

The Charles L. Bestor Collection

An inventory of holdings at the American Music Research Center



American Music Research Center, University of Colorado at Boulder

Description

Language(s)	English
Repository Name	American Music Research Center
ID	COU-AMRC-7
Physical Description	2 Linear Feet (2 boxes)
Physical Location	Housed in the American Music Research Center

Scope and Contents

Personal papers of Charles L. Bestor (b. 1924), Composer and music educator, professor of composition, emeritus, University of Massachusetts; previously on the faculty of Willamette University (dean, college of music), Julliard School of Music, University of Utah, University of Alabama, and the University of Colorado; National Endowment of the Arts fellow, International Electro-Acoustic Music Competition winner, Macdowell Colony fellow. Works of the 12 tone technique, electronic media, and integrated jazz.

Administrative Information

Arrangement

Scores and audio materials arranged by title

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Charles Bestor Collection, University of Colorado Boulder.

Provenance

Collection donated by the estate of Walter Orr Roberts

Biography of Charles L. Bestor

Charles Lemon Bestor was born in New York City on December 21, 1924. He's the son of Arthur Eugene Bestor and Jeanette Louise Lemon. He married Ann Newbold Elder on November 1, 1952. Their children are: Charles Elder, Geoffrey Grant, Phillip Russell, Leslie Ann, Wendy Lynn and Jennifer Lee.

Dr. Bestor received his musical training under Paul Hindemith at Yale University, and Vincent Persichetti and Peter Mennin at Julliard School of Music. He also studied at Swarthmore College and the Universities of Illinois and Colorado. Independently he studied electronic music with composer Vladimir Ussachevsky.

His early works primarily consisted of the 12 tone technique (dodecaphonic) with grounding in Hindemith's counterpoint technique. His later works employed electronic media, and he

integrated jazz, tonally based harmonic, melodic and rhythmic elements into formal structures of traditional concert music.

Dr. Bestor was the winner of the 1999 Bourges International Electro-Acoustic Music Competition (France), the Musica Nova International Competition of the Czech Republic, and the Omaha Symphony's International Orchestral Competition. He has also received numerous other awards in orchestral and composer competitions.

His works have been commissioned by the Utah and Salem Symphonies and the Five-College Symphony Orchestras, and numerous festivals, fraternities and individual performers. Dr. Bestor has also collaborated with visual artists, fine arts centers and museums in the production of installations and exhibits, held at the Illinois State Museum, the Chicago International Art Museum, the Virginia Museum and the College Music Society, and others.

Dr. Bestor served as faculty and administrator at Julliard School of Music for a decade and subsequently as Dean of the College of Music at Willamette University and as Head of the Music Departments of the Universities of Massachusetts, Utah, and Alabama. He has also taught at the University of Colorado and served as the Director of the Electronic and Computer Music Studios of the University of Massachusetts.

Dr. Bestor was a fellow of the National Educational Association of Composers, the MacDowell Colony, Yaddo, the Ragdale Foundation, the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, and the Tyrone Guthrie Center, Ireland.

box	Folder	
1	1	Lyric sheets General Of times and their places, five songs; Awake once more in Spring; It is a fine evening, a New York Pastorale; Nights, in my small voice I call you; My summer love too late, a Madrigal to Autumn; I'll come no more to that enchanted place
1	2	Stations of the night; Three blues for S
1	3	Concerto Grosso for percussion and orchestra
1	4	Sonata for piano
2	1	Charles Bestor: Soliloquies for oboe and interactive electronics
2	2	Charles Bestor: Stations of the night (Three blues for S for solo piano)
2	3	Charles Bestor: Of times and places
2	4	Charles Bestor: Sonata for cello and piano (Sort of love songs, five songs, five studies in a somewhat jazz style for piano) ; Overture to a romantic comedy for orchestra; Three portraits for wind octet
2	5	Charles Bestor: A wind in the willows (Trudy Wischemann, flute)
2	6	Charles Bestor: Improvisation no. 1
2	7	Charles Bestor: lyric variations for oboe with viola and tape)
2	8	Charles Bestor: Sonata for cello and piano; Sort of love songs (Four studies in a somewhat jazz style); Suite for winds and trumpet (from the incidental music for the play "J.B."); Suite for alto saxophone and percussion