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Guide to the

Jerzy Fitelberg papers

1921-1952

JOB 95-14

Compiled by Matthew Snyder, April 2012

Summary

Creator: Fitelberg, Jerzy, 1903-1951

Title: Jerzy Fitelberg papers, 1921-1952

Size: 5.84 linear feet (22 boxes)

Source: Donated by Emil Kahn, 1978.

Abstract: The Jerzy Fitelberg papers primarily hold the composer's score manuscripts. They also contain correspondence, concert programs and clipping files.

Access: Collection is open to the public. Library policy on photography and photocopying will apply. Advance notice may be required.

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Preferred citation: Jerzy Fitelberg papers, JOB 95-14. Music Division, The New York Public Library.

Processing note: Processing consisted of foldering and ordering scores, clippings, correspondence and programs.

Creator history

The composer Jerzy Fitelberg (1903-1951) was born in Warsaw, Poland. His father, Grzegorz Fitelberg, was a composer and the conductor of the Warsaw Philharmonic until the Second World War. Jerzy began music training at the Conservatory of Warsaw, then studied with Franz Schreker and Walter Gmeindl from 1922 to 1926 at the Academy of Music in Berlin, where he remained until 1932. In 1928 his String Quartet No. 2 won first prize in a competition sponsored by the Polish government in Paris, and in 1936 he won the Library of Congress's Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge chamber music medal for his String Quartet No. 4; The piece was premiered at a chamber music festival at the Library in 1937. The success he gained as a young composer was marked by numerous performances at festivals, including those of the International Society for Contemporary Music in 1932 and 1937. From 1933 to 1940 Fitelberg lived in Paris, after which he moved to New York. The American Academy of Arts and Letters awarded him a grant in 1945, and in 1950 his Suite for Organ won a composition prize from the Pennsylvania College for Women. That same year the Koussevitsky Foundation commissioned his last work, Concertino Da Camera for Violin and Piano, which he completed two days before his death.

Fitelberg's work includes music for chamber groups, chamber orchestra, full orchestra, an opera and a choral work, as well as scores for two films. He also wrote articles for the journal *Modern Music*.

Sources:

Bogusław Schaeffer. "Fitelberg, Jerzy." In *Grove Music Online*. Oxford Music Online, <http://www.oxfordmusiconline.com/subscriber/article/grove/music/A2093058> (accessed March 27, 2012).

"Jerzy Fitelberg, 48, A Polish Composer," *The New York Times*, April 27, 1951, p. 23.

Scope and content note

The Jerzy Fitelberg papers hold the composer's score manuscripts and personal files containing clippings, correspondence and concert programs. Scores make up the bulk of the collection and contain works composed from 1921 to 1951. Among them are solo instrumental pieces; string quartets and other chamber works; songs for voice and piano; a choral work; orchestral concerti for piano, violin, and string quartet; works for full orchestra including *Les Aventures de Mickey* (1934) and *The Golden Harp: Variations on a Polish Folk Song for String Orchestra* (1943); the children's opera *Henny Penny* (1949); and Fitelberg's film scores. The papers also hold a small set of score manuscripts by other composers, including Grzegorz Fitelberg, Alexander Spitzmüller, Eduard Steuermann, and Karol Szymanowski.

The clipping files and concert programs document Fitelberg's career in Europe and America from the late 1920s until his death. The correspondence is sparse but includes letters from Artur Rodzinski, Margaret Carson, and the American Academy of Arts and Letters concerning the grant it awarded to Fitelberg.

Arrangement

The Jerzy Fitelberg papers are organized into the following series:

Series I: Scores, 1921-1951

Series II: Personal Files, 1927-1952

Key terms

Names

American Academy of Arts and Letters
Fitelberg, Grzegorz, 1879-1953
Fitelberg, Jerzy, 1903-1951
Noskowski, Zygmunt, 1846-1909
Spitzmüller, Alexander, 1862-1953
Steuermann, Edward
Szałowski, Antoni, 1907-1973
Szymanowski, Karol, 1882-1937

Occupations

Arrangers
Composers
Musicians

Special formats

Clippings (information artifacts)

Personal correspondence

Programs (documents)

Scores

Container list

Series I: Scores, 1921-1951 (20 boxes)

This series holds the bulk of the collection. Nearly all the scores are manuscripts (or copies of manuscripts). Many have sketches and draft versions in addition to final scores and parts produced by copyists or by Fitelberg himself.

The scores range from works composed in Fitelberg's late teens to his last completed composition, *Concertino Da Camera* (1951). Among them are solo pieces for piano, violin, cello, organ and harp; six string quartets, as well as other chamber music for wind quintets and unique combinations; orchestral concerti for piano, violin and string quartet, and a *Concertino for Trombone, Piano and String Orchestra* (1947); songs for voice and piano; the choral piece *Pan Tralalinski* (1942); several pieces for full orchestra, including *Eine Kammer Sinfonie, Op. 11* (1922), *Suite for Orchestra* (1924), *Etude for Orchestra* (1932), *Les Adventures de Mickey* (1934), and *The Golden Harp: Variations on a Polish Folk Song for String Orchestra* (1943); and an opera for children entitled *Henny Penny* (1949). Scores for three pieces, *Die Indische Harfe*, *Kleine Musik für Rundfunk* and *Symphony for Winds* were microfilmed and cataloged under *ZZ-32378.

The scores also hold Fitelberg's scores for the films *Poland Fights On* and *Polish Pictures*; an arrangement of J.S. Bach's *Passacaglia* (BWV 582); and Fitelberg's performance notes for *The Tale of Tsar Saltan* by Rimsky-Korsakov. Three of Fitelberg's works, *Lost Phantasies*, *Silverblue* and *A Timely Tale*, were composed under the pseudonym of Steve Terry. In addition, the scores contain several finished but untitled works, unfinished pieces, and untitled/unfinished sketches.

Fitelberg's scores also contain the manuscripts for works by several other composers, including his father, Grzegorz, Alexander Spitzmüller, Eduard Steuermann, and Karol Szymanowski.

Fitelberg, Jerzy

3 Mazurken, 1931-1932

- b.1 f.1 For Piano
Score manuscript, with sketches for orchestral version.
- b.1 f.2 For Orchestra
List of corrections to parts in score published by Editions Salabert.
- b.1 f.3 *3 Piano Caprices, 1925* (Sketches and score manuscript.)
- b.2 f.1 *12 Studies for 3 Clarinets in B-flat, 1948* (Score manuscript.)
- b.2 f.2 *Les Adventures de Mickey, 1934* (For orchestra. Bound score manuscript.)
- b.1 f.4 *Chinesisches Trinklied, 1922*
For voice and orchestra. Full score manuscript.

Concertino da Camera, 1951 (For violin and piano.)

- b.1 f.5 Score manuscript.
 - b.1 f.6 Full score and violin part. (Manuscript copies.)
- ##### *Concertino for Trombone, Piano and String Orchestra, 1947*
- b.2 f.3 Sketches
 - b.1 f.7 Full Score (Manuscript copy, with markings.)
 - b.1 f.8 Piano Part (Manuscript copy.)

Concerto for Piano and Orchestra No. 1, 1929

Series I: Scores, 1921-1951 (cont.)

Fitelberg, Jerzy (cont.)

Concerto for Piano and Orchestra No... (cont.)

Full Scores

- b.1 f.9 Manuscript
- b.1 f.10 Copyist Manuscript
- b.3 f.1-3 Parts
- b.4 f.1 Arrangement for Two Pianos (Score manuscript.)
- Concerto for Piano and Orchestra No. 2, 1934*
- b.2 f.4 Full Score (Manuscript copy.)
- b.4 f.2 Arrangement for Two Pianos. (Score manuscript.)
- b.4 f.3 *Concerto for String Quartet and Orchestra, 1931* (Full score manuscript.)
- Concerto for Violin and Orchestra No. 1, 1928*
- b.4 f.4 Score Manuscript
- b.4 f.5 Copyist Manuscript with Notes
- Concerto for Violin and Orchestra No. 2, 1935*
- b.5 f.1 Score Manuscript Copy
- b.4 f.6 Arrangement for Violin and Piano (Score Manuscript Copy)
- b.6 f.1 *Concerto for Violoncello, 1931*
For cello and piano. Sketches and manuscript score.
- b.6 f.2 *Divertimento für Blasinstrumente, 1930* (For brass. Manuscript score.)
- b.5 f.2 *Divertimento pour Instruments d'Harmonie, 1930* (For orchestra. Score manuscript.)
- Duo for Violin and Cello, 1934*
- b.6 f.3 Draft Score Manuscript
- b.6 f.4 Final Score Manuscript and Cello Part
- Epitaph for Violin and Orchestra, 1943*
- b.5 f.3 Copy of Score Manuscript
- b.6 f.5 Parts (Copyist manuscripts.)
- Etudes for Orchestra, 1932*
- b.6 f.6 Bound Score Manuscript with Markings
- b.7 f.1-4 Parts (Copyist manuscripts.)
Arrangement for Two Pianos
- b.7 f.5 Score Manuscript
- b.7 f.6 Copyist Manuscript
- b.8 f.1 *Fisches Nachtgesang, Op. 9, No. 2, 1921*
For clarinet, cello and celesta. Score manuscript.
- b.8 f.2 *Fuga Buffa, 1923-1924* (For piano. Sketch and score manuscripts.)
- The Golden Harp: Variations on a Polish Folk Song for String Orchestra, 1942-1943*
- b.8 f.3 Draft Score
- b.5 f.4 Copyist Final Score

Series I: Scores, 1921-1951 (cont.)

Fitelberg, Jerzy (cont.)

The Golden Harp: Variations on a Po... (cont.)

- b.8 f.4 Parts
Henny Penny, 1948-1949
Children's opera. Libretto by Neil Brant.
- b.8 f.5 Manuscript Draft Score
- b.8 f.6 Final Manuscript Score Copy
- b.9 f.1 Libretto Drafts and Final Version
- b.9 f.2 *Die Indische Harfe*, 1923
Four songs for soprano, piano, violin, cello, flute and trombone. Score manuscript.
- b.9 f.3 *Eine Kammer Sinfonie*, Op. 11, 1922 (For orchestra. Score manuscript.)
- b.9 f.4-5 *Kleine Musik für Rundfunk*, 1929
For clarinet, bassoon, trumpet and percussion. Score manuscript and parts.
- b.5 f.5 *Konzertstück for Orchestra*, 1939 (Reverse copy of score manuscript.)
- b.9 f.6 *Lost Phantasies*, 1947 (For voice and piano. Score manuscript.)
- b.9 f.7 *Maska Śmierci Szkarlatniej*, Op. 7, 1920 (For orchestra. Score manuscript.)
- b.9 f.8 *Das Monschaf*, Op. 9, No. 1, 1921
For voice and piano. Text by Christian Morgenstern. Score manuscript.
- b.9 f.9 *Das Mondscheinlied*, 1922 (For piano. Score manuscript.)
- b.9 f.10-11 *Music for Two Pianos*, 1939 (Draft and final score manuscripts.)
Nocturne for Orchestra, 1944
- b.9 f.12 Score Manuscript
- b.5 f.6 Reproduction of Copyist Score Manuscript.
- b.9 f.13 List of Score Corrections
- b.9 f.14 *Octetto Concertante*, 1922
For oboe, clarinet, bassoon, violin, viola, cello and bass. Score manuscript.
- b.9 f.15 *Ostatnie Chaile Sowizdrzala*, Op. 6, 1920 (For string quartet. Score manuscript.)
- b.10 f.1-2 *Pan Tralalinski*, 1942
For mixed chorus. Words by Fitelberg. Sketches and score manuscript.
- b.10 f.3 *Passacaglia*, BWV 582, by J.S. Bach, 1939
Arranged by Fitelberg for piano (copy of score manuscript) and piano and strings (published).
- b.10 f.4 *Pastorale for Winds*
For flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, trumpet and trombone. Score manuscript.
Poland Fights On, ca. 1945 (For winds, piano and percussion.)
- b.10 f.5 Score Manuscript
- b.10 f.6 Scopy of Score Manuscript with Notes
- b.10 f.7 Copyist Parts
Polish Pictures, 1946 (For orchestra.)
- b.10 f.8 Draft Score Manuscript
- b.11 f.1 Final Score Manuscript
- b.11 f.2 Parts

Series I: Scores, 1921-1951 (cont.)

Fitelberg, Jerzy (cont.)

- b.11 f.3 *Prelude for Violin and Piano*, 1938 (Draft and final score manuscripts.)
- b.11 f.4 *Quartet for Strings*, No. 1, 1926 (Score manuscript and copyist parts.)
Quartet for Strings, No. 3, 1935-1936
- b.11 f.5 Incomplete Draft Score Manuscript
- b.11 f.6 Copy of Complete Score Manuscript
- b.11 f.7 Negative of Copyist Manuscript
Quartet for Strings, No. 4, 1936
- b.11 f.8 Score Manuscript
- b.12 f.1 Reproduction of Copyist Manuscript
- b.12 f.2 Parts
- b.12 f.3 *Quartet for Strings*, No. 5, 1945 (Score manuscript.)
- b.12 f.4-5 *Quartet for Strings*, No. 6, 1950 (Draft and final score manuscripts.)
Rhapsodie for 4 Klaviere, 1926
- b.13 f.1 Bound Score Manuscript
- b.12 f.6 Copyist Parts
- b.14 f.1 *Rideau Musicale pour "The Mask of Red Death"*, 1923 (For orchestra. Score manuscript.)
- b.14 f.2 *Romanza*, 1931 (For piano. Score manuscript.)
- b.14 f.3 *Scherzo*, 1924
For three unidentified instruments. Score manuscript.
- b.14 f.4 *Scherzo für Klavier Solo*, 1924 (Score manuscript.)
- b.14 f.5 *Der Schlechtgefesselte Prometheus*, 1929
For piano. Two movements: *Ballade* and *Tango*. Copyist score manuscript.
- b.14 f.6 *Selbstvergessenheit*, 1923
For tenor voice and piano. Score manuscript.
Sept Caprices pour Violon et Piano, 1944
- b.14 f.7 Sketches
- b.14 f.8 Draft Score Manuscript with Edits
- b.14 f.9 Full Score and Violin Part (Manuscript copies.)
- b.14 f.10 *Serenade für Rundfunk*, 1929
For oboe, clarinet, bassoon, trombone, percussion, piano, violin, cello and bass. Score manuscript.
Serenade for Viola and Piano, 1943
- b.14 f.11 Sketches
- b.14 f.12 Final Scores
Incomplete manuscript and complete copy of manuscript.
- b.14 f.13 Viola Part Written for Violin
- b.14 f.14 *Serenade für Violine und Contrabass*, 1925 (Score manuscript.)

Series I: Scores, 1921-1951 (cont.)

Fitelberg, Jerzy (cont.)

- b.14 f.15 *Silverblue*, 1947
For voice and piano. Sketch and final score (manuscript copy).
- b.15 f.1 *Sinfonietta*, 1946 (For orchestra. Score manuscript.)
- b.15 f.2 *Sinfonietta*, Op. 10, 1921 (For orchestra. Score manuscript.)
- b.15 f.3 *Sinfonietta*, Op. 12, No. 1, 1922 (For winds. Score manuscript.)
- b.15 f.4 *Six Little Stories for Little Hands* (For two pianos.)
- b.15 f.5 *Sonata No. 2 for Piano*, 1929 (Composer and copyist score manuscripts.)
- b.13 f.2 *Sonata for 2 Violins and 2 Pianos* (Reverse copy of score manuscript.)
- b.15 f.6 *Sonata for Violin*, Op. 12, No. 4, 1923
Score manuscript and incomplete score manuscript copy.
- b.15 f.7 *Sonata for Violoncello*, 1945 (Score manuscript.)
- b.15 f.8-9 *Sonatine for 2 Violins*, 1939 (Copyist score manuscript and parts.)
- b.15 f.10 *Sonatine pour Piano*, 1937 (Score manuscript.)
- b.15 f.11 *Suite for Harp*, 1928 (Score manuscript.)
Suite for Orchestra, 1924
- b.13 f.3 Unfinished Score Manuscript
- b.15 f.12 Complete Score Manuscript
- b.15 f.13 Parts (Flute and violin only.)
Suite for Organ, 1949
- b.16 f.1 Draft Score Manuscript
- b.16 f.2 Copy of Final Score Manuscript with Edits
- b.16 f.3 *Suite for Piano*, 1927 (Score manuscript.)
- b.16 f.4 *Suite for Strings*, 1932
Score manuscript of second movement only.
Suite for Violin and Piano, 1932-1933
- b.16 f.5 Composer and Copyist Score Manuscripts
- b.16 f.6 Violin Part
- b.16 f.7 Arrangement for Violin and Orchestra (Score manuscript.)
- b.16 f.8-9 *Symphony for Winds*, 1933 (Score manuscript and parts.)
- b.16 f.10 *The Tale of Tsar Saltan* by Rimsky-Korsakov (Performance notes by Fitelberg.)
- b.17 f.1-2 *Tema con Variazioni*, 1924-1925
For piano. Composer and copyist score manuscripts.
- b.13 f.4 *Tema con Variazioni*, 1944
For violin and piano. Score manuscripts and parts.
- b.17 f.3 *A Timely Tale*
For voice and piano. Sketches and score manuscript.
- b.17 f.4 *Trio á Cordes*, 1938
For violin, viola and cello. Score manuscript and parts.

Series I: Scores, 1921-1951 (cont.)

Fitelberg, Jerzy (cont.)

- b.17 f.5 *Vorspiel Zu einer Tragödie*, Op. 8, 1921 (For orchestra. Score manuscript.)
- b.17 f.6-7 *Wiegenlieder*, 1925
For three clarinets. Score manuscript and parts.
- Unfinished Works
- b.18 f.1 *Ballade o Krzysztofie Kolumbie*
Sketches and descriptive manuscript in Polish.
- b.18 f.2 *Concertino*
For two clarinets, two bassoons, two trumpets and two trumpets. Sketches.
- b.18 f.3 *Das Wasser*
For voice and chamber orchestra. Incomplete score manuscript.
- b.18 f.4-5 *Die Zwölf*
Unfinished theater piece. Text by A. Blok. Incomplete score manuscripts.
- b.19 f.1 Untitled Work for Orchestra (Score manuscript.)
- b.13 f.5 Untitled Work for Orchestra, Op. 5 (Score manuscript.)
- Untitled Works
- b.17 f.8 For Orchestra (Copyist score manuscript.)
- b.17 f.9 For Piano, 1930 (Score manuscript)
- b.19 f.2 For Piano and Orchestra, Op. 5
- b.17 f.10-11 For Woodwinds, Brass, Piano and Percussion (Score manuscript and parts.)
- b.18 f.6-21 Sketches
- Other Composers
- b.20 f.1-2 Fitelberg, Grzegorz. *Pieśni*, Op. 21-22
For voice and piano. Text by Richard Dehmel. Score manuscripts.
- b.20 f.3 Noskowski, Zygmunt. *Polonaise*
For two clarinets, two bassoons, two French horns and strings. Part manuscripts only.
- b.20 f.4 Spitzmüller, Alexander. *Sinfonietta Rhythmica* (For orchestra. Bound score manuscript.)
- b.20 f.5 Steurmann, Eduard. *3 Lieder*
For voice and piano. Text by Bertolt Brecht. Copy of score manuscript.
- Szalowski, Antoni
- b.20 f.6 *Deuxième Quadmor*, 1934 (For string quartet. Score manuscript.)
- b.20 f.7 *Perpetuum Mobile* (For piano. Score manuscript.)
- b.20 f.8 Szymanowski, Karol. *Chant de Roxane* from the Opera *Le Roi Roger*
Transcribed for orchestra by Grzegorz Fitelberg. Score manuscript.
- Vandenbroeck, A.
- b.20 f.9 *Aus dem "Buch De Lieder"*
For voice and piano. Text by Heinrich Heine. Copy of score manuscript.
- b.20 f.10 *Aus dem "Marienleben"*
For voice and piano. Text by Rainer Maria Rilke. Copy of score manuscript.

Series II: Personal Files, 1927-1952 (2 boxes)

This series holds clipping files, correspondence and concert programs. The clippings, which cover Fitelberg's career from 1927 until shortly after his death, are from European and American newspapers advertising and reviewing performances of Fitelberg's music, and publicizing his honors and prizes. Clippings dating from after Fitelberg's death were collected by his widow, Tamara.

The small quantity of correspondence includes letters from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the Pennsylvania College for Women announcing Fitelberg's honors; a grant application to the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation filled out by Fitelberg but never submitted; letters from Artur Rodzinski and Margaret Carson; and publicity material including biographies and composition lists. The correspondence also holds letters to and from Tamara Fitelberg after her husband's death.

The concert programs are from European and American events and venues, including several ISCM and German music festivals, the Brooklyn Academy of Music, and the award ceremony for Fitelberg's grant from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

- b.21 f.1-7 Clippings, 1927-1952
- b.22 f.1 Clippings, 1927-1952
- b.22 f.2-3 Correspondence, 1934-1952
- b.22 f.4-8 Programs, 1929-1952