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Music Division

Guide to the

Carol Baron research files on Stefan Wolpe

1933-1976, 2009

JPB 13-20

Compiled by Matthew Snyder, August 2013

Summary

Creator: Baron, Carol

Title: Carol Baron research files on Stefan Wolpe, 1933-1976, 2009

Size: 1.51 linear feet (4 boxes)

Source: Donated by Carol Baron in 2008.

Abstract: The Carol Baron research papers on Stefan Wolpe document Baron's research toward a never-completed biography of the composer. The papers hold correspondence from Wolpe, interview transcripts, notes, photographs, score and lecture manuscripts, clippings, and concert programs.

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

Copyright information: For permission to publish, contact the Chief, Music Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Preferred citation: Carol Baron research files on Stefan Wolpe, JPB 13-20. Music Division, The New York Public Library.

Custodial history: Original correspondence and manuscripts by Stefan Wolpe and Hilda Morley were given to Baron by Wolpe's second wife, Irma Wolpe Rademacher. Much of the Wolpe correspondence to Ralph Shapey was copied from an unidentified collection in Chicago. All other content was assembled or created by Baron.

Processing note: Physical processing consisted of foldering and arranging papers.

Related collections

Wolpe/Baron Archive recordings, *L(Special) 10-07. Rodgers and Hammerstein Archives of Recorded Sound, The New York Public Library. Contains interviews with friends and colleagues of Stefan Wolpe.

Creator history

Carol Baron, a musicologist, is an affiliated scholar in the Department of Music at Stony Brook University. She has written articles on Ralph Shapey, J.S. Bach, Charles Ives, Edgard Varèse, Luigi Dallipiccola, and Pierre Boulez; edited a book on J.S. Bach; and edited editions of music by Ives and

Alec Wilder.

Source: "Carol K. Baron," Stony Brook University Department of Music, accessed August 9, 2013, http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/music/aboutus/faculty/baron_carol.html.

Scope and content note

The Carol Baron research files on Stefan Wolpe document Baron's research toward a never-completed biography of the composer. The files hold correspondence from Wolpe, interview transcripts, notes, photographs, score and lecture manuscripts, clippings, and concert programs. The correspondence and other original documentation dates from the 1933 to the early 1970s. Baron's interviews and research notes were produced in the mid-1970s, and printed transcriptions of the interviews were produced in 2009.

The files are in four divisions: correspondence; interview transcriptions; notes, manuscripts, clippings, and programs; and photographs.

Among the correspondence are original letters from Wolpe to his second wife, Irma Wolpe Rademacher, dating from the late 1940s to the early 1960s; and copies of correspondence from Wolpe to students, friends, and colleagues, including Ralph Shapey, Isaac Nemiroff, Paul Fromm, Samuel Baron, and Raoul Pleskow, dating from the 1950s and 1960s. Some files include Carol Baron's written transcriptions of the letters, with her notes. Correspondence to Isaac Nemiroff and Raoul Pleskow was photographed by Baron; prints, negatives, or microfilm of the letters are present in the collection.

The interview transcripts consist of Baron's conversations with Ralph Shapey, John Cage, Jack Tworckov, and Joseph Marx, some in both manuscript and printed form. The interview with Ralph Shapey is the longest and most significant in the collection.

The notes, manuscripts, clippings, and programs include original and copies of music scores and sketches by Wolpe, as well as his lecture notes (in German). Baron's hand-written research notes can be found throughout the collection, but most are in this division. The Milton Kraus file contains a copy of Kraus's notebook of composition studies with Wolpe. Also present is a folder of poetry by Wolpe's first wife, Hilda Morely. Other files in this division hold concert programs, clippings, and catalogs of Wolpe's published works.

The small set of photographs and negatives holds images of Wolpe with friends and colleagues, as well as with Baron.

Arrangement

The files are in four divisions: correspondence; interview transcriptions; notes, manuscripts, clippings, and programs; and photographs. Files are arranged alphabetically within those divisions.

Key terms

Subjects

Music -- 20th century

Names

Baron, Carol

Cage, John

Occupations

Composers

Musicians

Poets

Fromm, Paul, 1906-1987
Kraus, Milton
Morley, Hilda
Pleskow, Raoul
Shapey, Ralph, 1921-2002
Tworkov, Jack
Wolpe, Stefan

Special formats

Black-and-white photographs
Clippings (information artifacts)
Lectures
Personal correspondence
Programs (documents)
Research notes
Scores
Transcripts

Container list

Correspondence

- b.1 f.1 Baron, Samuel, 1954
- b.1 f.2 Fromm, Paul, 1963-1971
- b.1 f.3 Nemiroff, Isaac, 1952-1969
- b.4 Nemiroff, Isaac, 1952-1969 (Black-and-white negatives and microfilm)
- b.1 f.4 Pleskow, Raoul, 1962-1963
- b.4 Pleskow, Raoul, 1962-1963 (Black-and-white negatives)
- Rademacher, Irma Wolpe
- b.1 f.5-8 1933-1952
- b.2 f.1-6 1953-1964, undated

Interview Transcriptions

- b.2 f.7 General, 1974-1975
- b.2 f.8 Shapey, Ralph, 1975, 2009

Notes, Manuscripts, Clippings, and Programs

- b.2 f.9 General, 1972-1976
- b.3 f.1 General, 1972-1976
- b.3 f.2 Kraus, Milton, late 1950s
- b.3 f.3 Morley, Hilda, 1945-1955
- b.3 f.4-5 Shapey, Ralph, 1948-1975
- b.3 f.6-7 Wolpe, Stefan, 1953-1973
- b.4 f.1-2 Wolpe, Stefan, undated
- b.3 f.8 Photographs, ca. 1970