

## **Guide to the John M. Chowning Papers SC0906**

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Department of Special Collections and University Archives

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**Language of Material:** English

**Contributing Institution:** Department of Special Collections and University Archives

**Title:** John M. Chowning papers

**creator:** Chowning, John M.

**Identifier/Call Number:** SC0906

**Physical Description:** 1.5 Linear Feet(4 boxes)

**Date (inclusive):** 1974-2014

**Abstract:** Collection consists largely of correspondence between Chowning, the Yamaha Corporation, and the Technology Licensing Office at Stanford, 1974-97; other items include patents and related documents, 1978-87, technical writings (not all by Chowning), 1974-87, publications and leaflets on Yamaha products, and miscellaneous notes. The technical writings include "Excerpts from Computer Music Proposal Submitted to National Science Foundation," July 1974; "Sine Summation Formula Synthesis," ca. 1976; and "Progress Report on the Development of the FM-type Musical Instrument for the period of March 1979 to February 1980."

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**Cite As**

John M. Chowning Papers (SC0906). Department of Special Collections and University Archives, Stanford University Libraries, Stanford, Calif.

**Biographical/Historical Sketch**

John M. Chowning, professor emeritus of music at Stanford, developed the technique for creating digital sounds in the late 1960s which was patented and then licensed to Yamaha in 1973. He earned his bachelor of music at Wittenberg University in 1959, studied composition with Nadia Boulanger in Paris, and earned his Ph.D. at Stanford in 1966. He was the founding director in 1975 of Stanford's Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics.

**Description of the Collection**

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**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Synthesizer (Musical instrument)

Computer music.

Chowning, John M.

Risset, Jean-Claude

Stanford University. Office of Technology Licensing

Yamaha Corporation.

Stanford University. Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics

Chowning, John M.

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**Papers** Accession ARCH-2008-177

box 1, folder 1	<b>Correspondence 1974-1976</b>
box 1, folder 2	<b>Correspondence 1978</b>
box 1, folder 3	<b>Correspondence 1979</b>
box 1, folder 4	<b>Correspondence 1980</b>
box 1, folder 5	<b>Correspondence 1981</b>
box 1, folder 6	<b>Correspondence 1982</b>
box 1, folder 7	<b>Correspondence 1983</b>
box 1, folder 8	<b>Correspondence 1984</b>
box 1, folder 9	<b>Correspondence 1985-1986</b>
box 1, folder 10	<b>Correspondence 1987</b>
box 1, folder 11	<b>Correspondence 1988</b>
box 1, folder 12	<b>Correspondence 1989-1990</b>
box 1, folder 13	<b>Correspondence 1991</b>
box 1, folder 14	<b>Correspondence 1992</b>
box 1, folder 15	<b>Correspondence 1995-1997 and undated</b>
box 2, folder 1	<b>Technical writings 1974-1987</b>
box 2, folder 2	<b>Technical writings undated</b>
box 2, folder 3	<b>Miscellaneous notes</b>
box 2, folder 4	<b>Publications and leaflets (Yamaha products)</b>
box 2, folder 5	<b>Patents and related documents 1978-1987</b>
box 2, folder 6	<b>Clippings</b>

**Additional papers** Accession ARCH-2015-087

box 1	<b>John Chowning &amp; Jean-Claude Rissette: pionniers de la computer music 2014 Sep 24-26</b> 
	<b>Physical Description:</b> 2 computer file(s)

box 1	<b>John Chowning &amp; Jean-Claude Rissette: pionniers de la computer music (program) 2014 Sep 24-26</b>
	<b>Additional papers</b> Accession ARCH-2016-053

box 1, folder 1	<b>Niels J. Reimers correspondence re patent application 1975-1981</b>
box 1, folder 2	<b>FM Hardware undated</b>
box 1, folder 3	<b>Stanford visit to IRCAM 1977</b>
box 1, folder 4	<b>Theremin visit 1991</b>
box 1, folder 5	<b>Photograph undated</b>