

**Clair Omar Musser Collection, ca. 1819-2014**



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

## **Summary**

Title: Clair Omar Musser Collection

Dates: ca. 1819-2014

Extent: 14 manuscript boxes, 2 oversize flat manuscript boxes, 5 oversize manuscript items in rolled storage, assorted artifacts

Language: Most materials in this collection are in English.

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

## **Administrative Information**

Accessions: 1999.07; 1999.08; 2006.03; 2006.11; 2007.06; 2019.02; 2019.05

Donors and dates of acquisition: Vera M. Daehlin (1999); Nancy and Perry Preusch (1999, 2006, 2007, 2019); Joel Leach (2006, 2019)

Processed by: Alysha Zemanek, June 2020

Access and Restrictions: This collection is open to the public without restrictions with the exception of records containing attorney-client communications. Attorney-client records are closed until 2051.

Restricted materials are marked on the folder and in the container listing.

Rights statements: The reproduction and publication of copyrighted materials is regulated by the copyright laws of the United States (U.S. Code, Title 17).

Preferred citation: Clair Omar Musser Collection, ca. 1819-2014. Percussive Arts Society Archive, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Notes/other:

## **Biographical Sketch:**

Clair Omar Musser was a marimba virtuoso who performed his own arrangements internationally. He made innovations in grip, mallets, and technique for marimba and vibraphone playing. Musser also invented and designed instruments. He held over 40 international patents for instrument design and invention. He also custom made instruments for famous performers. His marimba model designs include: the Century of Progress, King George, Queen Anne, Windsor, Imperial, Mercury, Century, Diana, Neo-Classic, and the Canterbury. He arranged music, was a renowned teacher and professor, and organized and directed a series of increasingly large marimba ensembles.

Musser was born on October 14, 1901 in Manheim, Pennsylvania. He began studying music at 9 years old with the xylophone, piano, and violin. He later traveled to Baltimore and Washington, D.C. to study marimba with Philip Rosenweig. Musser began designing relatively young as well. Around 1925, he

Percussive Arts Society: Clair Omar Musser Collection Finding Aid, rev. 2021.

designed the marimba-celeste, which was built at the J.C. Deagan factory in Chicago. From 1927 to 1930, Musser toured the U.S., Canada, and Europe where he performed the marimba-celesta individually and as a guest soloist with symphony orchestras.

In February 1929, Musser organized and directed a 25-piece, all-female marimba ensemble for Paramount Pictures. This began a period of directing in his life. In 1930, he directed the “Tune Types Xylophone Orchestra” as well as a 15-piece marimba ensemble organized by J.C. Deagan. That same year, Musser joined the Deagan firm as manager of the mallet instrument division. However, he ended his relationship with the company after World War II. Talent at conducting led Musser to also guest conduct on U.S. radio broadcasts in the late 1930s.

Musser also began to focus his time on large marimba orchestras beginning in the 1930s. In 1933, Musser organized a 100-piece marimba orchestra featured at the Chicago World’s Fair (also called the Century of Progress Exposition). Called the World’s Fair Marimba Band, Musser designed the marimbas used, selected and taught the members, arranged the music, and conducted. The marimbas, called the Century of Progress Model, were made by the J.C. Deagan Company. Next, Musser formed the International Marimba Symphony Orchestra, also consisting of 100 members. The orchestra went on a European tour which included traveling to London to perform for the 25th anniversary Gold Jubilee for the coronation of King George V. The J.C. Deagan Company made 102 King George model marimbas, designed by Musser specifically for the event. At the last minute the orchestra’s performances in London were cancelled. However, they completed the rest of their tour, including a performance as the opening music event of the 1935 Brussel’s World’s Fair and concluding at Carnegie Hall in New York.

In the late 1930s, Musser began recruiting marimbists for an orchestra which performed for 3 years at the Tri-State Music Festival in Enid, Oklahoma. In 1939, the group consisted of 25 members, growing to 55 in 1940, and 120 in 1941. Following the festival in 1940, the marimba orchestra toured the Oklahoma area. Musser next organized the largest marimba orchestra ever assembled at the time, called the Festival Marimba Symphony Orchestra. Consisting of 150 marimbists, the orchestra performed in the Chicagoland Music Festival on August 26, 1941. During the performance the field lights at Soldier’s Field were extinguished and 1,200 colored lights were lit at the base of the marimbas. The Festival Marimba Symphony Orchestra performed at the festival again the following year with 160 marimbists. Musser sought to best the previous year’s performance and created a program that included an 80-voice male choir, ten massive anvils to be rung with sledge hammers, and the use of meteorite fragments to create discharges of stardust which would flare to light up the symphony.

Musser continued to organize even larger ensembles. He organized and conducted a 200-piece marimba orchestra to perform in Soldier’s Field at the Chicago Music Festival on August 14, 1948. His 300-piece marimba orchestra performed at the Music Pavilion for the Chicago Railroad Fair in August 1950.

In addition to organizing and directing ensembles and orchestras, Clair Omar Musser spent time publishing music, teaching, and designing more instruments. By 1941, Musser had published 53 works, including solos and arrangements for the marimba and vibraphone. From 1942 to 1952, he served as a faculty member and the head of marimba studies at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. In 1948, he organized his own company, Musser Marimbas, Inc. However, he sold the company due to financial difficulty in 1956. In 1966, the Ludwig Drum Company bought the Musser company.

In 1952, Musser left Northwestern and moved to the West Coast. He was employed at the Howard Hughes Scientific Industries Corporation for approximately five years. During the 1950s, Musser also earned a doctorate degree in engineering from Oxford University. In the late 1950s, he focused on science rather than music and developed classroom teaching materials relating to space and space exploration. Musser's interest in music and science combined in the 1970s when he created the celestaphone. The celestaphone resembles and sounds like a vibraphone. It was made with nickel-iron meteorites Musser collected from around the world.

Musser accumulated an impressive list of inventions during his career, including a number of toy instruments designed to foster interest and music education in children such as the Astro-Harp, Aladdin's Magical Organ and Music Book, Tone Educator Bells, Melodé Bells and Aqua Chimes. He also developed the Musser Copernican Planetarium, a star map overlay for teaching celestial navigation and astronomy. In 1975, Musser was elected to PAS's Hall of Fame for outstanding achievements in mallet percussion. Clair Omar Musser died on November 7, 1998.

#### Bibliography:

Collection materials.

Eyler, David P. "Clair Omar Musser and His Contributions to the Marimba." *Percussive Notes* 28, no. 2 (Winter 1990): 62-63.

Eyler, David P. "Largest Marimba Orchestra Ever Organized Under Clair Omar Musser." *Percussive Notes* 29, no. 6 (August 1991): 39-42.

Eyler, David Paul. "The History and Development of the Marimba Ensemble in the United States and Its Current Status in College and University Percussion Programs (Musser)." PhD diss., Louisiana State University, 1985. [https://digitalcommons.lsu.edu/gradschool\\_disstheses/4091](https://digitalcommons.lsu.edu/gradschool_disstheses/4091)

Gerhardt, Edwin L. "Clair Omar Musser: A Brief Biography." *Percussive Notes* 4, no. 2 (December 1965): 7.

Holmgren, Marg. "Clair Omar Musser and the Marimba Symphony Orchestra." *Percussive Notes* 16, no. 3 (Spring/Summer 1978): 20-21.

Percussive Arts Society: Clair Omar Musser Collection Finding Aid, rev. 2021.

Percussive Arts Society. "Hall of Fame: Clair Omar Musser." Accessed October 24, 2019.  
<https://www.pas.org/about/hall-of-fame/clair-musser>

### **Scope and Content:**

The Musser Collection is divided into seven series. Each series, described below, is arranged alphabetically.

Series 1 contains the **Business and Personal Records** of Clair Omar Musser. Items found in this series include correspondence, contracts, writings by Musser, and performance programs. Also included are materials related to Musser's instrument inventions and designs, patents, brochures, catalogs, and promotional items, as well as Musser Marimbas, Inc. materials, pamphlets promoting Musser's music, items regarding Musser's Planetarium, marimba contest flyers and posters, items regarding Musser's direction of large marimba ensembles, and materials about Musser's family.

Series 2 consists of sheet **Music**, a large portion of which was arranged by Musser for the marimba.

Series 3 encompasses Musser's **Musical Toys Records**, including correspondence, patents, manufacturing and planning materials, prototypes, and publicity materials. These records include information on the Aladdin Organ, Aqua Chimes, Astro-Harp, Electric Banjo, Electric Bell Organ, Electric Guitar, Magic Musical Cigar Box, Melodé Bells, Tone Educator Bells, and Tune Writer.

Series 4 contains the collection's **Visual Materials**, mostly consisting of photographs, in addition to a few negatives. Subjects include Musser's inventions, instruments, publicity shots, performers, performances, and travel and event photos.

Series 5 holds the **Printed Materials** in the collection, such as articles from newspapers and magazines, copies of published magazines and journals, Japan Xylophone Association publications, and company sales catalogs.

Series 6 consists of **Oversize Materials** stored in flat, oversize manuscript boxes or rolled storage. This series includes enlarged photographs, instrument design drawings and schematics, posters, and sheets of labels for Musser's toy instrument line.

Series 7 contains **Artifacts and Records**. The artifacts include medals, pins, trophies, toy instruments, the Carillon board game, and a few instruments.

**Container Listing:**

Series 1: Business and Personal Records

BOX	FOLDER
1	"A Preliminary Approach: Marketing the Musical Toy Line of Scientific Industries" paper, undated
14	Acoustical Society of America membership certificate, 26 May 1932
1	Alphatron description, undated
1	<b>[Restricted]</b> Alphatron vibraphone patent correspondence, April 1973-August 1975
1	Articles and drafts by Musser, 1932-1949; undated
14	Birth and wedding certificate, 1901; 1955
1	Birthday card, undated
1	Business correspondence, 1958-1975
1	Byrd expedition and Richard Brophy clippings, 1937; 1968; undated
1	Celestaphone description, undated
1	Celestaphone materials, 1958-1967; undated
1	Chicago Park District and Northwestern University merit certificates, 1950; undated
1	Chicago World's Fair materials with Musser photo, ca. 1933-1934
1	Chicagoland Music Festival, ca. 1942
1	Clair Jr. autobiography and biography, 1938; undated
1	Clair Jr. commencement and performance programs, 1938-1951; undated
1	Condolence correspondence following Musser's death, 1994-1999
14	Contract, 18 March 1929
1	Contracts, 1928-1929
1	Contracts, 1928-1930; undated
1	<b>[Restricted]</b> Copyright correspondence, 17 September 1976
1	Correspondence, 1926-1981; undated
1	Correspondence, ca. 1933-1984

1	Correspondence, 1941; 1979; undated
1	Correspondence, 1969-1980
1	Correspondence and photograph, 1936; 1970; 1983
1	Correspondence with Eyichi Asabuki and Junko Ogawa, ca. 1961-1974
1	David Wexler & Co. marimba sales pamphlet, undated
1	Del Roper materials, 1977-1978; undated
1	Descriptions of Musser's work and creation of the Celestaphone with photos, undated
1	Diamond Marimba description, undated
1	Gamble Music Company letter and composition contracts, 1940; 1948; 1976
1	Guatemala brochure, undated
1	Handwritten International Marimba Festival folio, ca. 1980
1	Handwritten notes, undated
1	Handwritten notes and drawings, 1981; undated
1	Handwritten notes on Musser's life and career, undated
1	Herschel Stark letter with photographs, 1992
1	History of Musser, 2003; undated
2	Ice Capades promotional materials, ca. 1957
2	Instrument brochures and directions, 1937; undated
2	Instrument history materials with photographs, 1953; 1964; undated
2	Instrument information, 1979; 1998; undated
2	Instrument promotional materials, 1961; 1985; undated
2	Instrument sales catalogs and brochures, 1967; 1980; undated
2	International Marimba Symphony Orchestra materials, ca. 1935
2	International Marimba Symphony Orchestra materials, ca. 1933-1991
2	Invitations and programs, 1935-1948; undated
2	Large marimba orchestra information, undated
2	"Looking Backwards and Looking Forwards" history of Lines Brothers Limited,

	1958
2	Marimba catalogs and brochures, 1951; undated
2	Marimba concert poster, 27 May 1952
2	Marimba contest informational packets, 1950
14	Marimba contestant correspondence, June 1951-May 1952
2	Marimba design patent, 12 September 1950
2	Marimba instruction plan, undated
2	Marion Musser merit award and memoriam card, 1962; undated
2	Meteorite notebook with inlaid materials, 1976-1979; undated
2	<b>[Restricted]</b> Metronome patents, applications, and legal correspondence, 1965-1966
2	Michael Joseph Gusikoff background information, undated
2	Millersville State College program, 11 April 1979
2	Miscellaneous materials, 1923-1958; 2001; undated
2	Miscellaneous published photographs, undated
2	Music Minus One advertisements, ca. 1973
2	Musser family birth records, 1928-1955
2	Musser family violin correspondence, 1984-1985
2	Musser family violin information, undated
2	Musser instrument advertisements, undated
2	Musser instrument and music brochures, 1958-1984; undated
14	Musser Marimbas, Inc. brochure, undated
3	Musser Marimbas, Inc. materials, undated
3	Musser Marimbas, Inc. instrument catalog, ca. 1950
3	Musser music and instrument promotional materials, undated
3	Musser music promotional materials, undated
3	Musser patent information, 1975; undated
3	Musser tribute program, 29 November 1976



3	Musser's career biography, undated
3	Musser's membership cards, undated
3	Nancy Preusch Canterbury marimba materials, 28 December 1950; undated
3	NBC Chimes specifications, undated
3	Non-Musser patents, 1890-1962
3	Northwestern University material, ca. 1948-1952
3	Notes, undated
3	Ohio State University marimba camp flyer, 1979
14	Orrery patent, 1961
3	Patent right and new invention folio, ca. 1965-1968; undated
3	Patents, 1957-1976
3	Patents, 1962-1975
3	Percussive Arts Society correspondence, 1975-1978
3	Percussive Arts Society materials, ca. 1973-1978
3	Percy Grainger to Musser, 17 August 1942
3	Performance programs, 1951-1953; 1990; undated
4	Performer promotional materials, 1943; undated
4	Performer promotional materials, ca. 1962; undated
4	Performer promotional materials and scholarship flyer, ca. 1962; undated
4	Personal correspondence, 1940-1989
14	Planetarium brochure with sky chart, 1964
4	Planetarium operation manual and promotional materials, 1960-1972; undated
4	Planetarium patent application, 28 February 1964
4	Prelude and Vesta vibraphone instructions, undated
4	Programs, 1930-1976; undated
4	Programs, 1935; 1977; 1991
4	Programs, 1941-1976; undated

4	Program, 2 December 1951
4	Pythagoras sketch and description, undated
4	“The Romance of the Marimba” paper, undated
4	Russell Markert telegram, 1958
4	Scientific research and notes, 1960-1976; undated
4	Scientific research papers, undated
14	Scrapbook with in-laid materials, undated
4	Second Annual Marimba Festival flyer, 1941
4	Shirley Temple correspondence, 1939-1942; undated
4	Shirley Temple materials, 1939; 2014; undated
14	Souvenir program, 9 May 1930
4	Steinway piano materials and negative, 1980; undated
4	Tri-State Band Festival programs, 1939; 1941
4	Tone bars information, 1970; undated
4	Vibraphone history and background information, 1939; 1976; undated
4	Vibraphone information, ca. 1977
4	Vibraphone postcards, undated
4	Wisconsin Music Clinic bulletin, 1938
4	World’s Fair Marimba Band and International Marimba Symphony Orchestra materials, 1933-1935
4	300-piece marimba orchestra information, ca. 1950

Series 2: Music

BOX	FOLDER
5	Andante by Tchaikowsky, undated
5	Arabesque in G major by Debussy, May 1976
5	Ave Verum Corpus, undated
5	Bolero by Eustasio Rosales, 1942
5	Bourrée by Handel, undated

5	Concerto in G minor, 3rd movement by Saint-Saëns, undated
5	'Etude' and 'Ye Who Have Yearned Alone', 1937; 1954
5	Etude in A-flat by Musser, undated
5	Famous Waltz by Brahms, 1941
5	"I Found an Angel" and "I've Had a Dream Come True" by Musser, undated
5	Joplin Rag Medley arranged by Homgren, undated
5	Largo, undated
5	Le Petit Berger by Debussy with Musser arrangements, 1908; undated
5	Master Solo Arrangements by Musser, 1941
5	Menuet from "Don Juan", undated
5	Prelude by Pachulsky, undated
5	Moto Perpetuo by Paganini, ca. 1978
5	Prelude XV by Shostakovich, undated
5	Rondo Vibraphone Vivente by Musser, February 1977
5	Sarabande by Bach, undated
5	Scherzo Caprice by Musser, ca. 1978
5	Selections from Carmen by Georges Bizet, 1941
5	Send in the Clowns, undated
5	Serenade I Pezzo In Forma di Sonatina by Tschaikowsky, undated
5	Sonata No. 3, Rückblick by Brahms, undated
6	Symphonie by Franck, undated
6	Te Deum Laudamus by Musser, 1940
6	To a Wild Rose, undated
6	Träume-Reves by Wagner, 1940
6	Violino Duo (Trio) by Mozart, undated

Series 3: Musical Toys Records

BOX	FOLDER
-----	--------

6	<b>[Restricted]</b> Aladdin musical keyboard book correspondence, 1966-1967
6	Aladdin organ and music book graphic materials and notes, 1967; undated
6	Aqua Chimes advertisements, undated
6	<b>[Restricted]</b> Aqua Chimes correspondence, December 1966-September 1967
6	Aqua Chimes patent application, February 1966
6	Astro-Harp and electric guitar patent applications, 1967; undated
6	<b>[Restricted]</b> Astro-Harp correspondence, 1966-1967
6	Astro-Harp patent application, November 1966
6	Astro-Harp promotional descriptions, undated
6	Bevin Brothers Manufacturing Company "Bevin Bells" catalog, undated
6	Bevin Brothers Manufacturing Company correspondence, 1953-1955; 1972
6	<b>[Restricted]</b> Conductive sheet/music sheet correspondence, 1966
6	Conductive sheet/music sheet patent application and patent lawyer docket, 1966; undated
6	Consolidated Cigar Sales Co. advertising, 1958
6	Electric banjo cost sheets, ca. 1958-1961
6	Electric bell organ and vibraphone promotional materials, 1957-1958; undated
6	Electric bell organ materials, 1957; undated
6	Electric guitar labels layout, undated
6	<b>[Restricted]</b> Electric guitar/monochord and electric banjo correspondence, 1959-1967
6	Electric guitar/monochord mock advertisements, undated
6	English style hand bells and Carillon bell game promotional materials, undated
6	Hand drawn sketches of diatonic scales, undated
6	Handwritten notes on Musser inventions, undated
7	Instrument sales article, 4 July 1966
7	Knickerbocker Plastic Co., Inc. correspondence, 1952-1959
7	Knickerbocker Plastic Co., Inc. royalty reports, May 1959-May 1960

7	Knickerbocker Toys advertisements, undated
7	Lyratron melody organ circuit diagram, undated
7	Magic Musical Cigar Box correspondence, January 1959
7	Magic Musical Cigar Box cost and planning materials, 1956; undated
7	Melodé Bells advertisements and promotional materials, 1954-1966; undated
7	<b>[Restricted]</b> Melodé Bells correspondence, 1955-1972
7	Melodé Bells handbells music booklets, undated
7	Melodé Bells news clippings, 1955-1958; undated
7	Miscellaneous instrument advertisement news clippings, April-June 1971
7	Miscellaneous toy instrument publicity and advertising, 1957; 1966; undated
7	Miscellaneous toy instrument song books, 1957; undated
7	Musical water toy patent, 29 August 1967
7	Musser instrument design information, ca. 1971
7	Nissho Electronics Corp., Toyo Menka Kaisha, and Toyomenka, Inc. Tune Writer correspondence, 1961-1962; 1966
7	Notes and research for toy instruments, 1966; undated
7	Orchestra bells materials, undated
7	“Play Along” instrument series advertisements, undated
7	Professional percussionist endorsement release forms, August-October 1961
7	Prototypes, ca. 1966
7	Roll-a-Chimes materials, undated
7	Tone educator advertisement, undated
7	Tone educator bell method teaching manual, 1967
7	Tone educator bells and accessories advertisements, ca. 1964-1967
7	Tone educator bells publicity and advertising, 1967; undated
7	Toy instrument production advertisements, 1957-1958
8	Tune writer advertisements, undated
8	Tune writer circuit boards, 1 August 1966

8	<b>[Restricted]</b> Tune writer correspondence, 1961-1967
8	Tune writer materials, ca. 1960-1966; undated
8	Tune writer patent application, response letter, and patent, 1965-1968
8	Tune writer research, non-Musser patents, 1885; 1942-1965
8	Tune writer samples and mockups, undated
14	Wire prototypes, undated

#### Series 4: Visual Materials

BOX	FOLDER
8	Aqua Chimes negative, undated
8	Byrd expedition photographs, undated
8	California Marimba Festival trophy and theater photographs, 1951
8	Celestaphone and space-related negatives, transparencies, and photos, undated
8	Celestaphone manufacturing photographs, ca. 1970s
8	Celestaphone negatives, undated
8	Chicagoland Music Festival at Soldiers' Field photographs, undated
8	Children and performers with Melodé Bells photographs, 1957-1958; undated
8	Clair, Marion, and Clair Jr. photographs, 1938-1962; undated
8	Colorized Musser promotional photographs, undated
8	Electric Banjo photographs, undated
9	Electric bell organ and vibraphone photographs, undated
9	Ensemble photographs, 1940-1941; undated
9	Florence Shaefer's marimba ensemble photographs, 1949; undated
9	Grand Piano Bells photograph, undated
9	Instrument photographs, ca. 1935; undated
9	Instrument photographs, undated
9	Instrument photographs, undated
9	International instruments photographs, undated

9	International Marimba Symphony Orchestra photographs, ca. 1935
9	Jackie Gleason Show color slides, undated
9	Knickerbocker production and shipping photographs, undated
9	Magic Musical Cigar Box photographs, undated
9	Manufacturing photographs, undated
9	Marimba manufacturing photographs, 1948; undated
9	Melodé Bells photographs, 1955-1956; undated
9	Meteorite photographs, undated
9	Michael Joseph Gusikoff photographs, undated
9	Miscellaneous negatives, undated
9	Miscellaneous personal photographs and negatives with letter, 1969; 1992-1997; undated
14	Miscellaneous photographs, 1918-1961; undated
14	Miscellaneous photographs, 1940-1949; undated
9	Miscellaneous photographs, 1949-1954; undated
9	Miscellaneous photographs, undated
9	Miscellaneous photographs, undated
14	Musser and Philippine officials photographs, November 1961
10	Musser and Shirley Temple photographs, undated
10	Musser checking meteorite pitch, photograph and negative, undated
10	Musser family violin negatives, ca. 1984
10	Musser on Andy Williams show photograph, undated
10	Musser photographs, 1918; undated
10	Musser photographs, May 1930; undated
10	Musser photographs, ca. 1930s; undated
10	Musser photographs, 1949; undated
10	Musser/Deagan instrument photographs, undated
10	Mussers' home picture book, undated

10	Musser's moon landing game photographs, undated
10	Musser's personal photographs, undated
10	Musser's orchestras and ensembles photographs, 1981; undated
10	Musser's visit to Japan photographs, ca. 1961
10	Musser's 93rd birthday photographs, 1994
10	Nancy Preusch and Marimba Coeds photographs, ca. 1951; undated
10	Planetarium and meteorite photographs and negative, 1964; undated
10	Planetarium photographs, undated
10	Performer and ensemble photographs, 1936-1939; undated
10	Performer photographs, 1930-1946; undated
10	Performer photographs, 1935; 1948; undated
11	Performer photographs, 1939-1949; undated
11	Performer photographs, 1948-1949; undated
11	Performer photographs, 1965; undated
11	Performer photographs, undated
11	"Play Along" toy instrument photographs, undated
11	Professional performer photographs, 1949-1950; undated
11	Shirley Temple photographs, undated
11	Slides of Musser with Temple and meteorite cross, ca. 1939
11	Student performer photographs, undated
11	Students and fieldhouse locations photographs, 1948-1950; undated
11	Stone keyboard photograph, undated
11	Theodore Steinway negative, undated
11	Wisconsin Music Clinic marimba orchestra photograph, 1937

Series 5: Printed Materials

BOX	FOLDER
12	"Archaeology," January 1967



12	Articles, 1925-1982; undated
12	Articles, 1931; undated
12	Articles, 1933-1975
12	Articles by Musser, 1932; 1945
12	Articles on astronomy and meteorites, 1942; 1978; undated
12	Articles on Clair Jr., 1938-1981; undated
12	Articles on marimba and xylophone history, 1933-1979; undated
12	Articles on marimba history, 1934; undated
12	Articles on marimbists, 1946; 1964; 1978
12	Articles on Marion Musser, 1960-1963; undated
14	Articles on marriage and European tour, March 1927
12	Articles on miscellaneous musicians, 1933-1984; undated
12	Articles on Musser, 1927-1980; undated
12	Articles on Musser, 1930-1985; undated
12	Articles on Musser and marimba orchestras, ca. 1930-1991
12	"Consumer Reports," February 1952
12	Design Directions publications, undated
12	"The Etude," April 1932
12	"Etude," October 1953
12	Gamble's Musical Merchandise catalog, undated
12	"George Way's 'Little Black Book,'" 1992
12	"Home Study Course in Vibracussion," 1936
12	International Marimba Symphony Orchestra news clippings, 1935; 1979; undated
12	"International Musician," October 1952
12	Japan Xylophone Association member list; 1992
12	Japan Xylophone Association member list; undated
12	Japan Xylophone Association publications, 1971-1987

12	JeNco Instrument catalog, undated
12	"Kunkel's Musical Review," May 1892
13	"Kunkel's Musical Review," 1892-1896 (assorted)
13	Ludwig catalog with Joel Leach letter, 1988
13	"The Ludwig Drummer," Spring 1964
13	Ludwig Musser catalog, 1988
13	Magazine articles and advertisements, 1933-1970; undated
13	Marimba music albums for Japanese Xylophone Association members, 1968-1973
13	Miscellaneous publications, 1931; 1983; ca. 1992
13	"Modern Percussionist," June-August 1985
13	"The New Golden Song Book," 1955
13	Pan American Union's Music of Latin America with inlaid news clipping, 1953
13	"Percussion Reporter," Winter 1978
13	Radio City Music Hall booklet, undated
13	"The School Musician," May 1933
13	"The Spirit of Paul Revere-a glorious heritage for American industry" booklet, 1944
13	Vibraphone articles, 1950; 1974-1978
14	"Who's Who Today in the Musical World," ca. 1937
14	"Xylophone Music from Ghana," 1992

Series 6: Oversize Materials

BOX	FOLDER
15	Alphatron design ideas, undated
15	Alphatron Musical Scale Analyzer, undated
15	Ball torque converter unit schematic, 1959
17 (custom size)	Banjo schematic, 17 November 1958
15	Chicagoland Music Festival full-page article, 16 August 1948

15	Doris Stockton recital poster, 2 October 1947
15	Earned royalties worksheet, 1957
15	Egyptian Music Camp Marimba Contest and Festival poster, undated
15	Ensemble photographs, undated
15	Foldable musical instrument frame and marimba patents, 1935-1936
15	Imperial Marimba Symphony Orchestra booklet, undated
17 (custom size)	King size tone bars schematic, 26 June 1965
17 (custom size)	King size tone educator bell resonator schematics, June 1965
15	Knickerbocker promotional materials, ca. 1957; undated
15	Lawrence La Cour event poster, undated
15	Le Petit Berger by Debussy, undated
15	“L’Instrumental” newspaper, May 1935
17 (custom size)	Marimba-band-news poster, ca. 1933
15	Marimba calendars, 1999
15	“The Marimba-Xylophone” by Musser, undated
15	Matted instrument photographs, undated
15	Miscellaneous materials, undated
15	Miscellaneous photographs (1 of 4), 1955; undated
16	Miscellaneous photographs (2 of 4), undated
16	Miscellaneous photographs (3 of 4), undated
16	Miscellaneous photographs (4 of 4), undated
16	Miscellaneous posters, ca. 1956; undated
16	Miscellaneous scrapbook pages, ca. 1940-1941; undated
16	Musical toy schematics, 1965
16	Musical toys’ labels, undated
16	Musser scale, undated
16	Photos of groups posing with Melodé Bells, undated

16	Planetarium promotional photographs, undated
16	Stonehenge photographs, undated
16	Tone Educator Bells promotional pamphlet, ca. 1933
16	Tri-State Band Festival posters, 1939-1940
16	Tri-State Band Festival poster, 1941
16	William and Caroline Herschel images, 1819-1847; undated
16	World's Fair Marimba Band poster, ca. 1933
16	100-piece marimba symphony printed photograph, ca. 1935

Series 7: Artifacts and Records

BOX	FOLDER
2019.05	2 Century of Progress castanet sets
2019.05	Century of Progress claves
2019.05	Century of Progress guiro scraper
2019.05	15 Century of Progress maracas
2006.03	Chicagoland Music Festival medal, 1941
2006.03	Eyichi Asabuki "Sparkling Vibraphone" record, undated
2006.03.06	Knickerbocker Aladdin's Magic Music Book
2006.03.07	Knickerbocker Big Mouth Singers
2006.03.08	Knickerbocker Carillon Musical Game
2006.03.02	Knickerbocker Electric Vibraphone
2006.03.05	Knickerbocker Folk Songs Electric Music Book
2006.03.04	Knickerbocker Hippy-Hop Keyboard
2006.03.09	Knickerbocker Lyra "Astro-Harp"
2006.03.01	Knickerbocker Magic Music Box
2006.03.03	Knickerbocker Play-Along Toy Steel Guitar
1999.08.02	Look Magazine contest trophy awarded to Northwestern University Music School Marimba Quintet, 1946

1999.08.03	Look Magazine Senior Award national contest trophy awarded to Northwestern University Music School Marimba Quintet, 24 August 1946
2006.03	Marion Musser Laurel Oaks GOP Women's Club medal, 1960
2006.03	Musser Hundred Piece Marimba Band ribbon, August 1933
2006.03	NBC chimes pin, undated
2006.03	Tri-State Band Festival medal, ca. 1940
2006.03	Vesta Vibes "Join the Stars" record, undated