Guide to The World of Charlotte Moorman PA Mss 129

Finding aid prepared by Wyatt Young and Zachary Liebhaber, 2017.

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Acquisition Information
Scope and Content
Charlotte Moorman was an American cellist and performance artist who gained some notoriety for her Avant Garde performances at festivals she helped organize beginning in 1963. Moorman was trained as a classical musician at Juilliard and later joined the American Symphony Orchestra in the late 1950s. She is widely known for her performance art however, as one of her performances of Nam June Paik's Opera Sextronique would lead to her arrest for performing the work topless. Paik and Moorman were longtime collaborators, with Paik composing many pieces exclusively for Moorman. Paik also produced a documentary film after Moorman's death in 1991 entitled "The Topless Cellist." This collection was originally edited, compiled, and produced by the manager of Moorman's estate Barbara Moore. This collection is one of 100 limited edition archives that were sold at an exhibition on the life and work of Moorman in 2000. This collection has been arranged chronologically, and the contents largely address the 15 annual Avant Garde Festivals that Moorman organized and at which she performed.
Subjects and Indexing Terms
Performance artists -- United States
Performance art -- United States
Cellists -- United States
Avant-garde (Music)
Moorman, Charlotte -- Archives
Avant Garde Festival of New York
Paik, Nam June, 1932-2006

Box 1
Table of Contents/Colophon
Box 1
Chronology: Early
Box 1
Chronology: General
Box 1
Chronology: Paik Collaborations
Box 1
Avant Garde Festivals: General 1963-1980
Box 1
1st Avant Garde Festival
Box 1
2nd Avant Garde Festival
Box 1
3rd Avant Garde Festival
Box 1
4th Avant Garde Festival
Box 1
5th Avant Garde Festival
Box 1
6th Avant Garde Festival
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1</th>
<th>7th Avant Garde Festival</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>8th Avant Garde Festival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>9th Avant Garde Festival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>10th Avant Garde Festival</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>