

Guide to the Robert E. Middleton Papers, 1939-1954

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Collection Summary

Repository:	Archives and Special Collections Library, Vassar College Libraries
Creator:	Middleton, Robert, 1920-
Title:	Robert E. Middleton Papers
Dates:	1939-1954
Quantity:	0.75 cubic feet (2 boxes)
Abstract:	Correspondence, photographs and miscellaneous papers from Robert E. Middleton, VC Professor of Music 1953-1985.

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Biographical Note

Born 18 Nov 1920 in Diamond, Ohio, Robert E. Middleton was a composer, performing artist and instructor. Educated at Harvard, Middleton began teaching music at Vassar College in 1953, after spending three years as an instructor at Harvard. *Command Performance*, Middleton's full-length opera was commissioned by the Vassar College Centennial Committee and had its premiere at Vassar College on 11 Nov 1961. In 1974, Middleton was appointed the George Sherman Dickinson Chair of the Music Department. He retired on 30 June 1985.

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Chronology

18 Nov 1920	Born in Diamond, Ohio
Sept 1942-Jan 1946	Military Service, U.S. Army
1948	B.A., Harvard University
1953	Appointed Assistant Professor, Vassar College
1954	M.A., Harvard University
1958	Appointed Associate Professor, Vassar College
1965	Awarded Guggenheim Fellowship in Musical Composition
1966	Appointed Full Professor, Vassar College
1974	Appointed George Sherman Dickinson Professor, Vassar College
30 June 1985	Retired from Vassar College

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Scope and Content Note

The Robert E. Middleton collection contains correspondence, notes, postcards and 2 scores.

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Subject Headings

Names:

- Boulanger, Nadia
- Chanler, Theodore, 1902-1961
- Chauncey, Henry
- Copland, Aaron, 1900-1990
- Dallapiccola, Luigi, 1904-1975
- Palmer, Robert, 1915-
- Piston, Walter, 1894-1976
- Slonimsky, Nicolas, 1894-1995
- Szigeti, Joseph, 1892-1973
- Thompson, Randall, 1899-1984

Subjects:

- College teachers
- Composers
- Musicians
- Opera--United States--20th century
- Pianists

Document Types:

- Photographs
- Postcards
- Scores (documents for music)

VCL Categories

- Music
- Vassar College

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Encoding Information

Finding aid encoded by Jason Kovari, 12 Feb 2009.

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Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Robert E. Middleton Papers, Archives and Special Collections Library, Vassar College Libraries.

Processing Information

Processed by Laura Streeet, 2005. Updated in 2017.

Acquisition Information

Gift of Robert E. Middleton, 1992. 1950 score donated by the Paddock Music Library, Dartmouth College, 2016.

Appraisal

The Robert E. Middleton Papers were appraised by Wurlitzer-Bruck, 60 Riverside Dr., New York, New York 10024, 1 July 1992.

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Container List

1.1	"Approximations for Viola and Piano" by Robert Middleton 1970 (1 score)
1.1b	Boulanger, Nadia, 1939-1946 (14 notes and letters from N.B.; 1 letter from Henry Chauncey, Harvard University)
1.2	Boulanger, Nadia, 1952-1958 (18 notes and letters; 2 postcards)

1.3	Boulanger, Nadia, circa 1960-1969 (11 notes and letters; 2 photographs)
1.4	Boulanger, Nadia, 1970-1979 (12 notes and letters)
1.5	Chanler, Theodore, 1947 (2 letters)
1.6	Chanler, Theodore — Score of <i>Second Joyful Mystery</i> , circa 1947
1.6b	"Command Performance : opera in four acts" approximately 1960 (typescript)
1.6c	"The Complete Libretto of <i>Command Performance</i> " by Robert Middleton and Harold Smith 1961 (program for premier performance laid in)
1.7	Copland, Aaron, 1964, 1969 (4 letters)
1.8	Dallapiccola, Luigi, 1953-1958 (6 letters)
1.8b	"Organ Preludes" by Robert Middleton 1979 (1 score)
1.9	Palmer, Robert, 1965
1.10	Piston, Walter, 1957-1966 (12 letters; 1 postcard)
1.11	Slonimsky, Nicolas, 1958
1.12	Szigeti, Joseph, 1956-1958 (3 letters from Szigeti; 1 carbon from Middleton; 1 program)
1.13	Thompson, Randall, 1958, 1964 (2 letters; 1 postcard)
Box 2	"String Quartet" by Robert Middleton 1950 (1 score)

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▼ Details

Abstract

Correspondence, photographs and miscellaneous papers from Robert E. Middleton, VC Professor of Music 1953-1985.

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