# The Wesley V. Blomster Papers, 1955-2012 An inventory of holdings at the American Music Research Center



American Music Research Center, University of Colorado at Boulder

# Descriptive summary

**Title** The Wesley V. Blomster Papers

**Date(s)** 2014

ID COU-AMRC-96Creator(s) Blomster, Wesley V.

**Repository** The American Music Research Center

University of Colorado at Boulder

288 UCB

Boulder, CO 80309

**Location** Housed in the American Music Research Center

Physical Description 27 boxes

# Scope and Contents

The Wesley V. Blomster papers comprise personal and professional materials encompassing his dual career as music critic and German language professor from 1955 to 2012. A majority of materials in this collection are arranged chronologically by year and include a wide assortment of Blomster's original newspaper article clips and memorabilia from his travels and concertgoing, intermingled with letters of correspondence, binders of *Daily Camera* photocopies, and volumes of typewritten *Daily Camera* drafts; program note folders arranged alphabetically by composer's last name within genre-specific binders; and boxes of VHS review copies of operas and historical programs. The pre-arranged organization of materials reveals Blomster's deliberate attempts to maintain a specific presentation of his materials. Some materials, such as personal diary entries, were originally interspersed in collections of typewritten *Daily Camera* drafts. These and other carefully-selected materials from the collection have been restricted due to their extremely personal nature. Some items, mostly book reviews, are at times outside of the chronological order for the series. The arrangement order of materials follows Blomster's prearranged organization.

# Administrative Information

# **Arrangement of Wesley V. Blomster Papers**

Collection is arranged into 6 series:

- Series 1. Writings, Memorabilia, Correspondence
- Series 2. Program Notes
- Series 3. Typewritten Newspaper Drafts: Daily Camera
- Series 4. Article Xeroxes
- Series 5. Commercial VHS Tapes
- Series 6. Personal Materials

The collection is open for research. Records containing sensitive personal information have been restricted.

### **Publication Rights**

The American Music Research Center does not control rights to any material in this collection. Requests to publish any material in the collection should be directed to the copyright holders.

This collection was donated by Thomas Blomster, son of Wesley V. Blomster, in 2013.

#### **Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Wesley V. Blomster Papers, University of Colorado, Boulder

## **Index Terms**

Access points related to this collection:

#### **Personal names**

Blomster, Wesley V., 1929-2011

#### **Corporate names**

American Music Research Center

### Subject headings

Music critics -- United States -- Archives Musical criticism -- United States Music -- Boulder (Colo.) Blomster, Wesley V. -- Archives

# Biography of Wesley V. Blomster

Daily Camera music critic, Wes Blomster, was a locally and internationally-known writer and professor of German at the University of Colorado in Boulder. Blomster was born in Aberdeen, South Dakota in 1929 and grew up in a rural area near Ipswich, South Dakota. He earned his BA in German from the University of Iowa and his MA and Ph.D in German from the University of Colorado, Boulder. Blomster's interest in classical music began during his time at the University of Iowa where he attended orchestra concerts given by the university's orchestra conductor and composer, Stephan Clapp. After graduating from the University of Iowa, he served in the U.S. Army as a German and Russian interpreter overseas from 1951 to 1955. Blomster finished his dissertation in 1960 *Thomas Mann's Commentary On His Own Work* and thereafter taught German at the University of Colorado in Boulder for the next thirty-two years. In the early 1970s while teaching at CU, Blomster began writing for the Boulder Daily Camera as a local music critic. Throughout his career, Blomster also wrote music articles for local, national, and international newspapers, magazines, and newsletters. After retiring from CU in 1992, he devoted himself wholly to music criticism, writing for many publications in addition to his work with the Camera. He traveled all across the globe to attend concerts, always returning

to Boulder where he continued to attend local classical music concerts up to a week before his death, on October 1, 2011, at the age of 82.

### Writings, Memorabilia, Correspondence, 1955-2007, 2012

9 boxes, 3.9 linear feet

This series contains materials from 1955 to 2012. Folders from the years 1992 to 1994, 1997 to 1998, and 1999 to 2002 are found in the Personal Materials series and are restricted. The writing collection includes: articles from newsletters, magazines, journals, and online publications; original clippings and Xeroxed copies of The Daily Camera, Westword, Colorado Daily in addition to other national and international newspapers; book reviews from World Literature Today, German Music Quarterly, and the Modern Language Journal among several others; and original newspaper clips of letters to the editor written by Blomster. Letters of correspondence are often combined with memorabilia items and contain personal and professional cards and letters including letters from community members and musicians. Memorabilia includes: concert tickets and programs, conference programs, programs from guest lectures either given or attended by Blomster, photographs, cartoons, items from travel such as plane ticket stubs, Daily Camera newsletters and meeting minutes, and press badges.

Box	Folder	
1	1	1969-1974
1	2	1969-1974
1	3	1975-1977
1	4	1975-1977
1	5	1978-1979
1	6	1978-1979
1	7	1980
1	8	1980
2	1	1981
2	2	1981
2	3	1981
2	4	1982-1983 v.1, 1982-1983
2	5	1982-1983 v.1, 1982-1983
2	6	1982-1983 v.1, 1982-1983
2	7	1982-1983 v.2, 1982-1983
3	1	1982-1983 v.2, 1982-1983
3	2	1984
3	3	1984
3	4	1984
3	5	1985
3	6	1985
4	1	1985
4	2	1986
4	3	1986
4	4	1986
4	5	1987 v. 1, 1987
4	6	1987 v. 1, 1987
5	1	1987 v. 1, 1987
5	2	1987-1988
5	3	1987-1988
5	4	1988
5	5	1988
5	6	1988

6	1	1989
6	2	1989
6	3	1989
6	4	1989
6	5	1990
6	6	1990
7	1	1990
7	2	1990-1992
7	3	1990-1992
7	4	1996-2002
7	5	1996-2002
7	6	2000-2001
8	1	2000-2001
8	2	2000-2001
8	3	2002-2004
8	4	2002-2004
8	5	2002-2004
8	6	2004-2007
8	7	2004-2007
9	1	2004-2007
9	2	2012
9	3	1955-1989
9	4	1993-2002
9	5	2003-2010
9	6	N.D., N.D.

# **Program Notes**

3 boxes, 1.3 linear feet
The program notes consist largely of drafts and a few published concert programs. Blomster organized the program notes into binders by genre (i.e., keyboard or orchestra) and arranged the individual program notes alphabetically according to composer's last name. One exception to this order is a binder containing Blomster's arrangement of chamber works by Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven, divided into three sections by composer name. Some published program notes and drafts contain Blomster's pseudonyms, "Andreas Anderswo" and "Adrian Angst."

Box	Folder	
9	7	Orchestra v. 1, Adams-Schubert
9	8	Orchestra v. 1, Adams-Schubert
9	9	Orchestra v. 1, Adams-Schubert
10	1	Orchestra v. 2, Britten-White
10	2	Orchestra v. 2, Britten-White
10	3	Orchestra v. 2, Britten-White
10	4	Chamber v. 1, Antheil-Liszt
10	5	Chamber v. 1, Antheil-Liszt
10	6	Chamber v. 1, Antheil-Liszt

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# Typewritten Newspaper Drafts: Daily Camera, 1987-1995

2 boxes, 10 linear inches
This series contains Blomster's typewritten drafts of articles written for The Daily Camera. Some of the drafts contain memos
to the editor regarding what can be cut to fit in the newspaper. The drafts are arranged into five sections as Blomster had
organized, dating from 1987 to 1995. Some of the drafts from 1995 to 1996 can be found in the Personal Materials series.

Box	Folder	
11	6	1987-1990
11	7	1987-1990
11	8	1987-1990
12	1	1990-1994
12	2	1990-1994
12	3	1990-1994
12	4	1992-1993
12	5	1992-1993
12	6	1993-1994
12	7	1995

# Article Xeroxes, 1990-2011

6 boxes, 3.5 linear feet

A collection of 11x17 photocopies of The Daily Camera arranged chronologically from 1990 to 2011. Some folders are randomly arranged and have no consistent chronology within the folder. They are listed here as organized by Blomster (i.e. a folder containing the years 1990-1993, 1995). The folder mes interspersed with other items such as book reviews, journal and magazine articles, and typewritten drafts of Daily Camera articles.

Box	Folder	
13	1	1990-1993, 1995
13	2	1990-1993, 1995
13	3	1990-1993, 1995
13	4	1990-1993, 1995
14	1	1990, 1994-1997, 1999
14	2	1990, 1994-1997, 1999
14	3	1991-1993
14	4	1991-1993
15	1	1991-1994
15	2	1991-1994
15	3	1995-1997

15	4	1995-1997
15	5	1995-1997
15	6	1995-1997
16	1	1997-1999
16	2	1997-1999
16	3	1997-1999
16	4	1999-2001
16	5	1999-2001
17	1	2002-2004
17	2	2002-2004
17	3	2005-2007
17	4	2005-2007
17	5	2005-2007
18	1	2007-2010
18	2	2007-2010
18	3	2007-2010
18	4	2011
18	5	Miscellaneous

Commercial VHS Tapes
8 boxes, 10.8 linear feet
This series includes commercial VHS tapes of opera performances and music documentaries viewed by Wes Blomster for news writing assignments.

The videos are arranged alphabetically by title.

Box	Tape	
19	1	The Aida File
		Format VHS
19	2	Arena: Ballet For Life
		Format VHS
19	3	Arena: Street Scene" Parts 1, 2
		Format VHS
19	4	Bach In Auschwitz [HBO Studio Productions]
		Format VHS
19	5	Capriccio Parts 1, 2
		Format VHS
19	6	Capriccio Part 3
		Format VHS
19	7	Carmen Acts I, II
		Format VHS
19	8	Carmen Acts III, IV
		Format VHS
19	9	Cecilia Bartoli in Recital
		Format VHS
19	10	The Celluloid Closet
		Format VHS

19	11	Dance Theater of Harlem Format VHS
19	12	Dancing For Dollars, Pt. 2: The Kirov in St. Petersburg
19	13	Format VHS Divas
19	14	Format VHS Don Carlos Parts 1, 2
19	15	Format VHS  Don Giovanni  Format VHS
19	16	Format VHS Eva Marton In Concert
19	17	Format VHS Great Moments In Opera (Pledge Version) Format VHS
19	18	Great Performances: Abduction From The Seraglio
19	19	Format VHS Great Performances: Antony and Cleopatra Format VHS
19	20	Great Performances: Art of Singing: Golden Voices, Silver Screen
19	21	Format VHS Great Performances: Balanchine Celebration, Part 1 Format VHS
19	22	Great Performances: Balanchine Celebration, Part 2
19	23	Format VHS Great Performances: Berlin Philharmonic Europakonzert: From Lisbon
19	24	Format VHS Great Performances: Capriccio, Part 1 of 1 Format VHS
19	25	Great Performances: Dance In America: Accent on the Offbeat  Format VHS
19	26	Great Performances: Dance In America: Billboards  Format VHS
20	1	Great Performances: Dance In America: The Dream with American Ballet Theatre  Format VHS
20	2	Great Performances: Dance In America: Griot New York  Format VHS
20	3	Great Performances: Dance In America: Othello From San Francisco Ballet
20	4	Format VHS Great Performances: Dances In America: Suzanne Farrell: Elusive Muse Format VHS
20	5	Great Performances: Dance In America: Swan Lake with American Ballet Theatre  Format VHS
20	6	Great Performances: Dance In America: Two by Dove  Format VHS
20	7	Great Performances: Dance In America: Variety and Virtuosity: American Ballet Theatre
		Now
20	0	Format VHS Croot Porformanage Dange In American The Wrooker's Poll
20	8	Great Performances: Dance In America: The Wrecker's Ball  Format VHS
20	9	Great Performances: Don Giovanni Unmasked  Format VHS
20	10	Great Performances: Emmeline

20	11	Format VHS Great Performances: A Hymn for Alvin Ailey
		Format VHS
20	12	Great Performances: Kathleen Battle and Wynton Marsalis Baroque Duet Format VHS
20	13	Great Performances: L'Africaine Format VHS
20	14	Great Performances: La Boheme Format VHS
20	15	Great Performances: La Cenerentola, Part 1
20	16	Format VHS Great Performances: La Cenerentola, Parts 2, 3
20	17	Format VHS Great Performances: La Traviata From Paris
20	18	Format VHS Great Performances: Mahabarata, Parts 1, 2, 3, 4 of 6
20	19	Format VHS Great Performances: Mahabarata, Parts 5, 6 of 6
20	20	Format VHS Great Performances: The Making of Turandot at the Forbidden City
20	21	Format VHS Great Performances: The Margot Fonteyn Story
20	22	Format VHS Great Performances: Maria Callas: An Operatic Biography
20	23	Format VHS Great Performances: The Marriage of Figuro
20	24	Format VHS Great Performances: Mefistofele
20	25	Format VHS Great Performances: Music of Kurt Weill
21	1	Format VHS Great Performances: Nixon In China
	2	Format VHS
21	2	Great Performances: Nureyev (Unpackaged)  Format VHS
21	3	Great Performances: Nureyev  Format VHS
21	4	Great Performances: Nutcracker from the Royal Ballet Format VHS
21	5	Great Performances: Parsifal: The Search for the Grail Format VHS
21	6	Great Performances: Pavarotti and The Italian Tenor  Format VHS
21	7	Great Performances: Peter Sellars Directs Cosi Fan Tutte Format VHS
21	8	Great Performances: Peter Sellars Directs Marriage of Figaro Format VHS
21	9	Great Performances: The Real McTeague and Oedipus Rex
21	10	Format VHS Great Performances: Romeo and Juliet
21	11	Format VHS Great Performances: Rossini's Cinderella

		Format VHS
21	12	Great Performances: Rudolf Nureyev's <i>Don Quixote</i> Format VHS
21	13	Great Performances: Thomas Hampson: I Hear America Sing Format VHS
21	14	Great Performances: Tosca From Rome
21	15	Format VHS Great Performances: Turandot
21	16	Format VHS Great Performances: Turandot at the Forbidden City
21	17	Format VHS Great Performances: Vladimir Horowitz: A Reminiscence
21	18	Format VHS Il Tabarro and I Pagliacci
21	19	Format VHS Jessye Norman Sings Carmen
21	20	Format VHS Kataya Kabanova
21	21	Format VHS Keith Jarrett
21	22	Format VHS La Traviata: Tiziana Fabricini, Roberto Alagna
21	23	Format VHS Legacy - India
21	24	Format VHS The Magic Flute
21	25	Format VHS Maria Callas
21	26	Format VHS Maria Callas and Maria Callas in Concert
<b>4</b> 1	20	Format VHS
22	1	Maria Callas in Concert - 1959  Format VHS
22	2	Marsalis on Music: Listening For Clues (With Seiji Ozawa)  Format VHS
22	3	Mayerling Format VHS
22	4	Menuhin: A Family Portrait [American Masters]  Format VHS
22	5	Metropolitan Opera Presents <i>Aida</i> Format VHS
22	6	Metropolitan Opera Presents Andrea Chenier Format VHS
22	7	Metropolitan Opera Presents <i>Arabella</i> , Reel 1 of 2  Format VHS
22	8	Metropolitan Opera Presents Arabella
22	9	Format VHS Metropolitan Opera Presents Barber of Seville
22	10	Format VHS Metropolitan Opera Presents Billy Budd
22	11	Format VHS Metropolitan Opera Presents Cosi Fan Tutte, Reel 1

		Format VHS
22	12	Metropolitan Opera Presents <i>Cosi Fan Tutte</i> , Reel 2  Format VHS
22	13	Metropolitan Opera Presents <i>Der Rosenkavalier</i> , Reel 1 of 2  Format VHS
22	14	Metropolitan Opera Presents <i>Der Rosenkavalier</i> , Reel 2 of 2  Format VHS
22	15	Metropolitan Opera Presents <i>Die Zauberflote</i> , Act I Format VHS
22	16	Metropolitan Opera Presents Die Zauberflote Format VHS
22	17	Metropolitan Opera Presents <i>Don Giovanni</i> , Reel 1 of 2  Format VHS
22	18	Metropolitan Opera Presents <i>Don Giovanni</i> , Reel 2 of 2  Format VHS
22	19	Metropolitan Opera Presents <i>Elektra</i> Format VHS
22	20	Metropolitan Opera Presents <i>Falstaff</i> , Acts I, II, III  Format VHS
22	21	Metropolitan Opera Presents <i>Fedora</i> Format VHS
22	22	Metropolitan Opera Presents <i>Fidelio</i> Format VHS
22	23	Metropolitan Opera Presents I Lombardi Format VHS
22	24	Metropolitan Opera Presents <i>La Cenerentola</i> , Acts I, II  Format VHS
22	25	Metropolitan Opera Presents La Fanciulla Del West, Act I Format VHS
22	26	Metropolitan Opera Presents La Fanciulla Del West, Acts II, III  Format VHS
23	1	Metropolitan Opera Presents <i>Le Nozze di Figaro</i> , Reel 1 of 2 <b>Format</b> VHS
23	2	Metropolitan Opera Presents <i>Le Nozze di Figaro</i> , Reel 2  Format VHS
23	3	Metropolitan Opera Presents Madama Butterfly, Act I Format VHS
23	4	Metropolitan Opera Presents Madama Butterfly, Acts II, III  Format VHS
23	5	Metropolitan Opera Presents, The Magic Flute Format VHS
23	6	Metropolitan Opera Presents <i>Otello</i> , Reel 1 of 2  Format VHS
23	7	Metropolitan Opera Presents <i>Otello</i> , Reel 2  Format VHS
23	8	Metropolitan Opera Presents <i>Parsifal</i> , Act I (Reel 1 of 3)  Format VHS
23	9	Metropolitan Opera Presents <i>Parsifal</i> , Act II (Reel 2 of 3)  Format VHS
23	10	Metropolitan Opera Presents <i>Parsifal</i> , Act III (Reel 3 of 3)  Format VHS
23	11	Metropolitan Opera Presents Simon Boccanegra

		Format VHS
23	12	Metropolitan Opera Presents Tristan Und Isolde Format VHS
23	13	Metropolitan Opera Presents Tristan Und Isolde Format VHS
23	14	Metropolitan Opera Presents Tristan Und Isolde Format VHS
23	15	Mozart on Tour  Format VHS
23	16	Music for the Movies: Toru Takemitsu and Georges Delerue
23	17	Format VHS Nelson and Jeanette: America's Singing Sweethearts Format VHS
23	18	Nilsson, Vickers in Tristan und Isolde [Bel Canto Society]  Format VHS
23	19	The Nutcracker Format VHS
23	20	Opera in the Outback Format VHS
23	21	PBS: The Royal Opera House: "Star Struck", "Horse Trading"
23	22	Format VHS  Porgy and Bess, part 1 of 2  Format VHS
23	23	Pormat VHS Porgy and Bess, part 2 of 2 Format VHS
23	24	Profiles: Bernard Herrmann
23	25	Format VHS Profiles: David Bowie
24	1	Format VHS Profiles: David Helfgott
24	2	Format VHS Profiles: Michael Flatley Format VHS
24	3	Rudolf Nureyev Format VHS
24	4	The Sleeping Beauty with Rudolf Nureyev  Format VHS
24	5	South Bank Show: George Solti Format VHS
24	6	South Bank Show: Henryk Goerecki Format VHS
24	7	South Bank Show: Kiri Te Kanawa Format VHS
24	8	South Bank Show: Marilyn Horne Format VHS
24	9	South Bank Show: Montserrat Caballe  Format VHS
24	10	Speaking in Strings Format VHS
24	11	The Story of Anna Akhmatova  Format VHS
24	12	Sweet and Lowdown

		Format VHS
24	13	Tchaikovsky 150th Birthday Gala (PBS Pledge Version)  Format VHS
24	14	Texaco Performing Arts Showcase: Paganini's Daemon  Format VHS
24	15	Tosca, Parts 1, 2, 3 Format VHS
24	16	Tosca, Parts 4, 5 Format VHS
24	17	Unknown Format VHS
24	18	Unknown Format VHS
24	19	Unknown Format VHS
24	19	Unknown Format VHS
24	20	Unknown Format VHS
24	21	Unknown Format VHS
25	1	Ariadne Format VHS
25	2	Ave Maria Format VHS
25	3	Austria's 200 Years of Mozart  Format VHS
25	4	Callas Format VHS
25	5	Carmen (Brooks) Format VHS
25	6	Charleston Ballet Format VHS
25	7	Charleston Ballet Format VHS
25	8	Creation of Adam Format VHS
25	9	Don Giovanni Sweden Format VHS
25	10	Don Sellars I Format VHS
25	11	Enigma Richter  Format VHS
25	12	Great Performances: Porgy and Bess: An American Voice Format VHS
25	13	Hodek Format VHS
25	14	Jessye Norman: Mahler and Wagner Format VHS
25	15	La Belle et la Bete Format VHS
25	16	Les Enfants Terribles

		Format VIIIC
25	17	Format VHS Moistorsinger Port 1
23	1 /	Meistersinger Part 1  Format VHS
25	18	Meistersinger Part 2
23	10	Format VHS
25	19	Metropolitan Opera Presents: <i>Nabucco</i> Part 1
		Format VHS
25	20	Metropolitan Opera Presents: Nabucco Part 2
		Format VHS
25	21	Non ti scordar di me (1935)
		Format VHS
25	22	Onegin/Don Sellars II
25	22	Format VHS
25	23	Opera Fanatic
25	24	Format VHS
25	24	Parsifal: Tape 1
25	25	Format VHS Parsifal: Tape 2
23	23	Format VHS
25	26	Profiles: Matthew Bourne
20	_0	Format VHS
25	27	River Dancing/"Mumia Abu-Jamal: A Case for Reasonable Doubt?"
		Format VHS
25	28	Salome
		Format VHS
26	1	Shiner
2.	2	Format VHS
26	2	The Stations of Bach
26	2	Format VHS
26	3	Total Eclipse
26	4	Format VHS Tristan Munich I
20	4	Format VHS
26	5	Tristan Munich II
20		Format VHS
26	6	Tristan Munich III
		Format VHS
26	7	Uncle Saddam
		Format VHS
26	8	Voices Through Time
		Format VHS

# Personal Materials, 1992-2002 1 box, 5 linear inches

Access restricted for this series; consult repository for details

Box	Folder	
27	1	Writings, Memorabilia, Correspondence: 1992-1994, 1992-1994
27	2	Writings, Memorabilia, Correspondence: 1992-1994, 1992-1994
27	3	Writings, Memorabilia, Correspondence: 1992-1994, 1992-1994

27	4	Writings, Memorabilia, Correspondence: 1997-1998, 1997-1998
27	5	Writings, Memorabilia, Correspondence: 1999-2002, 1999-2002
27	6	Writings, Memorabilia, Correspondence: 1999-2002, 1999-2002
27	7	Typewritten Newspaper Drafts: Daily Camera: 1995-1996, 1995-1996
27	8	Typewritten Newspaper Drafts: Daily Camera: 1995-1996, 1995-1996
27	9	Typewritten Newspaper Drafts: Daily Camera: 1995-1996, 1995-1996