Finding Aid

Denes Agay (1911-2007) Collection

Descriptive Summary

Extent
Number of containers: 2 boxes
Linear feet: 1.25 lin. ft.

Repository
Peabody Archives
Johns Hopkins University

Location
Archives stacks, second floor of the Friedheim Music Library

Processed by
Lauren Anderson (April 8, 2015)

Administrative Information

Accession Number
1987.3

Provenance
Gift of Denes Agay

Access
Materials in the Denes Agay Collection are available for use by appointment,
Monday through Friday from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm.

Publication Rights
All requests for permission to publish or perform materials in this collection must
be submitted in writing to the Head Librarian.

Contact Information
Friedheim Library and Archives
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Baltimore, MD 21202-2397
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Biography

Denes Agay (June 10, 1911 - January 24, 2007) was a Hungarian-born American composer,
arranger and author. Agay was born and raised in a small village near Budapest and began
playing piano at the age of three. In 1934 he completed his musical studies at the Franz Liszt
Academy in Budapest.
Agay conducted the Budapest Philharmonic Orchestra in a performance of a symphony which he composed. He worked as a film composer; one film assignment was writing the background music for Hedy Lamarr's nude scene in the 1933 film *Ecstasy*. Agay was a Jew, and after the rise of Nazism, he emigrated to New York in 1939. In 1942 he became an American citizen and joined the military, entertaining patients in the hospital wards. His parents died in Auschwitz. After the Second World War Agay worked as a teacher, composer and publisher, and as a conductor and arranger on the NBC show *Guest Star*. He wrote more than 90 books about musical subjects, including a multi-volume collection of piano arrangements, *The Young Pianist's Library*, and in 1975 produced the popular anthology, *Best Loved Songs of the American People*. Agay also continued to compose. His lively *Sonatina no. 3* was frequently performed by young performers at piano recitals. Agay died in Los Altos, California in 2007 at the age of 95.

(Wikipedia)

See also the obituary from the *Baltimore Sun*, January 29, 2007.

**Scope and Content**

Published scores, promotional materials, programs, and articles written by Agay.

**Container List**

Box 1: Music

Box 2: Music, Promotional Materials, Programs, Articles

**Revised**

1/30/16 jo