Adolph Weiss and Paula Hughes papers

Processed by: Vincent J. Novara
Processing note: Materials were kept in their original order as they were transferred by Mr. Hughes. Acid free and Mylar enclosures were implemented by the archivist.
Date Processed: December 2017
Size: 0.5 Linear Feet
Inclusive Dates: 1959-1971, and undated
Bulk Dates: 1960-1965
Collection No.: 2018-045
SCPA shelf location: Small Collections Drawer
Abstract
Adolph Weiss (1891 – 1971) was a modernist American composer, and once a pupil of Arnold Schoenberg in Vienna. Weiss also served as a professional bassoonist in a number of orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, the New York Symphony Society, the Rochester Symphony, and the Chicago Symphony. Paula Hughes was a patron of the performing arts who lived in Ojai, California. The papers contain materials that span the period of 1959 to 1971; the bulk of the material dates from 1960 to 1965. The collection consists of correspondence, assorted papers, and photographs. The correspondence and photographs intimately document the romantic relationship between Weiss and Hughes, as well as Weiss’s activities as a composer and bassoonist.

Important Information for Users of the Collection
Restrictions: There are no restricted files in this collection.
Preferred Citation: Adolph Weiss and Paula Hughes papers, Special Collections in Performing Arts, University of Maryland Libraries.
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Status: This collection is PROCESSED

Historical Note
Adolph Weiss (Baltimore, Maryland, November 12, 1891 – Van Nuys, California, February 21, 1971) was a modernist American composer, and once a pupil of Arnold Schoenberg in Vienna. (His father was a pupil of Ferruccio Busoni.) Weiss also served as a professional bassoonist in a number of orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, the New York Symphony Society, the Rochester Symphony, and the Chicago Symphony.

Weiss moved to Los Angeles in the late 1940s and befriended Mitzi Kolisch, who was part of the household of her brother-in-law, Arnold Schoenberg. It is believed by the donor that Kolisch introduced Weiss to Paula Hughes (1903-1995) around 1957, in Ojai, California, where Hughes lived with her son. Hughes’s husband, Walter Hughes, had died four years before and Adolph and Paula had a romantic relationship from 1957 until 1965. Per the personal letters within the collection, their relationship was unquiet. Multiple letters indicate Weiss’s unsuccessful intentions to marry Hughes, including a letter to her son seeking approval. Based on the evidence in the collection, it is assumed that the relationship ceased unceremoniously sometime after 1967.

Sources: Correspondence with the donor, December 2017; American Composers Alliance online Composers Gallery: “Adolph Weiss,” http://composers.com/adolph-weiss (last accessed 14 December 2017).
Scope and Contents of Collection
The Adolph Weiss and Paula Hughes papers contain materials that span the period of 1959 to 1971; the bulk of the material dates from 1960 to 1965. The collection consists of correspondence, assorted papers, and photographs. The correspondence and photographs intimately document the romantic relationship between Weiss and Hughes. Also gleaned from the letters are Weiss’s activities as a composer and professional bassoonist, as well as his associations with notable composers (e.g. Edgard Varese and Henry Cowell), and his life as touring musician. Based on one program in the collection, it appears that Hughes was a patron of the performing arts.

Custodial History and Acquisition Information
Gift made on 13 December 2017 by Arthur Hughes, son of Paula Hughes.

Arrangement of Collection
This collection is organized into three series.

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1959-1967, and undated
- Series 2: Papers, 1958-1971
- Series 3: Photographs, 1961-1964, and undated

Series Description

**Series 1 – Correspondence, 1959-1967, and undated (13 items)**
This series contains correspondence from Adolph Weiss to Paula Hughes, as well as one typed letter to Arthur Hughes (Paula’s son). Items are arranged chronologically by date.

1. Weiss, A. to P. Hughes, autograph letter signed, 24 June 1959, 2 pp.
3. Weiss, A. to P. Hughes, autograph letter signed, 12 April 1960, 1 p.
5. Weiss, A. to P. Hughes, autograph letter signed, 5 July 1960, 1 p.
6. Weiss, A. to P. Hughes, autograph letter signed, 19 October 1961, 1 p.
8. Weiss, A. to P. Hughes, autograph letter signed, 3 September 1963, 2 pp.
10. Weiss, A. to P. Hughes, autograph letter signed, 31 July 1964, 4 pp.
11. Weiss, A. to P. Hughes, autograph letter signed, 5 August 1964, 2 pp. Sent with the previous letter in same envelope.
   Weiss, A. to P. Hughes, autograph letter signed, 21 April 1965, 2 pp. Mentions tea with Edgard Varese, and a meal with Henry and Sydney Cowell.
12. Weiss, A. to P. Hughes, autograph postcard signed, 7 June 1967.
13. Weiss, A. to P. Hughes, autograph postcard signed, 19 March [1965?].
Series 2 – Papers, 1958-1971 (three items)
This series contains assorted papers pertaining to Weiss. Items are arranged chronologically.
2. The New Music Ensemble. The Happy Valley School of Ojai, California, 8 November 1964. Program. Concert sponsored by Paula Hughes; Adolph Weiss, bassoon, with colleagues from Los Angeles.

Series 3 – Photographs, 1961-1964, and undated (four items)
This series contains assorted photographs of Weiss, including one with Paula Hughes. Items are arranged chronologically.

Related Material
Official Records of the American Composers Alliance: http://hdl.handle.net/1903.1/30672
American Composers Alliance composer gallery: http://composers.com/adolph-weiss

Subjects
Composers--20th century--American
Bassoon

Names
Weiss, Adolph, 1891-1971
Hughes, Paula
Hughes, Arthur