

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Music Department

Title: Composer Forums 1959-1961, Scrapbook

Overview of the Collection

Reference Code: Pittsburgh Music Archive #36

Creator: Donald Steinfirist

Dates: 1959 - 1961

Extent: 1 Scrapbook

Language: English

Repository:

Music Department, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh-Main, 4400 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Acquisition Information: This collection was donated to Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

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Restrictions: none

Requested Citation: Composer Forums 1959-1961, Scrapbook compiled by Donald Steinfirist, Pittsburgh Music Archive #36, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Music Film and Audio Department

Finding Aid Created by: Joelle Killebrew

Related Finding Aids:

- [Donald Steinfirist Scrapbooks](#)

Notes on the Collection

Historical Note

Born in Pittsburgh in 1904, Donald S. Steinfirist (1904-1972) was the classical music critic for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette from 1939 - 1972. He reviewed concerts by most of the world's top orchestras and musicians, as well as chamber music, opera, and ballet. Steinfirist travelled to Europe for the Post-Gazette to review music festivals, and traveled with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra several times on European tours. During the 1960s he taught music

criticism at Duquesne University. He was the executive director of the Three Rivers Arts Festival from 1961 - 1968.

Scope and Content Note

A scrapbook compiled by Donald Steinfirst, titled "Composer Forums 1959-1961." Comprised of news articles and programs surrounding the free music series, Composer Forums.

Container List

A scrapbook compiled by music critic Donald Steinfirst (1904-1972). Contains newspaper and magazine articles and programs for the Composer Forums in Pittsburgh. Sponsored by the Froman Foundation, The Carnegie Institute and the Pittsburgh Bicentennial Committee in 1959, and by several local foundations in later years, the roster of composers included Aaron Copland, Norman Della Joio, Nikolai Lopatnikoff, Leon Kirchner, Paul Ben-Haim, Gunther Schuller, Otto Luening / Vladimir Ussachevsky, William Schumann, Paul Creston, Ned Rorem, Easley Blackwood, Elliot Carter, Wilfrid Mellers, and Walter Piston.

This music series was designed to introduce listeners to contemporary music. The five free concerts were held on Saturday afternoons at the Carnegie Music Hall. The composers held discussions and took questions about their work after the performances.