

Lynn Freeman Olson:
An Inventory of Initial Deposit

Repository: The University of Texas at Austin, Fine Arts Library

Creator: Olson, Lynn Freeman, 1938-1987

Dates: 1960-1987

Extent: 10 document boxes (5 linear feet)

Abstract: The Lynn Freeman Olson collection includes music manuscripts, correspondence, production documents, and sound recordings documenting the work of the music educator and piano pedagogue. Included in the collection are numerous music manuscripts of piano solos and compilations, as well as extensive drafts, production notes, and correspondence regarding several piano instructional series.

Language: English

Administrative Information

Acquisition:
Donation, 1988-1989

Processed by:
Nick Homenda, 2010

Restrictions

Access:
Open for research

Biographical Sketch

Lynn Freeman Olson was born on June 5, 1938 and lived in Minneapolis, MN throughout his childhood. He studied music at the MacPhail School of Music at the University of Minnesota, yet lived and worked in New York City for most of his adult life. He continued his piano pedagogy studies with Frances Clark, founder of the New School for Music Study in Kingston, New Jersey. Olson was greatly influenced by Clark as a teacher and composer, and he later composed music for the New School.

A prolific composer, he created countless piano solos, study books, and classroom methods for students of all ages. His notable compositions include songs for *The Captain Kangaroo Show* on CBS-TV, school and church choral music series *It's Time for Music!* and *Make Mine Music* for the Minnesota School of the Air, and *Celebration!* for piano and classroom percussion. He also collaborated with piano educators such as Martha

Hilley, Louise Bianchi, and Marvin Blickenstaff to develop and promote comprehensive instructional series for piano, including *Music Pathways* (1974) and *Piano for the Developing Musician* (1985).

In his compositions, Olson introduced interesting meters, rhythmic patterns, and harmonies rarely found in pedagogical music for the piano. Moreover, he developed definitive courses of study for all ages, ranging from early childhood students through college-age classrooms. Besides his ability to compose music for specific ages and abilities, he was skilled in selecting and editing important pieces from the classical repertoire.

A highly-regarded music education clinician, he traveled to average of 30 states per year presenting at workshops and clinics. He also permanently taught at the International Workshops and the Caribbean Cruise Workshop for Piano Teachers. As an author, Olson regularly wrote columns for *Junior Keynotes*, and edited and contributed to *Junior Festivals Bulletin* and *Clavier*.

Olson was an important member of music organizations, including a life member of the National Federation of Music Clubs; a National Arts Associate of Sigma Alpha Iota; and on the board of directors of the New York Federation of Music Clubs.

Olson lived in New York City until his death of cancer on November 18, 1987.

Sources

Alfred Music Publishing. "Lynn Freeman Olson." Alfred Music Publishing.
<http://alfred.com/img/authors/olson.html> (accessed August 6, 2010).

New York Times. "Lynn Freeman Olson, Composer, Dies at 49." November 25, 1987.
<http://www.nytimes.com/1987/11/25/obituaries/lynn-freeman-olson-composer-dies-at-49.html> (accessed August 6, 2010).

Scope and Contents

Manuscript music for piano, edited drafts and proof copies, correspondence, production materials and notes, journal article tear sheets, and research reports document the work of Lynn Freeman Olson from 1960 to 1987, with the bulk of the materials dating from the mid 1970s through 1987. The collection is organized into three series: I. Musical Works, 1960-1987, n.d. (4 boxes); II. Piano Instructional Series Production Materials, 1972-1987 (6 boxes); and III. Assorted Printed Material, 1964-1973, n.d. (2 folders).

The bulk of the collection comprises photocopies and facsimiles of compositions and instructional books with varying amounts of author and editor corrections. Most of the earliest music manuscripts are found within seven manuscript music notebooks that contain early drafts of solos, collections, and instructional books. Within Series II. Piano Instructional Series Production Materials, *Music Pathways*, *Piano for the Developing*

Musician, and *Piano for Pleasure* are represented, with several drafts for nearly every volume, along with correspondence, production notes, recording scripts, workshop-related material, travel itineraries, financial documents, and reviews. Of particular interest is a Flexi disc copy of a *Music Pathways* recording (Box 7 Folder 13).

Correspondence is found throughout the collection, though most occurs within Series II. Piano Instructional Series Production Materials, pertaining to each of the three instructional series represented. Other letters pertaining to specific musical compositions are located with those works.

Although many music manuscripts and drafts are undated, most of the documents in the collection have been identified and annotated by James Schnars, the executor of Olson's estate, in the form of Post-It notes. These notes often identify the publisher and date of publication of each composition. In addition, the notes provide descriptive information about each item, commonly identifying which items are original manuscripts and which are copies. They have been preserved in separate paper sleeves next to the items to which they were once affixed.

An alphabetical index of musical works lists the individual pieces and compilations that can be found in the collection, also indexing identifiable titles within the seven manuscript music notebooks.

Related Material

Another portion of the collection has been processed separately, The Addition to the Lynn Freeman Olson Collection. It contains sound recordings, manuscript music for piano, and correspondence. Additional accession lists are available for commercially recorded phonodiscs (LPs), cassette tapes, music periodicals, books, and sheet music donated as part of the collection. There are four uncataloged oversize boxes of music manuscripts.

Container List

Series I. Musical Works A-Z 1960-1987, n.d.

Box Folder

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | 1 | <i>5-Finger Fun</i> , manuscript music for piano, corrected facsimile, edited proof copy, 1987, n.d. |
| | 2 | A-C |
| | 3 | <i>Applause! Books 1 and 2</i> , edited facsimiles, n.d. |
| | 4 | <i>Beginning Sonatinas</i> , manuscript music for piano, n.d. |
| | 5 | <i>Best Traditional Piano Etudes Book 1</i> (1984), paste-up draft |
| | 6 | <i>Best Traditional Piano Etudes Book 2</i> (1984), paste-up draft |
| | 7 | <i>Celebration! for piano and classroom percussion</i> , manuscript score, ca. 1984 <i>Debussy Selected Favorites for Piano</i> |

- 8 Edited draft with notes, ca. 1984
 9 Edited proof copy, ca. 1984
 10 *Essential Keyboard Repertoire*, edited photocopy, n.d.
- 2 1 *Essential Keyboard Repertoire Volume 3: Sonatinas*, notes, facsimile, and one letter from Alfred Publishing Co. to Manus, Morty, 4 April 1988, ca. 1987-1988
 2 *Exploring More Piano Literature*, corrected paste-up draft, n.d.
 3 F-Old
 4 *First Favorite Duets*, photocopy, ca. 1987
 5 *First Favorite Folk Songs*, photocopy, n.d.
 6 *First Favorite Hymns*, manuscript music for piano, n.d.
 7 *First Favorite Melodies*, paste-up draft, n.d.
 8 *First Steps in Keyboard Literature*, photocopy of edited proof copy, n.d.
 9 *Four Analytical Sonatinas* by Frank Lynes, research notes, biography, photocopy, 1987
 10 *Four Sonatinas in Varying Styles*, edited photocopy, n.d.
 11 *Guidelines for Developing Piano Performance Books I and II*, manuscript musical fragments, 1983
Little Flower
 12 Manuscript music for piano, 1974
 Manuscript score and edited facsimile for 2-part chorus, piano, and tambourine, n.d.
 13 *More Essential Keyboard Repertoire*, facsimile, ca. 1980s
 14 *More Essential Keyboard Repertoire*, proof copy, ca. 1980s
 15 *My First Keyboard Notespeller*, two edited proof copies, ca. 1980s
 16 *My First Keyboard Solos*, manuscript music for piano with facsimile pages, ca. 1980s
- 3 1 *My First Keyboard Warm-ups*, edited photocopy and proof copy, 1987
 2 On-So
 Notebooks of manuscript music
 3 1, n.d.
 4 2, n.d.
 5 3, n.d.
 6 4, ca. 1986
 7 5, ca. 1986
 8 6, ca. 1987
 9 7, ca. 1987
 10 *Our Small World*, manuscript music for piano and facsimile, n.d.
 11 *Pop! Goes the Piano Book 3*, manuscript music for piano, n.d.
 12 *Right From the Start*, facsimile, n.d.
 13 *Selected Progressive Etudes* by Stephen Heller (1986), edited paste-up draft
 14 *Sounds Christmas!* (1986), facsimile and edited proof copy
- 4 1 *Sounds Folk*, facsimile, n.d.

- 2 *Sounds Sacred*, manuscript music for piano and facsimile, n.d.
- 3 Sq-Z
- 4 *Star Trails*, manuscript music for piano, n.d.
- The Story of Christmas*
- 5 Manuscript music for piano, n.d.
- 6 Edited text, facsimile, and proof copy, n.d.

Series II. Piano Instructional Series Production Materials 1972-1987

Subseries A. *Music Pathways* (1974), 1972-1987

Music Drafts

- Discovery 1A*
- 7 Paste-up draft 1, ca. 1972
- 8 Paste-up draft 2, ca. 1972
- 9 Draft fragments from revision, ca. 1978
- 10 Photocopies and assorted draft material
- 11 Corrected print copies, 1977
- 12 Proof copy and page proofs, ca. 1980s
- 13 *Discovery 1B*, facsimile, ca. 1970s
- 14 *Piano Activity 1B*, paste-up draft, ca. 1970s
- 15 "A Piano Course," test printing of *Discovery 1A*, *Discovery 1B*, *Musicianship 1B*, 1972

- 5 1 *Performance 1C*, manuscript music for piano, draft material
- Discovery 2A*
- 2 Paste-up draft with manuscript music for piano and typed portions
- 3 Facsimile
- Performance 2A and 2B*
- 4 Manuscript music for piano
- 5 Photocopies
- Working copy set of levels 1 and 2
- 6 *Discovery 1A*
- 7 *Discovery 1B*
- 8 *Activity 1B*
- 9 *Discovery 1C*
- 10 *Activity 1C*
- 11 *Discovery 2A*
- 12 *Activity 2A*
- 13 *Discovery 2B*
- 14 *Activity 2B*
- Musicianship 3A*
- 15 Manuscript music for piano with draft material
- 16 Edited photocopy
- 17 *Repertoire 3A*, draft material, two photocopy layout drafts
- 18 *Technique 3A*, photocopy of layout draft

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| | | <i>Musicianship 3B</i> |
| | 19 | Manuscript music for piano |
| | 20 | Photocopy |
| 6 | 1 | <i>Repertoire 3B</i> , photocopy of layout draft |
| | 2 | <i>Technique 3B</i> , photocopy of layout draft |
| | | <i>Musicianship 4A</i> |
| | 3 | Manuscript music for piano with draft material |
| | 4 | Photocopy |
| | 5 | <i>Repertoire 4A</i> , photocopy of layout draft |
| | 6 | <i>Technique 4A</i> , photocopy of layout draft |
| | | <i>Musicianship 4B</i> |
| | 7 | Draft material |
| | 8 | Photocopy |
| | 9 | <i>Repertoire 4B</i> , edited photocopy of layout draft |
| | 10 | <i>Technique 4B</i> , edited photocopy of layout draft |
| | | <i>Musicianship 5A</i> |
| | 11 | Draft material |
| | 12 | Photocopy of layout draft |
| | 13 | <i>Repertoire 5A</i> , edited photocopy of layout draft |
| | 14 | <i>Technique 5A</i> , photocopy of layout draft |
| | | <i>Musicianship 5B</i> |
| | 15 | Draft material |
| | 16 | Edited photocopy of layout draft |
| | 17 | <i>Repertoire 5B</i> , edited photocopy of layout draft |
| | 18 | <i>Technique 5B</i> , edited photocopy of layout draft |
| | 19 | <i>Ensemble 4 and 5</i> , draft material |
| 7 | 1 | <i>Something Light 3, 4, and 5</i> , draft material |
| | | Production |
| | 2 | Discovery layout materials, n.d. |
| | 3 | Sample assignments, paste-up drafts and working copies, n.d. |
| | 4 | Assorted music draft material |
| | 5 | Assorted text draft material |
| | 6 | Introduction drafts |
| | 7 | Assorted Musicianship draft material |
| | 8 | Element charts |
| | 9 | Style sheets |
| | 10 | Production notes |
| | 11 | Art notes |
| | 12 | Financial papers and contracts, 1974-1975 |
| | 13 | Recordings |
| | 14 | Research and reports, 1973-1975 |
| | 15 | Promotional material |
| | | Workshops |

- 16 Draft material
- 17 Assorted workshop material
- Correspondence
- Production
 - 18 1971-1973
 - 19 1974-1976
- 8 1 1977-1987, n.d.
- 2 Corrections, 1975-1985
- 3 Reviews, 1974-1976, n.d.
- 4 Reviews
- Subseries B. *Piano for the Developing Musician* (1985), 1982-1987
- Music Drafts
 - Piano for the Developing Musician I*
 - 5 Draft material, ca. 1982-1984
 - 6-7 Photocopy of edited draft, 1984
 - 8-9 Photocopy of edited working copy, 1984
 - 10 Proofreader copy, 1984
 - 9 1 Corrected page proofs, 1984
 - 2-4 *Piano for the Developing Musician II*, photocopy of working copy
 - 5 Assorted music
 - 6-7 Assorted draft and discarded material
 - Piano for the Developing Musician Rapid Guide*
 - 8-9 I, edited proof copy, n.d.
 - 10 II, corrected galley page proofs, n.d.
- Production
 - 10 1 Instruction manual draft, n.d.
 - 2 Editor's check chart, n.d.
 - 3 Recordings, n.d.
 - 4 Reviewer's comments, ca. 1984-1987
 - 5 Correspondence, 1982-1987
- Subseries C. *Piano for Pleasure* (1986), 1984-1986
 - 6-8 Music draft
 - 9 Production material
 - 10 Recordings
 - 11 Correspondence, 1984-1986

Series III. Assorted Printed Material 1964-1973, n.d.

- 12 *Junior Keynotes* articles by Olson, 1964-1973
 13 “Syllabus for Piano Classes” report by The Canadian Bureau for the
 Advancement of Music

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| Celebration! for piano and classroom percussion | 1.7 |
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| Debussy Selected Favorites for Piano | 1.8-9 |
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| First Favorite Melodies | 2.7 |
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