Descriptive Summary

Languages: English

Contributing Institution: Special Collections & Archives, UC San Diego

9500 Gilman Drive
La Jolla 92093-0175

Title: Thomas Nee Papers

Identifier/Call Number: MSS 0609

Physical Description: 1 Linear feet (3 archives boxes and 1 oversize box)

Date (inclusive): 1946-2001

Abstract: The papers of Thomas Nee, conductor and University of California, San Diego emeritus professor of music, include correspondence and biographical materials related to his fifty years of classical and experimental music conducting.

Preferred Citation

Thomas Nee Papers, MSS 609. Special Collections & Archives, UC San Diego.

Acquisition Note


Publication Rights

Publication rights are held by the creator of the collection.

Scope and Content of Collection

The papers of Thomas Nee, conductor and emeritus professor of music, contains correspondence from twentieth century composers including university mentor Ernst Krenek, as well as composers Henry Brant, Robert Erickson, Dika Newlin, Will Ogden, Pauline Oliveros, Bernard Rands, Roger Reynolds, and Dane Rudhyar. The papers also also contains biographical materials, including programs and newsclopping, reflecting his conducting career from 1948-2001, writings, and audio visual materials. The recorded materials represent concerts Nee conducted during his career. The collection is arranged in four series: 1) CORRESPONDENCE, 2) CONDUCTING EXPERIENCE, 3) BIOGRAPHICAL MATERIALS, and 4) AUDIO VISUAL RECORDINGS.

Biography

Born in Evanston, Illinois on Oct. 25, 1920, Thomas Nee graduated from the University of Minnesota. Following service in the Merchant Marine during World War II, he received his masters of arts from Hamline University, where he studied under composer Ernst Krenek. His postgraduate work included studies at the University of Vienna, the Austrian State Academy, and Black Mountain College with composer Stefan Wolpe in North Carolina, as well as private study with conductor Hermann Scherchen in Switzerland. Nee was music director for the Civic Orchestra of Minneapolis from 1954-1967 and 1972-1973.

In 1967, Nee joined the UCSD Music Department, accepted the position of conductor, taught music, and served as department chair from 1971-1977. He also conducted SONOR, a resident ensemble that performed experimental music by UCSD composers. In addition to conducting the La Jolla Symphony and Chorus during the academic year, he also conducted the New Hampshire Music Festival during the summer months from 1960-1992. Nee conducted world premieres of contemporary repertoire and numerous guest engagements including opera workshops, festivals, the Minnesota Orchestra, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Eastman Philharmonic, Rochester Philharmonic, and Darmstadt Ferienkurse. Nee retired from UCSD in 1991, but remained active until his death in 2008, overseeing the Tom Nee Commission, awarded each year to a graduate-level composer whose new piece is performed each spring by La Jolla Symphony & Chorus.

Restrictions

The audio and visual recordings in Box 3, Folders 1-3 are restricted and require a user copy to be produced.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Music -- 20th century
Composers -- Correspondence
Ogdon, Will, 1921-2013 -- Correspondence
Oliveros, Pauline, 1932-2016 -- Correspondence
Rands, Bernard -- Correspondence
Krenek, Ernst, 1900-1991 -- Correspondence
Partch, Harry, 1901-1974 -- Correspondence
CORRESPONDENCE

Box 1, Folder 1  A-Z Miscellaneous
General note

Box 1, Folder 2  Brant, Henry 1965 - 1999
General note
Composer of spatial music.

Box 1, Folder 3  Cage, John 1979
Box 1, Folder 4  Erickson, Robert 1953 - 1984
Box 1, Folder 5  Garland, Peter 1980
Box 1, Folder 6  Greenberg, Alvin 1999-2004
Box 1, Folder 7  Krenek, Ernst 1946 - 1989
Box 1, Folder 8  Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra 1959-1966
Box 1, Folder 9  Newlin, Dika 1953 - 1998
General note
Composer and biographer of Mahler, Schoenberg, and Brucken.

Box 1, Folder 10  Ogdon, Will 1955 - 1998
Box 1, Folder 11  Oliveros, Pauline 1960 - 1996
Box 1, Folder 12  Partch, Harry 1972
Box 1, Folder 13  Rands, Bernard 1977 - 2001
Box 1, Folder 14  Reynolds, Roger 1967 - 1999
Box 1, Folder 15  Rudhyar, Dane 1972 - 1988

CONDUCTING EXPERIENCE

Box 2, Folder 1  Osage, Iowa High School band - Photograph 1943
Hamline University
Box 2, Folder 2, Oversize FB-495-01  Newsclippings 1945-1955
Box 2, Folder 3  Programs 1945-1955
Box 2, Folder 4, Oversize FB-495-02  Civic Orchestra of Minneapolis - Newsclippings 1953-1967
Box 2, Folder 5  New Hampshire Music Festival - Miscellaneous 1954-2007
Box 2, Folder 6, Oversize FB-495-03  First Unitarian Society, Minneapolis, MN - Newsclippings 1954-1964
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Box 2, Folder 9  Opera Log 4 - “Music of the Greek Operas” - Photocopy 1967
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University of California, San Diego Music Department
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