

Guide to the Clair Leonard Papers, approximately 1926-1962

Biographical Note

Clair Leonard was born in 1901. A noted composer and teacher, Leonard studied at Harvard, the Ecole Normale de Musique in Paris, and the New England Conservatory and with Nadia Boulanger of Paris. In 1934, after teaching music and French at Harvard, Radcliffe, and the University of Vermont, Leonard joined the Music Department of Vassar College, where he taught as an assistant and associate professor until 1947. He then moved to Bard College, serving there as professor of music and chair of the music department until 1963. Leonard composed a wide variety of music, ranging from musical theater to pieces for small ensembles and orchestral and choral works. One of his most notable compositions was music to accompany W. H. Auden's one-act play, *The Dance of Death*. Clair Leonard died in Poughkeepsie, NY, on February 7, 1963.

[Top](#)

The audio tape in Series III will need to be duplicated at the researcher's expense before use.

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Clair Leonard Papers, Archives and Special Collections, Vassar College Libraries.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Mark Seidl, November-December 2013

Acquisition Information

Collection transferred from the Vassar College Department of Music (M2010-008).

[Top](#)

SERIES I. Correspondence, 1936-1962

Folder 1.1 1936-1937 Folder 1.2 1944-1948 Folder 1.3 1953-1955 Folder 1.4
1961-1962

SERIES II. Scores, circa 1926-1962

Folder 2.1 Ballad of the Successful Young man, undated Folders 2.2-2.3 Capriccio
for Woodwind Quintet "Kappa Ta Lamb da, undated Folder 2.4 Choral Vocalise No.

2, circa 1961 Folder 2.5 [Collection: If I Speak with the Tongues of Men, The Earth is the Lord's, Canyon Voyage, Rondo Cappriccio for Oboe and Piano], circa 1945-circa 1949 Folders 2.6-2.9 Concerto for Piano Forte and Orchestra, B flat minor, 1933 Folder 2.10 Cor Mio (Monteverdi, arr. Leonard), undated Folder 2.11 Dreated He Them, undated Folder 2.12 A Dance, undated Folders 2.13-15 Dance of Death, 1935 Folders 3.1-3.8 Dance of Death, 1935 Folders 7.1-7.4 Dance of Death, 1935 Folder 1.8 Elegiac Rhapsody, 1961 Folder 7.5 An Elegy for Spain, 1937 Folder 1.9 Exercises in Sight Singing and Dictation, undated Folder 3.9 Four Piano Sonatas, 1931 Folder 3.10 The Grandsons, 1943 Folder 4.1 Hommage à Ravel, undated Folder 4.2 Hungarian Folksongs, 1957 Folder 4.3 [Incidental music to plays at Bard College and Vassar College], 1934-1959 Folder 4.4 [Isolated pencil sketches], undated Folder 7.6 Komm susser Tod-chorale, after 1945 Folder 4.5 Missa Sancti Albani 1940 Folder 4.6 [Music for dance and for films], circa 1952-circa 1957 Folder 4.7 My Country Right or Left, 1935 Folder 4.8 [Organ music-Six Versets on "O Quanta Qualia"], 1955 Folder 4.9 Peace on Earth-a Christmas Cantata, undated Folder 4.10 The Price of Wisdom, undated Folder 4.11 Psalm 42, undated Folder 4.12 Psalm 121, circa 1947 Folder 7.7 Psalm fo O.J.J., 1930 Folder 4.13 Recitative and Abracadabra, 1941 Includes correspondence between Clair Leonard and Sigurd M. Rascher Folders 5.1-5.2 Requiem, 1944 Folder 5.3 [Secular songs], circa 1926-circa 1960 Folder 5.4 [Short pieces of chamber groups] 1955-1957 Folder 5.5 [Short sacred choruses], undated Folder 5.6 [Short secular choruses], circa 1929-circa 1960 Folder 5.7 Sinfonetta for Men's Voices (Psalm 130), undated Folder 5.8 Sonata for Violin and Piano, 1940 Folders 5.9-5.10 Song of the Universal, 1940 Folders 1-2 of 7 Folders 1.10-1.11 Song of the Universal, 1940 Folders 3-4 of 7 Folders 7.8-7.10 Song of the Universal, 1940 Folders 5-7 of 7 Folder 6.1 [Songs (light), parodies, isolated pieces from show music, etc.], undated Folder 1 of 2 Folder 7.11 [Songs (light), parodies, isolated pieces from show music, etc.], Folder 2 of 2 Folder 6.2 Sun Dance, undated Folder 6.3 Symphony, undated Folder 6.4 Te Deum, circa 1945 Folder 6.5 Tombeaux, 1929 Folder 1 of 2 Folder 7.12 Tombeaux, 1929 Folder 2 of 2 Folder 1.13 Tonight We Correlate, circa 1937 Folders 6.6-6.8 Trio for Violin, Viola, and Cello for Boris Koutzen, undated Folder 6.9 [Vassar College Centennial music], circa 1960 Includes correspondence Folder 6.10 War Song of the Dinas Vawr, 1937 Folder 7.13 [Miscellaneous scores], undated Folder 7.14 [Scores not by Clair Leonard], undated

SERIES III. Miscellaneous Materials, circa 1930-circa 1962

Box 8 Audio tape - Song of the Universal; Hayden, Sonata, B minor, undated Folder 8.1 Biographical materials, after 1937 Folder 8.2 Clippings, circa 1936-circa 1960 Folder 8.3 *It Can't Happen Here*, by John C. Moffitt and Sinclair Lewis, 1936 Folder 8.4 *The Natural Man*, by Theodore Browne, circa 1936 Folder 8.5 Performance notes, undated Folder 8.6 *The Principles of Right Reason*, by Howard S. Leonard, 1953 Includes 13 p. of notes in hand of Clair Leonard Box 9 Programs, circa 1934-1961 6 folders. Includes program for performance of "America, America!" by Alfred Kreymborg with inscription by Kreymborg to Clair Leonard (folder 6).