Finding Aid

Ronald Roxbury Collection

Descriptive Summary

Extent
Number of containers: 2 boxes
Linear feet: 2.75 linear ft.

Repository
Peabody Archives
Johns Hopkins University

Location
Archives stacks, second floor of the Friedheim Music Library

Processed by
Unknown (n.d.); Alexandra Patterson (March 2015)

Administrative Information

Accession Number
Unknown

Provenance
Gift of the family of Ronald Roxbury

Access
Materials in the Ronald Roxbury 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.

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Biography

Ronald Roxbury (1946-1986) was born on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. He graduated from Peabody Conservatory majoring in flute. He also studied composition and was an excellent countertenor. Ronald Roxbury moved to New York after his graduation. Many of his compositions were performed at Peabody Conservatory. Some tape recordings of these performances can be found at Peabody sound archives.
Container List

Box 1

1. *Accompagnement Officium simplex* (photocopy) (not dated)
   - NB: these appear to be sacred counterpoint exercises, perhaps in study toward items 4-9 (box 1)
2. *Agnus Dei* (not dated)
   - SATB – org
   - Photocopy
3. *Brontë Song / no. 3 / piano, voice* (not dated)
4. *Canon* - ”no words” for three unspecified voices/instruments (photocopy) (not dated)
   - Photocopy
5. *Canon & Allegro on “A French Mountain Air”* (not dated): unspecified number of voices
6. *Carnal Vespers / for piano and 2 drone singers* (copy) (not dated)
   - For William Bland
   - For William Bland
8. *Concerto Grosso: sextet, string orchestra, percussion* (not dated)
   - fl - ob - cl - tp - bn - timp + 1 - str
9. *Four Simple Songs* for voice and piano (2 photocopies) (not dated)
10. *Fragment: orch sketch* (1972)
    - 2fl - 2cl - 2bn - 4hn - pf - str
11. *4 Preludes for Accordion* (1965)
12. *Froggy / SATB / piano 4 hands*/ */ or string quartet* (not dated)
13. *Gemini/Geminorum: a concert overture / for piano and percussion and theatrical devices*
14. *Gloria* (not dated)
    - SATB - org
15. *Gloria pour choeur, piano et vent orchestre* (not dated)
16. *Kyrie* (not dated)
    - SATB - org
17. *Music for My Mother / piano [/] strings* (not dated)
18. *Portable Song* for voice and glockenspiel (photocopy) (not dated)
19. *Quasimodo at Wit’s ENd / or / “Grenades” / for flute, guitar & bass* (not dated)
   - NB: may be missing final page(s)
   - Photostat
20. *Regina Coeli / for 2 soli: mixed male chorus* (not dated)
    - fl / asx / cl / tp / tbn / tuba / gtr / 4perc / SATB / solo voice (unspecified)
    - NB: Movements 2 (“Trope”) and 3 (“R.I.P.”) are copies, not manuscript; each is marked with a name on 1st page, upper right-hand corner
22. *Risen Siren Resin Rinse: Concert Overture* (photocopy) (not dated)
   - 2 2 2 2 - 4 2 2 0 - tmp + 1 – str
   - Photocopy
23. *Sanctus & Benedictus* (not dated)
   SATB – org
   Photocopy

24. *September* for voice and piano (text by H. Hesse) (1977)
   Photocopy

25. Six unrelated pieces (photocopies) (not dated)
   24a. ‘*Nefertiti di gioia*’ for unspecified instrumentation
   24b. *Organelles and Cellules with Six Dragonflies* for unspecified instrumentation
   24c. *Tesselated Landscape with Two ‘Cluster Volcanoes’* for piano
   24d. “*Up from Virginia with a world of flavor”*… / for harp and offstage orchestra / and offstage chorus / harp solo - Part I
   24e. *Imaginary / Quadruple Eclipse / Seen from Jupiter / with Asteroids* for unspecified instrumentation
   24f. *A Queen and Two / Surrealistic Pawns* for unspecified instrumentation

26. Sketches for piano (16pp) (not dated)
   NB: Pages are numbered to indicate sequence; whether these pages were intended to be performed as a single unit or individually is not clear

27. *Spanische Lieder* (not dated)
   fl - cl

28. *String Quartet* (possibly fragment) (not dated)

29. 3 apparently unrelated works for piano
   29a. Fragment (not dated)
   29b. Possibly complete; related to item 24, box 1; headed with illegible marking (not dated)

30. Three short works
   3a. *Prelude / Piano Preludes to The Memory of John F. Kennedy* (1963)
   3b. *2 Dodecaphonic Episodes / Bassoon solo* (not dated)
   3c. *Googol I / (flute) in D* (1963)

31. *Two Songs of Walt Whitman* (not dated)
   fl - voice (unspecified) – gtr
   Photocopy

32. Untitled: work for high voice and unspecified aerophone (likely baritone saxophone) (not dated); text begins “Il entre dans le chambré”

33. Untitled: work for SATB / 2perc (not dated); text begins “un tal cascato in mezzo”

34. Untitled: work for three treble instruments (likely 3fl) (not dated)

35. Untitled: work for voice and guitar (not dated); text begins “i am seagulling”

36. Untitled: work for voice and keyboard instrument (not dated); text begins “I got shoes / you got shoes / all God’s chillun got shoes”

Box 2

1. *Brou-haha / or / free for all for 2 pianos* (1970)
   pno1 left hand - pno2 6hands (with percussion)
   Holograph

2. *Canerizans* (1970); for Mark Gaston
   hpsd - radio - phonograph - org - pf - voice (all one player)
   Holograph and photocopy

3. *Chants des Oiseaux / for voice and piano* (not dated)
   Holograph
   SATB - 3perc - pf (6 hands)
   Holograph

5. *Ecstasies for Mi-Go or Several ‘Bags’ of the Abominable Snowman / for the combined Peabody Guitar and Cello Ensembles* (not dated)
   14gtr - 8vc
   Holograph

   Holograph

7. Fragment: Chamber work (not dated)
   fl (offstage) - perc - gtr - pf (3 hands) - actor - 2 or more singers
   Holograph

8. Fragment: Chamber work (not dated); text on “Crazy Jane”
   voice - gtr – perc
   Holograph

9. Fragment: Work for keyboard organ with on/off switch (not dated)
   Holograph

10. Fragment: Work for voices, electric keyboard w/ Leslie amplifier, other instrument (not dated); text is scat
    Holograph

11. *Insect Fear / a Vocalise for Countertenor & Piano* (1973-73)
    Holograph and photocopy

12. *Pygmies: for violin solo* (not dated); for Robert Brown
    Holograph and photocopy

13. *Serenade for male voice and percussion with alto flute and cello obbligati* (not dated)
    NB, text used: Arthur Rimbaud *Mandoline*
    Holograph

    Holograph

    Holograph

16. 3 *Transcendental Etudes for piano* (1972)
    NB, III. “Chicken Dreams” may be a misplaced part of a different work
    Holograph and photocopy

17. Two movements: Untitled and *II. News Flash*; text on “Esau Wood”
    3perc – voice
    Holograph

18. Untitled: Chamber work (not dated); text begins “Great Spirit of Light”
    sop - 4perc (speaking/whistling)
    Holograph

19. Untitled: Chamber work (not dated); texts in gibberish, followed by the announcing of a horse-race
    fl - gtr - toy pf - chord org - 2perc - vln - db - offstage amplified speaker - male & female voices
    Holograph

20. Untitled: Chamber work [*Á la “bee bop”*] (not dated); text is scat
    pf (3 hands) - gtr (amplified) - perc - 2 or more voices
    Holograph

21. Untitled: Chamber work [*The Chaisse-lounge*] (not dated); text in French *à la*
Jean Harlow
sop (plays perc) - gtr
Holograph

22. Untitled: Chamber work [The Sistecissarian Dialect] (not dated); text begins “Mother, don’t point father at me”
  gtr - perc - pno (3 hands) - unspecified number of singers - actor

23. Untitled: Dramatic work (not dated); text for “Leda” and “the Velvet Gentleman”
  female voice - male voice - SATB - 2pf
Holograph

24. Untitled: Orchestral work fragment (not dated)
Holograph

25. Untitled: Stage work in three scenes (not dated); text for “Vein” and “Merya”
  2 [1/picc.2/picc] 2 2 2 - 4 0 0 0 - perc - pf - str – 4 singers [unspecified]
Holograph

  (One player, 2 movements) OR work for two keyboard players, one doubling
  “chd. rw.” (not dated)
Holograph

27. Le Werewolf s’amuse / for wolfman and 3 percussionists (1971)
Holograph

28. Sketchbook 1
  Contains opera scene, “Soft Destruction Scene,” and Ligeia Visitations

29. Sketchbook 2
  Contains “as Keziah Mason told Brown Jenkin . . .”, Graffiti costumes, and sets