Finding Aid

Robert Hall Lewis (1926-1996) Collection

Descriptive Summary

Extent
Number of containers: 1 box
Linear feet: 0.25 linear ft.

Repository
Peabody Archives
Johns Hopkins University

Location
Archives stacks, second floor of the Friedheim Music Library

Processed by
Grace Minghsuan Tsai (March 11, 2016)

Administrative Information

Accession Number
Unknown

Provenance
Unknown

Access
Materials in Robert Hall Lewis 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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Biography

“American composer. He studied with Rogers and Hanson at the Eastman School of Music, Rochester, New York (BM 1949, MM 1951, PhD 1964), with Nadia Boulanger and Bigot in Paris (1952–3), and with Apostel, Krenek and Schiske in Vienna (1955–7). In 1954 he attended Monteux’s conducting school. Lewis taught at Goucher College and the Peabody Conservatory from 1958 and, from 1969 to 1980, at Johns Hopkins University,
where he became professor in 1972 (all in Baltimore, Maryland). He performed professionally on the trumpet and appeared as a conductor in the USA and abroad. Among his awards are a Kosciuszko Foundation Chopin Award (1951), two Fulbright Scholarships (1955–7), two Guggenheim Fellowships (1966, 1980), an NEA grant (1976) and an award from the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters (1976).

Lewis composed mostly chamber and orchestral music. His earlier compositions were concerned with linear developmental processes using serial methods, but the ordered growth and evolution apparent in his music of the 1960s and 70s reflect a change in style. Beyond his basic predilection for inventive textures, unusual timbres, complex rhythms, fluent polyphony and rich harmony in a freely atonal context, Lewis sought new modes of expression in works since the early 1970s. These include spatial effects (Moto, Due madrigali), quotations (Atto, Kantaten), taped sounds (whale songs in Nuances II), passages in different tempos played simultaneously (Osservazioni II, Moto) and limited use of aleatory techniques. All of these elements are controlled by a strong intellect and by technical skills of the highest order. Many of his works have been recorded.”


Scope and Content

This collection contains newspaper clippings collected by and about Robert Hall Lewis, correspondence, two copies of the holograph for his String Quartet No. 4, several musical sketches, and three CDs of his music.

Container List

Box 1

1. Newspaper Clippings
2. Correspondence
3. Musical Sketches (manuscript)
4. Miscellaneous
5. Score: String Quartet No.4 (photocopy of holograph; 2 copies)
6. CDs
Related Materials

Click [here](#) to view articles from the online Peabody Publications.

Click [here](#) to search the online library catalog for items by and about Robert Hall Lewis.


Revised

June 3, 2016  jo