

William Kraft Collection, 2003-2007



Percussive Arts Society
110 West Washington Street, Suite A
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Summary

Title: William Kraft Collection

Dates: 2003-2007

Extent: 1 oversize manuscript box, 2 artifacts

Language: The materials in the collection are in English.

Repository: Percussive Arts Society, 110 West Washington Street, Suite A, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Administrative Information

Accession(s): 2006.10; 2007.02

Donor(s) and date(s) of acquisition: William Kraft (2006, 2007)

Processed by: Alysha Zemanek, June 2020

Access and Restrictions: This collection is open to the public without restriction.

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Preferred Citation: William Kraft Collection, 2003-2007. Percussive Arts Society Archive, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Notes/other:

Biographical Sketch:

Composer, conductor, percussionist, and teacher William Kraft was born on September 6, 1923 in Chicago, Illinois and grew up in San Diego, California. He joined the US Air Force for 3 years in the later part of WWII. Later, Kraft became an arranger for dance bands. He also discovered the musical programs at Tanglewood, which he said changed his life. He earned his Bachelor's in 1951 and his Master's in composition in 1954 from Columbia University.

Kraft was a performing member of the Los Angeles Philharmonic for 26 years; the first eight years as a percussionist and the next eighteen as Principal Timpanist. He also spent 3 seasons as an assistant conductor. In his early years at the philharmonic, Kraft organized and directed the Los Angeles Percussion Ensemble. From 1981 to 1985, he was the Los Angeles Philharmonic's Composer-in-Residence. During his residency he founded and directed the orchestra's contemporary music performance ensemble, the Philharmonic New Music Group. In the early 2000s David Herbert and the San Francisco Symphony commissioned Kraft to write "Concerto No. 2 for Timpani and Orchestra: XIII Percussive Arts Society: William Kraft Collection Finding Aid, rev. 2020.

The Grand Encounter.” The symphony premiered the piece in June 2005. After attending the symphony’s performances, Kraft revised the score.

Over his career, Kraft received 2 Kennedy Center Friedheim Awards, 2 Guggenheim Fellowships, 2 Ford Foundation commissions, and numerous other fellowships. In November 1990, Kraft was elected to the Percussive Arts Society’s Hall of Fame in the categories of composition, drum set, and timpani. From 1991 to 2002, he was the chairman of the composition department and the Corwin professor of music composition at the University of California, Santa Barbara. In the summer of 2002, Kraft retired from both positions at UC Santa Barbara.

Bibliography:

National Association of Music Merchants. “Oral History: William Kraft.” Accessed April 7, 2020. <https://www.namm.org/library/oral-history/william-kraft>

Percussive Arts Society. “PAS Hall of Fame: William Kraft.” Accessed April 7, 2020. <https://www.pas.org/about/hall-of-fame/william-kraft>

Sircy, Otice C. and James A. Strain. “From the Rhythm! Discovery Center Collection: Holograph Score for ‘Concerto No. 2 for Timpani and Orchestra’ by William Kraft.” *Percussive Notes* 50, no. 3 (May 2012): 80.

Theodore Presser Company. “William Kraft.” Accessed April 7, 2020. <https://www.presser.com/william-kraft?p=2>

UC Santa Barbara Department of Music. “William Kraft.” Accessed April 7, 2020. <https://www.music.ucsb.edu/people/william-kraft>

Scope and Content:

The William Kraft Collection contains Kraft’s copy of the percussion parts to Stravinsky’s ‘L’Historie du Soldat’ with an accompanying preface and letter written by Kraft. Also included in the collection is a 78-page handwritten orchestral score of Kraft’s “Concerto No. 2 for Timpani and Orchestra: XIII The Grand Encounter.” The score demonstrates Kraft’s composition process as well as edits, corrections, major revisions, inserted and removed measures, and notes on technique.

Container Listing:

BOX	FOLDER
1	Percussion parts to Stravinsky's 'L'Historie du Soldat' with preface by Kraft and letter, 2005-2007
1	Score of 'Concerto No. 2 for Timpani and Orchestra: XIII The Grand Encounter' (1 of 3), 2003
1	Score of 'Concerto No. 2 for Timpani and Orchestra: XIII The Grand Encounter' (2 of 3), 2003
1	Score of 'Concerto No. 2 for Timpani and Orchestra: XIII The Grand Encounter' (3 of 3), 2003
2006.10.03	Two vibraphone mallets