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GUIDE TO THE CHESTER BISCARDI PAPERS
1985 – 1987

(1.5 linear feet, 2 boxes)

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Processed by Matthew Snyder, January 2005

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Summary

Main Entry:	Biscardi, Chester
Title:	Chester Biscardi Papers, 1985 – 1987
Size:	1.5 linear feet, 2 boxes
Source:	Donated by Chester Biscardi, 1987.
Abstract:	The Chester Biscardi Papers document the creation and premier of Biscardi's opera <i>Tight-Rope</i> (1985).
Access:	Collection is open to the public.
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Preferred Citation:	Chester Biscardi Papers, JPB 04-29. Music Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Biography

The composer Chester Biscardi (b Kenosha, WI, 19 Oct 1948) received B.A. and M.A. degrees in English and literature from the University of Wisconsin-Madison before concentrating on music composition. He went on to receive an M.M. degree from Wisconsin-Madison before attending Yale University School of Music, where he received his M.M.A. and D.M.A. degrees. Biscardi studied electronic music with Bert Levy and composition with Les Thimmig while in Madison, and composition with Robert Morris, Krzysztof Penderecki and Toru Takemitsu at Yale. He received the Prix de Rome (1976 – 1977), a Guggenheim Fellowship (1979 – 1980), a fellowship from the New York Foundation for the Arts (1990) and many other awards and grants. He has been on the faculty of Sarah Lawrence College since 1977 and is currently the Director of the Music Program.

Sources

Chute, James. "Biscardi, Chester", *Grove Music Online* ed. L. Macy (Accessed 7 Jan. 2005), <<http://www.grovemusic.com>>

Scope and Content Note

The Chester Biscardi Papers consist of 1.5 linear feet of material documenting the creation and premier of Biscardi's opera *Tight-Rope* (1985), the first opera ever commissioned by an American university (the University of Wisconsin-Madison, in celebration its School of Music's 90th anniversary). The Papers consist of scores, biographical material, clippings and performance programs.

Arrangement Note

The Chester Biscardi Papers are organized in the following series:

Series I: Scores, 1985 – 1986

Series II: Other Material, 1985 – 1987 and undated

Series Descriptions:

The Chester Biscardi Papers are divided into two series.

Series I: Scores, 1985 – 1986

5 folders

This series consists of the original orchestral score and the revised vocal score for the opera *Tight-Rope*.

Series II: Other Material, 1985 – 1987 and undated

5 folders

Arrangement: By form.

This series consists of Biscardi's biography and resume; clippings documenting the creation of the opera *Tight-Rope* from its commission to its premier and first reviews; programs from the first performances; and the libretto and notes for the revised score.

Box/Folder	Description
	<u>Series I: Scores, 1985 - 1986</u>
Box 1	<i>Tight-Rope</i> , 1985 – 1986
	Original version, 1985 (Used in premiere performance.)
F. 1	Scenes I – III
F. 2	Scenes IV – VI
F. 3	Scenes VII – IX
Box 2	Revised vocal score, 1986
F. 1	Scenes I – III
F. 2	Scenes IV – IX
	<u>Series II: Other Material, 1985 – 1987</u>
F. 3	Biographical material, 1987
F. 4	Clippings, 1985 – 1986 and undated (Clippings document the commissioning and process of creating the opera <i>Tight-Rope</i> .)
F. 5	Performance Programs, 1985
	<i>Tight-Rope</i> , 1985 – 1986
F. 6	Libretto, 1985
F. 7	Notes for revised score, 1986 (Originally located inside the orchestral score in Series I, Box 1, Folder 1.)