Guide to the Olivia Mattis Collection ARS.0107

Finding aid prepared by Franz Kunst
Archive of Recorded Sound
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Descriptive Summary
Title: Olivia Mattis Collection
Dates: 1988-1990
Collection number: ARS.0107
Creator: Mattis, Olivia
Collection size: 1 box: 17 10.5" open reel tapes
Repository: Archive of Recorded Sound
Abstract: Interviews with avant-garde composers by musicologist Olivia Mattis.
Language of Material: Multiple languages
Access
Open for research; material must be requested at least two business days in advance of intended use. Contact the Archive for assistance.
Publication Rights
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Preferred Citation
Sponsor
This finding aid was produced with generous financial support from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.
Scope and Contents
Interviews with avant-garde composers by musicologist Olivia Mattis, conducted while Mattis was a doctoral student at Stanford University studying Edgard Varèse. Thus, many of the subjects are family and associates of Varèse (many of whom are from the art world rather than music), and his name tends to come up in many of the interviews. Mattis was also the first person to interview Léon Thérémin after he emerged from over fifty years of Soviet seclusion in 1989. While the transcript for this interview has been published, less commonly found is the recording from the same tape of a theremin demonstration played by his daughter Natalia. The number of notable composers represented in the collection is impressive: Cage, Xenakis, Babbitt, Leuning, Schaeffer, Ussachevsky... Captured at the twilight of the twentieth century, there would be few further opportunities to hear the recollections of these brilliant creators. The collection also contains a rare interview with rock musician Frank Zappa, a known Varèse acolyte. Musicians, conductors, and artists are also among the interviewed. Sessions were in English and other languages (French, Russian) with an interpreter, and took place for the most part in Paris and New York City. These first generation copies (most of which have never been played) were dubbed from her original audiocassettes between 1989 and 1990, while Mattis was briefly employed at the Archive of Recorded Sound. Copies also appear to have been deposited at Yale University.
Source
The Olivia Mattis Collection was donated to the Stanford Archive of Recorded Sound by Olivia Mattis in 1990.
Arrangement
Reels have been numbered 1-17. Many interviews are contained on more than one reel. Approximate duration has been noted when evident.
Subjects and Indexing Terms
Avant-garde (Music)
Interviews

Box 1, Reel 15

Abravanel, Maurice 1988-02-29
Scope and Contents note
Salt Lake City, Utah [ca. 90 min.].
Subjects and Indexing Terms
Abravanel, Maurice, 1903-1993
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<th>Box, Reel</th>
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<th>Scope and Contents note</th>
<th>Subjects and Indexing Terms</th>
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<td>1, 16</td>
<td>Alcopley, L. 1988-07-29</td>
<td></td>
<td>In his studio, Central Park West, New York City.</td>
<td>Copley, Alfred L.</td>
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<td>1, 1</td>
<td>Arman 1989-01-01</td>
<td></td>
<td>Armand Pierre Fernandez. Vence, France [ca. 60 min.].</td>
<td>Arman, 1928-2005</td>
</tr>
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<td>1, 4</td>
<td>Babbitt, Milton 1990-07-02</td>
<td></td>
<td>In his studio at Julliard, New York City. 3-6:15 PM.</td>
<td>Babbitt, Milton, 1916-2011</td>
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<td>1, 10</td>
<td>Brown, Earle 1990-03-30</td>
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<td>Venice, California [ca. 90 min.].</td>
<td>Brown, Earle, 1926-2002</td>
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<td>1, 14</td>
<td>Cage, John 1988-07-28</td>
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<td>At his apartment on West 18th Street, New York City [ca. 60 min.].</td>
<td>Cage, John</td>
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<td>1, 6</td>
<td>Cavallo, Diana 1988-07-30</td>
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<td>In her apartment on Broadway, New York City.</td>
<td>Cavallo, Diana, 1931-</td>
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<td>1, 7, 6</td>
<td>Charlton, Maryette 1988-07-18</td>
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<td>Charlton, Maryette</td>
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<td>Corner, Philip 1989-12-27</td>
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<td>Corner, Philip</td>
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Box 1, Reel 1  
**Creuze, Raymond 1989-09-05**

Scope and Contents note
In his art gallery, 12 rue Beaujon, Paris [ca. 53 min.].

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Creuze, Raymond

Box 1, Reel 2  
**Dlugoszewski, Lucia 1989-12-29**

Scope and Contents note
Erick Hawkins Dance School, New York City. 4:30-5:15 PM [ca. 45 min.].

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Dlugoszewski, Lucia, 1931-2000

Box 1, Reel 10  
**Emmett, Dorothy Morang 1989-11-08**

Scope and Contents note
At her home in Sante Fe, New Mexico [ca. 40 min.].

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Emmett, Dorothy Morang

Box 1, Reel 12  
**Guttman, Newman 1988-07-06**

Scope and Contents note
At his home in Evanston, Illinois.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Guttman, Newman

Box 1, Reel 2  
**Heller, Red 1989-12-29**

Scope and Contents note
With Ernest Heller (her husband) and Charles Schwartz, founder of Composer’s Showcase. At the home of Red And Ernest (Dick) Heller in New York City. 1:30-2:30 PM.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Heller, Red, 1898-2003

Box 1, Reel 3  
**Jolas, Betsy 1989-02-09**

Scope and Contents note
At her apartment on rue Bonaparte, Paris. 6:20-7:30 PM [ca. 70 min.].

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Jolas, Betsy

Box 1, Reel 8  
**Jolivet, Hilda 1989-08-27**

Scope and Contents note
At her home on rue de Varenne, Paris. 2:30 PM [ca. 75 min.].

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Jolivet, Hilda

Box 1, Reel 12  
**Kiesler, Lillian 1988-07-18**

Scope and Contents note
At her apartment in New York City [ca. 45 min.].

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Kiesler, Lillian
Box 1, Reel 8  **Leeuw, Ton de 1989**

Scope and Contents note
at his home on rue de la Convention, Paris. May 12 and September 5, 1989 [ca. 80 min.].

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Leeuw, Ton de, 1926-1996

Box 1, Reel 15  **Luening, Otto 1988-07-12**

Scope and Contents note
New York City.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Luening, Otto, 1900-1996

Box 1, Reel 11  **McMillan, Ann 1988-11**

Scope and Contents note
New York City, November 9 and 13, 1988. At her apartment, on the street, at Cooper Union while waiting for a John Cage concert to begin, and then at her apartment again.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
McMillan, Ann

Box 1, Reel 13  **Mimaroğlu, Ilhan 1988-07-12**

Scope and Contents note
At Finnadar/Atlantic Records, New York City [ca 65 min.].

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Mimaroğlu, Ilhan K. (Ilhan Kemaleddin), 1926-

Box 1, Reel 12  **Pierce, John 1988-01**

Scope and Contents note
[ca. 50 min.].

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Pierce, John R. (John Robinson), 1910-2002

Box 1, Reel 13  **Pierce, John ; Pierce, Brenda ; Mathews, Max ; Mathews, Marjorie 1988-08-18**

Scope and Contents note
At the Pierce residence.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Mathews, Max V.
Pierce, John R. (John Robinson), 1910-2002

Box 1, Reel 1  **Rifkin, Joshua 1989-10-11**

Scope and Contents note
Stanford office [ca. 45 min.].

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Rifkin, Joshua

Box 1, Reel 3  **Risset, Jean-Claude 1988-12-26**

Scope and Contents note
Olivia's apartment, Paris [ca. 90 min.].

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Risset, Jean-Claude
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<th><strong>Rowe, Howard 1988-07-23</strong></th>
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<td>Scope and Contents note</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cafe Dante, New York City. 8:00 PM. Rowe is Alexander Calder's son-in-law. [ca. 45 min.].</td>
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<td>Subjects and Indexing Terms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rowe, Howard</td>
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<th><strong>Schaeffer, Pierre 1989-03-06</strong></th>
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<td>Scope and Contents note</td>
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<tr>
<td>In his apartment, rue Des Petits Champs, Paris. 5:00 PM [ca. 40 min.].</td>
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<tr>
<td>Subjects and Indexing Terms</td>
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<td>Schaeffer, Pierre, 1910-1995</td>
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<tr>
<th>Box 1, Reel 3</th>
<th><strong>Schic, Anna Stella 1989-01-20</strong></th>
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<td>Scope and Contents note</td>
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<tr>
<td>With Michel Philippot. Paris, 5:30 PM. Schic (Mme. Philippot) speaks at the beginning about the relations between Varèse and Villa-Lobos, her master.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subjects and Indexing Terms</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Philippot, Michel, Michel, 1925-1996</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Schic, Anna Stella</td>
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<th><strong>Schneemann, Carolee 1988-07-14</strong></th>
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<td>Scope and Contents note</td>
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<td>[ca. 60 min.].</td>
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<td>Subjects and Indexing Terms</td>
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<td>Schneemann, Carolee, 1939-</td>
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<th><strong>Slonimsky, Nicolas 1988-04</strong></th>
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<td>Scope and Contents note</td>
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<tr>
<td>At his home in Los Angeles, California, April 2-3, 1988.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Subjects and Indexing Terms</td>
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<td>Slonimsky, Nicolas, 1894-1995</td>
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<th><strong>Tenney, James 1990-04-28</strong></th>
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<td>Scope and Contents note</td>
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<td>At the home of Max and Marjorie Mathews in Palo Alto, California, with Max and Marjorie Mathews, John and Brenda Pierce, and Todd and Marina Winkler. 10:30 -12:00PM [ca. 90 min.].</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Subjects and Indexing Terms</td>
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<td>Tenney, James</td>
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<td>Subjects and Indexing Terms</td>
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<td>Thérémin, Léon, 1896-1993</td>
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**Ussachevsky, Vladimir 1988-02-28**  
Scope and Contents note  
Salt Lake City, Utah.  
Subjects and Indexing Terms  
Ussachevsky, Vladimir, 1911-1990

Box 1, Reel 7, Box 1, Reel 8  
**Varèse, Claude 1988-12**  
Scope and Contents note  
Claude is Edgard Varèse's daughter. December 29, 1988 at Cafe de Paris, Monte Carlo, with Claude's daughter Marilyn Mulder Vespier; December 31, 1988 in her apartment on boulevard d'Italie in Monte Carlo.  
Subjects and Indexing Terms  
Varèse, Edgard, 1883-1965

Box 1, Reel 6, Box 1, Reel 5  
**Varèse, Louise 1988-06**  
Scope and Contents note  
Eugene, Oregon. June 1-3, 1988. Widow of Edgard Varèse, b. 1890. With Michael Norton (Louise's son), Loa Norton (Michael's wife), Sylvia Gillis (Michael and Loa's daughter), and David Calderwood (Sylvia's fiancé).  
Subjects and Indexing Terms  
Varèse, Edgard, 1883-1965  
Varèse, Louise

Box 1, Reel 13  
**Weinberg, Henry 1988-08-01**  
Scope and Contents note  
New York City [ca. 70 min.].  
Subjects and Indexing Terms  
Weinberg, Henry, 1931-

Box 1, Reel 8  
**Wigglesworth, Frank 1989-09-23**  
Scope and Contents note  
at his home on Downing Street, New York City [ca. 70 min.].  
Subjects and Indexing Terms  
Wigglesworth, Frank, 1918-1996

Box 1, Reel 17  
**Wood, Beatrice 1988-03-30**  
Scope and Contents note  
Ojai, California.  
Subjects and Indexing Terms  
Wood, Beatrice

Box 1, Reel 7  
**Xenakis, Iannis 1989**  
Scope and Contents note  
Subjects and Indexing Terms  
Xenakis, Iannis, 1922-2001
Box 1, Reel 10  **Zappa, Frank 1990-03-30**

**Scope and Contents note**
At his home in Hollywood, California [ca. 60 min.].

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**
Zappa, Frank