Box 2
Folder 2
Academic correspondence, 1970
Box 2
Folder 3
Academic correspondence, 1971
Box 2
Folder 4
Academic correspondence, 1972
Box 2
Folder 5
Academic correspondence, 1975
Box 2
Folder 6
Academic correspondence, 1975
Box 3
Folder 1
Academic correspondence, 1976-1977
Box 3
Folder 2
Correspondence with students, 1970-1973
Box 3
Folder 3
Correspondence with students, 1974
Box 3
Folder 4
Correspondence with students, 1975
Box 3
Folder 5
Correspondence with students, 1976
Box 3
Folder 6
Miscellaneous and personal correspondence, 1974
Box 4
Folder 1
Business correspondence, 1950-1967
Box 4
Folder 2
   Business correspondence, 1972-1978
Box 4
Folder 3
   Correspondence about The Rhythmic Structure of Music, 1958-1963
Box 4
Folder 4
   Correspondence about Explaining Music, 1972-1973
Box 4
Folder 5
   Correspondence about book translations, 1968-1974
Box 4
Folder 6
   Correspondence with Frank Kirby, 1970
Box 4
Folder 7
   Correspondence with Ralph Shapey, 1968-74
Box 4
Folder 8
   Correspondence with Eastman School of Music, 1972
Box 4
Folder 9
   Correspondence about Improvisation in Music, 1970-1973
Box 5
Folder 1
   Correspondence with Social Science Research Council, 1970
Box 5
Folder 2
   Correspondence about Ernest Bloch Professorship, 1969-70
Box 5
Folder 3
   Correspondence about Bradbury Memorial and Funds, 1959-1964
Box 5
Folder 4
   Correspondence with Daedalus, 1973

Series III: Writings

Box 5
Folder 5
   Review of In Search Of Cultural History, undated
Box 5
Folder 6
   "Critical Analysis" (Ernest Bloch Lectures), 1971
Box 5
Folder 7
   Miscellaneous talks and commentaries, 1948-67
Box 5
Folder 8
Miscellaneous magazine articles, 1968-74

Box 5
Emotion and Meaning in Music, 1954

Box 6
Folder 1
"Forgery and the Anthropology of Art," 1961-1962

Box 6
Folder 2
"On Rehearsing Music," 1961

Box 6
Folder 3
"Meaning in Music and Information Theory," 1957

Box 6
Folder 4
"Some Remarks on Value and Greatness in Music," 1959

Box 6
Folder 5

Box 6
Folder 6

Box 6
Folder 7
Review of Music as Metaphor, 1963

Box 6
Folder 8
"Formal Ambiguity in the First Movement of Beethoven’s String Quartet in A Minor," 1962

Box 6
Folder 9
Miscellaneous notes, undated

Box 6
Folder 10
Notes for Beethoven essay, undated

Box 6
Folder 11
"The Arts Today and Tomorrow," undated

Box 6
Folder 12

Box 7
Folder 1
"Art and Accident," drafts, research, notes, 1958
Box 7
Folder 2
"The End of the Renaissance?" drafts and notes, undated
Box 7
Folder 3
"The End of the Renaissance?" reprint, 1963
Box 7
Folder 4
Music, the Arts, and Ideas, research materials, 1964-1966
Box 7
Folder 5
Music, the Arts, and Ideas, correspondence and reviews, 1967-1970
Box 7
Folder 6
Music, the Arts, and Ideas, Part II, draft, undated
Box 7
Folder 7
Music, the Arts, and Ideas, Part II, drafts, undated
Box 7
Folder 8
Music, the Arts, and Ideas, Part III, draft, undated
Box 8
Folder 1
Music, the Arts, and Ideas, Part III, drafts, undated
Box 8
Folder 2
Music, the Arts, and Ideas, early drafts and notes ("The Future is Now"), undated
Box 8
Folder 3
Music, the Arts, and Ideas, draft of "The Aesthetics of Stability," undated
Box 8
Folder 4
Music, the Arts, and Ideas, draft of "Total Serialism and the Musical Experience," undated
Box 9
Folder 1
Music, the Arts, and Ideas, Part I, manuscript for production, 1968
Box 9
Folder 2
Music, the Arts, and Ideas, Party II, manuscript for production, 1968
Box 10
Folder 1
Music, the Arts, and Ideas, Part II, draft, undated
Box 10
Folder 2
Music, the Arts, and Ideas, edited draft, undated
Box 13
Folder 6
"Thoughts about Unity in Music," undated

Box 13
Folder 7
"Response to Professor Arnheim’s Paper," undated

Box 13
Folder 8

Box 13
Folder 9
Article on McLuhan, drafts and notes, undated

Box 14
Folder 1
Notes on octave displacement, undated

Box 14
Folder 2
Miscellaneous notes and drafts, 1960-1978

Box 14
Folder 3
Course outline and notes, "Analysis," undated

Box 14
Folder 4
Untitled manuscript on ballet music, undated (from Box X, vinyl records)

Series IV: Professional Materials

Box 14
Folder 5
Loyola Symposium on Values, 1970

Box 14
Folder 6
University of Rochester, Joseph C. Wilson Day, 1971

Box 14
Folder 7
University of Toronto Colloquium, 1971

Box 14
Folder 8
Social Science Research Council, 1973-1974

Box 14
Folder 9
Correspondence re miscellaneous conferences and lectures, 1973-1975

Box 14
Folder 10
Aesthetics Institute, Boulder, 1975-1978

Box 14
Folder 11
Kent State Conference on Medicine and the Humanities, 1975
Box 14
Folder 12
Duke University lecture, 1976
Box 15
Folder 1
University of Michigan Distinguished Professorship, 1971-1972
Box 15
Folder 2
National Humanities Faculty and Green Mountain Union High School, 1970-1971
Box 15
Folder 3
School of Criticism and Theory, 1974-1978
Box 15
Folder 4
Publicity materials for miscellaneous lectures
Box 15
Folder 5
Bard College Honorary Degree, 1976
Box 15
Folder 6
Wesleyan, 1960-1961
Box 15
Folder 7
Award from American Association for the Advancement of Science
Box 15
Folder 8
University of Chicago Press, royalty documents
Box 15
Folder 9
University of Chicago, faculty appointments and status changes, 1955-1976
Box 15
Folder 10
University of Chicago, faculty committees and departmental memos, 1974
Box 15
Folder 11
University of Chicago, music department events, 1969-1970
Box 15
Folder 12
Rockefeller Foundation grant, 1965
Box 15
Folder 13
International Chronosophical Society, 1966
Box 15
Folder 14
Honeywell Oscillograph manuals, 1959

Box 15
Folder 15
Miscellaneous notes, articles, receipts, 1953-1973, undated

Series V: Artifacts, Audio-Visual, and Oversize

Box 16
Photographic negatives addressed to Leonore F. Malakoff, July 11, 1941

Box 16
Photographic negatives, "To Mom," processed July 2, 1948

Box 16
Photographic negatives processed June 21, 1949

Box 16
Photographic negatives processed March 25, 1950

Box 16
Photographic negatives processed August 11, 1955

Box 16
Photographic negatives, August 12, 1955

Box 16
Photographic negatives, summer 1956

Box 16
Photographic negatives processed February 5, 1958

Box 16
Photographic negatives processed August 4, 1958

Box 16
Photographic negatives processed September 2, 1958

Box 16
Photographic negatives, Florida, 1958

Box 16
Photographic negatives of house, Hartsdale, NY, undated

Box 16
Miscellaneous photographic negatives, undated

Box 16
Miscellaneous photographic negatives, undated

Box 16
Loyola University Medal, 1970

Box 17
Grinnell College Honorary Doctorate Diploma, 1967

Box 17
Photo album, January 1968

Box 17
Loyola University Honorary Doctorate Diploma, 1970

Box 17
Gordon J. Laing Prize (for Music, the Arts, and Ideas), 1969

Box 18
Folder 1
Articles about Meyer, 1957, 1971, 1974

Box 18
Folder 2
Articles about Meyer, 1968-1973

Box 19-20
Notes for "Music, the Arts, and Ideas: Patterns and Predictions in Twentieth-Century Culture"

Box 21
Untitled, LP

Box 21
"Sonata for Violin and Piano," LP

Box 21
"Trio for Clarinet, Viola, and Piano," LP

Box 21
"Heat," "Oread," "Pear Tree," LPs

Box 21
"Trio for Clarinet, Viola, and Piano," LP

Box 21
"Heat," "Pear Tree," "Oread," LPs

Box 21
"Trio for Clarinet, Viola, and Piano," LP

Box 21
"Sonata for Violin and Piano," LP

Box 21
"Heat," "Pear Tree," "Oread," LP