

Grant Beglarian Contemporary Music Project papers

Special Collections in Performing Arts
University of Maryland Libraries

Processed by: Meghan Creek
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Size: 3.5 Linear Feet
Inclusive Dates: 1951-1999 and undated
Bulk Dates: 1961-1968
Collection No.: 2018-029-NAfME
SCPA shelf location:

Abstract

Grant Beglarian (b. Tiflis, Georgia, December 1, 1927; d. White Plains, NY, July 5, 2002) was an Armenian-American composer and music educator. He lived in the country of Georgia and then Iran with his parents, after they were forced to relocate in the wake of the Armenian Genocide in 1915. Beglarian moved to the United States in 1947 to study composition at the University of Michigan and received his DMA in 1958. Throughout his career, he wrote for a variety of genres: symphony orchestra, band, chamber groups, solo instruments, and voice. During the 1960s, Beglarian worked for the Ford Foundation, and one of the main projects he oversaw was the Contemporary Music Project for Creativity in Music Education (CMP), serving as the director from 1965-1969. He also participated in the CMP as a composer-in-residence for the Composer in Public Schools (CPS) program. Beglarian went on to serve as Dean of Performing Arts at the University of Southern California from 1969-1982. During the last two decades of his life he served as president and CEO of the National Foundation for the Advancement of Arts and as a program director for *ThinkQuest*. This collection consists of papers pertaining to Beglarian's work with the CMP and the Ford Foundation.

Important Information for Users of the Collection

Restrictions: There are no restricted files in this collection.

Preferred Citation: *Grant Beglarian Contemporary Music Project papers*, Special Collections in Performing Arts, University of Maryland Libraries.

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Status: This collection is PROCESSED

Historical Note

Grant Beglarian (b. December 1, 1927; d. July 5, 2002), primarily known as a composer and music educator, was born in Tiflis, Georgia, known today as Tbilisi, the country's capital. His parents relocated to Georgia to escape the Armenian Genocide carried out by the Ottoman government in 1915. Soon after his birth, he and his parents moved to Iran where he was trained in composition and violin performance at the Royal Conservatory of Tehran. Beglarian came to the United States in 1947 to continue his music education, briefly studying at Boston University before transferring to the University of Michigan, where he studied under Ross Lee Finney until receiving a DMA in 1958. During this time he served in the U.S. Army from 1951-1953 as a violist for the Seventh Army Symphony Orchestra. He later studied with Aaron Copland at the Berkshire Music Center at Tanglewood in Massachusetts from 1959-1960.

During the 1960s, Beglarian was a field director and project director for the Ford Foundation (1961-1968) and an editor for Prentice-Hall publishers (1961-1969). One of the primary projects he oversaw for the Ford Foundation was the Contemporary Music Project for Creativity in Music Education (CMP), organized by the Music Educators National Conference (MENC) (now the National Association for Music Education (NAfME)). He served as the director of the CMP from 1965-1969. He also participated in the CMP as a composer-in-residence for the Composer in Public Schools (CPS) program. In 1969 Beglarian accepted the position of Dean of Performing

Arts at the University of Southern California where he served for the next thirteen years. Beginning in the early 1980s he served as president and CEO of the National Foundation for the Advancement of Arts (1981-1991). In the last decade of his life, right up until his death, Beglarian was the international coordinator and director of global partnerships among educational organizations for the interactive website *ThinkQuest*. He died of lung cancer at White Plains Hospital near his home in Scarborough, NY.

Scope and Contents of Collection

The Grant Beglarian Contemporary Music Project papers span the period from 1951 to 1999; the bulk of the materials date from 1961 to 1969. The collection consists of professional papers pertaining to Beglarian's work with the CMP including detailed descriptions and goals of the project, scholarly papers, drafts of published articles, speech transcripts, symposium and workshop descriptions, grant proposals, memoranda, correspondence, and statistical data of participants and outcomes. This collection includes materials related to the Music Educators National Conference (now known as the National Association for Music Education (NAfME)) and the Ford Foundation, as well certain individuals associated with these two organizations: Edward D'Arms, William J. Mitchell, Beth Landis, Norman Dello Joio, Bernard Fitzgerald, and Louis G. Wersen.

Custodial History and Acquisition Information

Gift of Eve Beglarian, daughter of Grant Beglarian, received in one shipment in August 2018.

Arrangement of Collection

This collection is organized as a single series.

- Series 1: CMP Papers

Series Descriptions

Series 1. CMP Papers, 1951-1999 and undated (3.5 linear feet)

The Grant Beglarian Papers span the period from 1951 to 1999; the bulk of the materials date from 1961-1969. These professional papers pertain to Beglarian's work with the CMP including detailed descriptions and goals of the project, scholarly papers, drafts of published articles, speech transcripts, symposium and workshop descriptions, correspondence, grant proposals, memoranda, and statistical data of participants and outcomes. Materials are arranged according the title (or inferred title) of the binders in which they were originally housed.

Box Inventory

Series 1 – CMP Papers, 1951-1999 and undated

Box 1

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|----------|---|
| Folder 1 | FF Expense Account (1961-1962); Armenian Service for Gershwin Award (1960); Newspaper Clip (1963); written expense account (1961); FF correspondence (1961); FF press release (1961); CVs |
| Folder 2 | MENC CMP interim report (1963-1964), correspondence, summary of budget (1962); MENC press releases (1963-65); IRS extracts (scholarships and fellowships) (1962-1964); |

- FF grant proposal for CMP; CMP framework proposal (1964); lists of participants in CPS (1959-1968); written notes (undated)
- Folder 3 MENC financial records (7/63-7/65), invoices, expense reports (1963-1965)
- Folder 4 correspondence to and from Norman Dello Joio, Bernard Fitzgerald, and Beglarian (1964); MENC and CMP meeting agendas and reports (1964); AMC, CMP, and FF project and workshop proposals (1964-1965); Third Street Music School Settlement (1963-1964); Speech delivered at ISME (1964); reports on university visits and conferences (1964); school systems application list (1964)
- Folder 5 "Music Education and the University" article by G.B. (1966); speech by Edward D'Arms at MENC (1968); "Comprehensive Musicianship: Theory of Basic Education in Music" paper by William J. Mitchell (undated); "CMP Institutes and the Coming Change in the Curriculum" (undated)
- Folder 6 CRP supervisors' report (1964-1965); YCP composer evaluations (1964-1965); IMCE budget reports, receipts, vouchers, invoices (1967-1968); CMP report and proposal for Baltimore City Public Schools (1964-1965)
- Folder 7 CMP (1964-1965) correspondence; seminar and workshop summaries, student evaluations, reports, outreach (1965), vouchers, receipts, invoices; MENC CMP interim report (1964-1965); Applicants for pilot program list (1964-1965); CMP framework for pilot programs (1965); CMP memorandum, meeting proceedings (1965)
- Folder 8 CPS evaluations, supervisors' reports, composer bios (1967-1968); CMP interim and financial reports (1967-1968); CMP memorandum (1967-1968); IMCE Beglarian paper (1967); IMCE student commentary, teacher/student evaluations, correspondence, reports, records (1967-1968); Procedures for IMCE evaluation (1967); comments on IMCE meetings by Raymond W. Donnell (1967); IMCE grant proposal (1966); CMP Policy Committee meeting agenda and digest report (1968); CMP committee proposal for MENC (1967)
- Box 2
- Folder 1 FF newspaper clip (1966); CPS notices, newspaper clips, correspondence, composer evaluations, supervisors' reports (1966-1967); CMP Policy Committee roster, financial records, memorandum, correspondence, bulletins, grant proposal, interim report (1966-1967); *CMP Library Catalogue* publication description, subscription order (undated); MENC Executive Committee and UMLS memorandum, proposals, correspondence (1967); CMP papers and speeches (re: critiques and reflections; undated); handwritten observations on Airlie House Symposium (undated)
- Folder 2 CMP - "A Proposal for the Establishment of a New Project Based on the Experiences in the MENC CMP" (grant proposal for 1969-1973)
- Folder 3 Young composer bios (1965-1966); History and development of CMP (1965); CMP interim report, grant proposal, memorandum, press releases, bulletins, newsletters, statements of purpose, meeting agendas and digest of proceedings, financials, outreach (1965-1967); CPS composer evaluations, supervisors' reports, memorandum, correspondence (1965-1966); CPS composer bios (1966-1967)
- Folder 4 CMP pamphlet (1965); CVs of numerous music educators and composers (undated)
- Folder 5 correspondence (1999); CPS historical overview, records of participants and compositions produced; *CMP Library* intro and readers' aid (1967); CVs of composers and music educators; detailed informational packet on CMP (1973)
- Folder 6 correspondence, personal and professional (1967-1970); CMP pamphlet (1965); correspondence about David S. Bates Award competition (1982)
- Folder 7 CMP Conference on College Music Curricula Program (Papers presented) (1970) - at Airlie House
- Folder 8 "The Music Industry Council Guide for Music Educators: A Supplement to *Music Educators Journal*" (1965-1976); 3 copies of *Music Educators Journal* issue dedicated to CMP (March 1968)
- Item 1 *Music Educators Journal* publication contains historical info on CMP and CPS; reflections written by Norman Dello Joio (chairman), Grant Beglarian (director), Louis G. Wersen (MENC President), participating composers, music directors, and students; records of staff members,

participants, and compositions produced; info on seminars, workshops, pilot projects, and other forms of outreach; IMCE Regional Directors Report; Airlie House Symposium outcomes; CMP Library Program overview

- Box 3 Index of Musical Performances, FF - NYC Survey: A - Ko (1955-1962)
- Box 4 Index of Musical Performances, FF - NYC Survey: Ko - U (1951-1962)
- Box 5 Index of Musical Performances, FF - NYC Survey: U - Z (1955-1962)
- Box 6
- Folder 1 Catalogs of works for YCP (1962); CPS memorandum w/ history & job descriptions (1965); procedures for IMCE evaluation (1967); 2 MEJ issues on CMP (1968); IMCE student evaluations/questionnaires (1967); Program Head's evaluation form for IMCE student (1967-1968)
- Folder 2 CMP/IMCE Symposium on Evaluative Criteria Thurs. evening proceedings: intro from Dello Joio; "Critique of Existing Testing Procedures in Music" by Paul Lehman; transcript of post-paper Q&A and subsequent proceedings (3/25/1967)
- Folder 3 CMP/IMCE Symposium on Evaluative Criteria: Fri. AM proceedings transcript; Fri. afternoon committee meeting transcript (unedited draft w/ handwritten markings); Fri. PM proceedings transcript (3/26/1967)
- Folder 4 CMP/IMCE Symposium on Evaluative Criteria: Sat. AM proceedings transcript; Sat. PM proceedings transcript (3/27/1967)
- Folder 5 CMP/ICME Symposium on Evaluative Criteria: Sun. AM proceedings transcript that includes preview of Beth Landis Project Report on Comprehensive Musicianship; Teaching rubrics for aural skills; Final Proposal for evaluating IMCE programs
- Folder 6 John Davies Travel Itinerary (tentative; 9/26, no year); CMP correspondence logs (1968); CMP newsletter article draft (1967); Beglarian article: "Institutes for Music in Contemporary Education" (1967); CMP memorandum (1968); CMP Library Program description (undated); sample page from *CMP Library Catalog* (undated); CMP interim report (1967-1968)
- Folder 7 travel itineraries (undated); CMP memorandum, agendas, correspondence (1967), interim report (1965-1966; 1966-1967); names roster (undated); CMP grant proposal (1968)
- Folder 8 CMP correspondence logs: August 15, 1966-August 30, 1966
- Folder 9 CMP correspondence logs: January 13, 1966-August 10, 1966
- Folder 10 CMP correspondence logs: September 22, 1965-January 12, 1966
- Folder 11 Report by Peter Gram Swing about Seminar in Contemporary Music for Teachers at Berkshire Music Center, Tanglewood-Lenox, MA (July 27-Aug 23, 1964); CMP Program Summary (1968-1972); CMP correspondence, memorandum (1964; 1968)
- Item 2 CMP Program Summary (highly detailed) content: CMP programs descriptions, objectives, participants; workshop, conference, and seminar summaries and reports; methods on evaluation of and by participants; publications (CMP Library Program); letters of support for CMP; stats for school music teacher questionnaire responses; CMP participation in MENC programs; MENC goals and objectives; guidance for MENC student chapter; music curricula for comprehensive musicianship
- Folder 12 Performances of Contemporary Music in NYC: 1955-56 and 1961-62, A Statistical Study by G.B. for FF, intro and front matter (1963); misc. data re: FF NYC Study (1962-63 and undated); American Music Center newsletter (1963); concert programs (1963); Group for Contemporary Music at Columbia brochure (1964-1965); handwritten correspondence, memorandum, notes, outlines, results, budget of FF Repertory Stat. Study project (undated)
- Folder 13 Performances of Contemporary Music in NYC: 1955-56 and 1961-62, A Statistical Study by G.B. for FF (full report thru Appendix A) (1963)

- Folder 14 Performances of Contemporary Music in NYC: 1955-56 and 1961-62, A Statistical Study by G.B. for FF (Appendices B,C,D, typed and written) (1963)
- Folder 15 MEJ issue on CMP (1968); Seattle newspaper articles on MENC meeting (1968); CMP background & development (1965); JHD tour written itinerary (1968); Proposal for Evaluating IMCE Programs (undated); CMP memorandum (1967), statement to MENC board (1967); internal use "narrative" on Evaluative Criteria for Music in Education Symposium at Airlie House (1967); list of participants in ECME Symposium (1967)
- Folder 16 Accumulative Schedules of CMP work done by G.B. (8/15/65-3/20/66): composer fellowship ads (1965); Report/speech on CMP delivered by G.B. at MENC meeting (1965); CMP to-do lists & personal notes, correspondence, memorandum, questionnaires, news release, brochure (1965-66); CMP Policy Committee meeting Digest of Proceedings (1965); "Tentative working plans for IMCE" (1965); travel itineraries (1965); IMCE launch report (1966)
- Folder 17 Accumulative Schedules of CMP work done by G.B. (begin. 3/21/66): CMP to-do lists & personal notes, memorandum, news release, travel itineraries, budget proposal, correspondence, invoice/travel expenses (1966); IMCE regional chapter participants & financial info (1966); IMCE grant proposal (1966); CMP/IMCE grant proposal w/ CMP budget summary (1966); written notes, calendar/planner schedule (1964-1965)
- Folder 18 CMP brochure and outreach letters to university music departments (undated); Accumulative Schedules of CMP work done by G.B. (6/13/66-12/25/67): CMP to-do lists & personal notes (1966-67); "The Musical Experience in Contemporary Education" for International Seminar on Teacher Education in Music (undated); MENC/CMP meeting agenda (1966); "Music, Education, and the University" for NASM meeting (1966)
- Folder 19 Accumulative Schedules of CMP work done by G.B. (1/1/68-7/7/68); invoices & accompanying memos (1966-68 and undated); memo re: relocation of CMP offices from D.C. to NYC (1966); written calendar/planner (1966-68); CMP bulletin (1967); YCP concert program (1967); IMCE brochure (undated)
- Folder 20 Program for Tanglewood Symposium: Music in American Society (1967); MEJ issue on CMP (1968); Draft of the 1st edition of *CMP Library* (1967)
Item 3 *CMP Library* is the CMP/MENC's catalog of contemporary music compositions written for school performing ensembles, generated as part of CPS; contains participant stats; participating composers' CVs
- Folder 21 CMP letter heads (undated); IMCE grant proposals (1968); map of area codes in U.S. (undated); U.S. map (undated); G.B. CMP Work Schedule / Planner (1965-1968); FF correspondence (1963); FF Terms of Grant to MENC (1963); CMP grant proposal (undated); invoices (1968); CPS composers (1967); memo re: future of CMP (1968); IMCE Evaluative Procedures mailing list (1967)
- Folder 22 IMCE correspondence (1968); Inventory of Final IMCE Reports (undated); Composite of Responses on IMCE Program Head Final Report (undated); Outline of CPS final report (1959-1969); CMP/IMCE Statements of Expenditures (1969); written notes, reports, plans about IMCE regional chapters (1968-69)

Related Material

UMD SCPA:

[National Association for Music Education Historical Center](#) (abstract)

[Contemporary Music Project records](#) (collection)

[Contemporary Music Project scores](#)

Other Special Collections:

[To Manitou](#), vocal score, housed at Middlebury College in the Davis Family Library

[Elegy](#) (cello), score, housed at University of Southern California in Doheny Library

[Quintets](#) (winds), score, housed in the University of Michigan Libraries

[Miscellaneous papers](#), housed at Jacksonville University

[Ross Lee Finney sound recording series, ca. 1982](#), housed at the University of Michigan in Bentley Historical Library

[USC Thornton School of Music records](#)

Published Articles:

Beglarian, Grant. "Music, Education, and the University." *Music Educators Journal* 54, no. 1 (1967): 42-118.

_____. "CMP A Force for Change" *Music Educators Journal* 54, no. 7 (1968): 69

_____. "Book Review: Music in Our Schools: A Search for Improvement Report of the Yale Seminar on Music Education." *Journal of Music Theory* 9, no. 1 (1965): 187-89.

_____. "Institutes for Music in Contemporary Education." *Music Educators Journal* 52, no. 3: 62-63.

_____. "Institutes for Music in Contemporary Education: Origin and Objectives." *College Music Symposium*. 7 (1967): 29-35.

_____. "Institutes for Music in Contemporary Education: A Preliminary Statement Concerning Evaluation." *College Music Symposium* 7 (1967): 85-88.

_____. "E Pluribus Unum: Unity in Cultural Plurality." *American Music Teacher* 41, no. 1 (1991): 14-17.

_____. "E Pluribus Unum: Unity in Cultural Plurality." *American Music Teacher* 50, no. 6 (2001): 26-29.

_____, et. al. "The Contemporary Music Project for Creativity in Music Education." *Music Educators Journal* 54, no. 7 (1968): 41-72.

Dissertations:

Beglarian, Grant. "Divertimento for Orchestra." DMA diss., University of Michigan, 1958.

Covey, Paul Michael. "[The Ford Foundation-MENC Contemporary Music Project \(1959-1973\): A View of Contemporary Music in America](#)." PhD diss., University of Maryland, 2013.

Eve Beglarian (daughter) [website homepage](#)

Eve Beglarian [blog entry](#) in memory of her father, discussing this specific collection on the CMP

Eve Beglarian [blog entry](#) on her father's Armenian heritage with a [link](#) containing photographs of him and a few other items related to him and their family history.

Names

Dello Joio, Norman, 1913-2008

Ford Foundation

Music Educators National Conference

National Association for Music Education

Subjects

Music education

American music--20th century

Composers--20th century--American