Homer Simmons papers, 1900-1982

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Title: Homer Simmons papers
Collection number: PASC-M 73
Contributing Institution: UCLA Library Special Collections
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 1.2 linear ft. (2 document boxes and 1 flat box)
Date (inclusive): 1908-1986
Abstract: The collection consists of musical compositions and other writings, concert programs, a scrapbook, and audiotapes originally belonging to the noted California pianist, Homer Simmons.
Physical Location: Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact the UCLA Library Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.
Creator: Simmons, Homer
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Restrictions on Access
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Homer Simmons Papers (Collection PASC-M 73). UCLA Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, University of California, Los Angeles.
Biography/History
Homer Simmons was born on August 6, 1900 in Evansville, Indiana and began playing piano at the age of four. His family moved to Los Angeles when he was about ten years old. He studied music with Homer Grunn and attended USC, playing concerts and composing music. In 1927 he premiered his piano concerto "Phantasmania" at the Hollywood Bowl. In the 1930s he traveled to Europe and studied with Ottorino Respighi and Ignacy Paderewski, among others.
Returning to Los Angeles in 1938, he partnered with the pianist George Scharl (died 1975), and the two would remain together for the rest of Simmons' life, touring together and playing Simmons' compositions for two pianos. In later life the two men became important fixtures in the cultural life of Inglewood and Tujunga. Homer Simmons died on August 21, 1971 in Sunland, California.
Scope and Content
The collection consists of musical compositions, other writings, biographical material, a scrapbook, and audio recordings. There is also a significant amount of material about Polish pianist and composer Ignacy Paderewski, including Simmons' unpublished biography of him.
Organization and Arrangement
This collection is arranged into the following series:
   Series 1. Musical compositions
   Series 2. Personal material
   Series 3. Material regarding Ignacy Jan Paderewski
UCLA Catalog Record ID
UCLA Catalog Record ID: 4233784
Subjects and Indexing Terms
Paderewski, Ignace Jan, 1860-1941
Composers--California--Los Angeles--Archives.

Scope and Content
Includes works for solo and dual pianos. There are published copies, both originals and reproductions, and reproductions of handwritten manuscripts.

Box 1, Folder 1
Absence (Abwesenheit). 1939.
Box 1, Folder 1
Broken Dreams. 1931.
Box 1, Folder 1
The Calico Cat. 1948.
Box 1, Folder 1
The Cheshire Cat (Cake-walk). 1941.
Box 1, Folder 1
The Chinese Plate. 1944.
Box 1, Folder 1
A Day at the Circus. 1954.
Box 1, Folder 1
Deep River. 1942.
Box 1, Folder 1
The Dormouse (Sarabande). 1941.
Box 1, Folder 1
The Duchess (Passacaglia). 1940.
Box 1, Folder 1
Fugato Giocoso (Homage to Bach). undated.
Box 1, Folder 1
The Gingham Dog. 1948.
Box 1, Folder 1
The Gryphon and the Mock Turtle (Minuet) [two copies]. 1940.
Box 1, Folder 2
Happy Return (Heimkehr). 1940.
Box 1, Folder 2
The Lobster Quadrille (Reel). 1941.
Box 1, Folder 2
The Old Dutch Clock. 1948.
Box 1, Folder 2
Box 1, Folder 2
Phantasmania. 1929.
Box 1, Folder 2
Prelude (In Memoriam, Sergei Rachmaninoff). 1944.
Box 1, Folder 2
The Queen of Hearts (Gigue). 1941.
Box 1, Folder 2
Scherzino. 1939.
Box 1, Folder 2
Stairways (Fox-Trot) [annotated]. 1928.
Box 1, Folder 3
Box 1, Folder 4
Tango at Midnight. 1940.
Box 1, Folder 4
Two Modern Baroque Dances [two copies]. 1969.
Box 1, Folder 4
Valse Piquant - Valse Lente - A Magyar Waltz (For Two Pianos) [two copies]. 1969.
Box 1, Folder 4


Scope and Content
Includes biographical information, concert programs, correspondence, a scrapbook, audio recordings, and poems and essays.

Box 1, Folder 5
Biographical material. 1936-1975.

Scope and Content
Includes: lists of works composed and performed; photograph of Simmons and Scharl; copy of birth record; certificate of death.

Box 1, Folder 6

Scope and Content Note
Includes: correspondence between the artist Enters and George Scharl; programs for Enters’ pantomime performances.

Box 2, Folder 7
Music publishing. 1927-1983.

Scope and Contents note
Includes correspondence and material regarding copyrights and royalties.

Box 1, Folder 8
Programs. 1927-ca. 1963.

Scope and Content
Includes: Hollywood Bowlsheviks by de Brú [1927 souvenir program with caricatures by the artist who would later be known as Xavier Cugat]; program for a recital by Jules Bledsoe, 1941 [inscribed by Bledsoe].

Box 1, Folder 9
Writings. 1941-ca. 1970.

Scope and Content Note
Includes poetry and essays.
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