

New York Public Library
New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center
Music Division

Guide to the
Werner J. Deiman Collection
(1949-1990)
JPB 09-7

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Summary

Collector: Deiman, Werner, J. (Sep. 1937–Feb. 2009)

Title: Werner J. Deiman Collection

Size: 0.21 linear feet (1 box)

Source: Donated by the estate of Dr. Werner J. Deiman

Abstract: The Werner J. Deiman Collection consists of classical music and opera memorabilia from Mr. Deiman's personal collection. It contains correspondence, concert programs, autographed photos, clippings, and postcards.

Access: Collection is open to the public. Advance notice may be required.

Copyright information: Library policy on photocopying will apply. For permission to publish, contact the Chief, Music Division.

Preferred citation: Werner J. Deiman Collection, JPB 09-7. Music Division, the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Provenance note: The Werner J. Deiman Collection was assembled and preserved by his estate. It was given to The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts as a lasting remembrance of Deiman's love of music.

Biographical note

Werner Deiman was born on September 15, 1937. He spent his childhood as prodigy at the piano, once appearing on the Ted Mack's *Original Amateur Hour*. He attended Washington and Lee as an English major, receiving several scholarships and a fine arts award for piano performance. From there, he went to Yale where he got a Ph.D. under the teachings of R.W.B. Lewis and Cleanth Brooks. Deiman received fellowships from the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and studied at the University of Munich on a Fulbright Fellowship. Deiman then became a literature professor at Bates College in Lewiston, Maine from 1964-1991, but continually found ways to connect his passion for music to his love of the written word. At Bates he also taught courses in Romantic literature, the Aesthetic Movement, the Bloomsbury Group, modern British literature, and modern European literature. He published on both John Ruskin and Virginia Woolf, and served for years as a scathing music critic for the *Maine Sunday Telegram*. Deiman was also a philanthropist; having made regular donations to the Frannie Peabody Center, an organization committed to providing care for the community infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS in Maine. He left his teaching career after suffering a stroke in the early 1990s and retired as professor emeritus of English in 2003. He lived with his partner, author Bradley Daziel, until Daziel's death in 1994.

Werner Deiman died on February 5, 2009. His surviving next-of-kin included a brother, Frank Deiman.

Scope and content note

The Werner J. Deiman Collection consists of properties collected between 1949 – 1990 pertaining to musicians for whom Deiman was a huge fan. Classical music and opera memorabilia from Mr. Deiman's personal collection include correspondence with some of his favorite artists and letters to editors of his favorite magazines, autographed concert programs, autographed photos, clippings from magazines and postcards.

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Series descriptions and container list:

The collection, housed in a single box, has one series containing papers and ephemera relating to mostly classical music and opera. Each folder contains materials associated with a specific musician.

FOLDER	PERSON	DESCRIPTION
1	Anievas, Augustin	Autographed concert program from Bates College Concert/Lecture Series (date: January 16, 1974)
2	Bing, Rudolph	Correspondence by letter from Mr. Deiman to Mr. Bing of the NY Metropolitan Opera concerning the <i>Herald Tribune</i> (November 27, 1954)
3	Borkh, Inge	1) Correspondence from Borkh in German on bright orange stationery (envelope included) (date: 1971) 2) Autographed photo of Ms. Borkh
4	Horowitz, Vladimir	Autographed concert program from Symphony Hall in Boston (date: October, 26, 1969)
5	Melchior, Lauritz	1) Autographed picture clipped from a magazine 2) Flier for Mr. Melchior's concert at Adelphi College in Garden City, NY (date: December 15, 1949) 3) Autographed picture of Mr. and Mrs. Melchior clipped from a magazine.
6	Mercer, Mabel	Autograph on the back of a ticket for the St. Regis Room
7	Neubauer, Paul	Autographed 8x10 B&W glossy photo
8	Price, Leontyne	1) Autographed program from The Royal Opera House Covent Garden (date: July 27, 1972 – during Festivals of London 1972) 2) A note written by Ms. Price on personal stationery to Mr. Deiman thanking him for flowers. (date: March 2, 1973) 3) Autographed program from the Boston University Celebrity Series held at Symphony Hall (date: November 5, 1972)

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- 9 Raver, Leonard Autographed page from a concert program from the Portland Symphony Orchestra (date: March 19, 1985)
Note: Autograph of Ned Rorem (organist) also on this page.
- 10 Stevens, Risë 1) Personal correspondence from Ms. Stevens in regard to her singing Carmen at the Met. (date: Dec. 13, 1954)
2) Autographed glossy B&W photo of Ms. Stevens
- 11 Strauss, Richard 1) A postcard depicting a painting of Strauss
2) Autographed – a small piece of thin cardstock
- 12 Stravinsky, Françoise A letter handwritten on Stravinsky's personal stationery discussing a poem. (date: April 18, 1990)
- 13 Tozzi, Giorgio Autographed 8x10 B&W glossy photo
- 14 Watson, Claire 1) Autographed 8x10 color photo (dated: September 5, 1985)
2) Personal correspondence handwritten on Watson's personal stationery inviting Deiman to visit her home in Germany in 1986. (date: Sept. 5, 1985)
3) A postcard from Ms. Watson to Deiman making plans for his April 1986 visit to Germany
4) A photocopy of a condolence letter written to Ms. Watson's husband by Dr. Deiman when Ms. Watson died of a brain tumor. Her New York Times obituary is also copied onto this page. (date: July 19, 1986)
5) A letter from David Thaw (Ms. Watson's husband) thanking Dr. Deiman for his letter of condolence (with envelope) (date: 1986)
6) A photocopy of a page from "Opera News" magazine showing a picture of Ms. Watson
7) A photocopy of Ms. Watson's obituary in "Opera News"
8) A letter from Rodney Milnes of "Opera Magazine" explaining that they had no interest in publishing a memoir of Ms. Watson (date: February 11, 1987)