

**Jerome Gross and Bert Henry
papers on the Schillinger System
BCA.006**

Finding aid prepared by Sofía Becerra-Licha

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Berklee College Archives
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Summary Information

Repository	Berklee College Archives
Creator - Creator	Gross, Jerome, Dr., 1904-1969
Creator - Creator	Henry, Bert, scientist
Creator - Creator	Schillinger, Joseph, 1895-1943
Title	Jerome Gross and Bert Henry papers on the Schillinger System
Date [inclusive]	1940-1957
Extent	1.0 Cubic feet : 1 record carton.
Language	English

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Jerome Gross and Bert Henry papers on the Schillinger System, BCA-006. College Archives, Stan Getz Library, Berklee College of Music.

Biographical Note

Dr. Jerome Gross (1904-1969) was born in Russia, but spent most of his life in Cleveland, OH. A surgeon by trade, he was also an accomplished violinist whose musical studies included composition with Joseph Schillinger. A great friend of the arts, he received a posthumous Special Citation for Distinguished Service to the Arts in 1969, and the Cleveland Institute of Music established an annual violin prize in his name.

Bert Henry also studied under Joseph Schillinger. He was an authorized teacher of the Schillinger System of Musical Composition (SSMOC) who, among other things, directed the now-defunct Schillinger Center of Cleveland.

Scope and Contents

This collection is comprised of materials documenting correspondence, coursework, and memorabilia produced and collected by Bert Henry and Dr. Jerome Gross, as students and proponents of the Schillinger System of Musical Composition (SSOMC). The Schillinger System of Musical Composition, was invented by Russian composer and theorist Joseph Schillinger. The system is modeled on mathematical processes and includes theories of rhythm, harmony, melody, counterpoint, form, and semantics.

The bulk of these papers consists of correspondence coursework undertaken by Dr. Jerome Gross under the direct tutelage of Joseph Schillinger, although not all lessons are accounted for here. Related materials include theory exercises by both Dr. Gross and Mr. Henry, clippings and pamphlets on the Schillinger method, and correspondence. Correspondence includes exchanges between Dr. Gross and the Schillingers regarding his progress, as well as Mr. Henry's Schillinger-related educational ventures.

Arrangement

This collection has been organized into 4 series as follows:

Series I: Correspondence & Schillinger memorabilia

Series II: Schillinger Correspondence Course lessons

- Subseries 1: Lessons 57-64
- Subseries 2: Lessons 65-84
- Subseries 3: Lessons 85-103
- Subseries 4: Lessons 130-147
- Subseries 5: Lessons 148-169
- Subseries 6: Lessons 170-185
- Subseries 7: Lessons 258-274

Series III: Exercises

Series IV: Other materials

Series and subseries were based on the original order, perceived provenance, and type of materials. The subseries comprising Series II reflects the original grouping of those course materials into individual 3-ring binders.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Berklee College Archives

Access

This non-circulating collection is open for research use by appointment on site at the college archives (Monday - Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with evening hours available upon request). Advance notice is required to retrieve archival items because these materials are stored offsite. Use of audiovisual materials may require the production of listening or viewing copies. To schedule an appointment or request further information, please email (archives@berklee.edu) or call (617-747-8001) the college archivist.

Custodial History

These materials were donated by Tom Letizia of Cleveland, OH in January 2013. Letizia studied under authorized Schillinger instructor Bert Henry, who bequeathed him his personal papers related to the Schillinger Method, as well as additional papers created and collected by Dr. Jerome Gross from his own course of study with Schillinger. Based on correspondence included in this collection, at least some of Dr. Gross' materials appear to have been passed on to Mr. Henry posthumously by Dr. Gross' widow. Both men appear to have resided in Cleveland, OH, but otherwise little else is known about the connection between Dr. Gross and Mr. Henry beyond their exposure to the Schillinger Method.

Processing Note

These materials were processed with interpretive and descriptive assistance from Phil DiTullio of the Schillinger Society (<http://www.schillingersociety.com/>), who provided the bulk of the folder-level notes.

Related Materials

Related materials

Related materials may be found in the following collection in this repository: BCA-007 Lawrence Berk papers on the Schillinger System.

These papers consist of Lawrence Berk's (1908-1995) notes from his studies under Joseph Schillinger. Based on these studies, Berk founded Schillinger House in 1945, now known as Berklee College of Music. Also included in this collection is a related course in introductory arranging written by Berk, presumably in collaboration with others.

Controlled Access Headings

Subject(s)

- Schillinger System of Musical Composition
- Schillinger, Joseph, 1895-1943

Collection Inventory

Series I Correspondence & Schillinger memorabilia : 5 folders.

Scope and Contents

This series is comprised of Jerome Gross and Bert Henry's correspondence with the Schillingers, as well as clippings and other memorabilia related to Joseph Schillinger and the Schillinger System of Musical Composition (SSOMC). Correspondence topics include Dr. Gross' progress in the Schillinger correspondence course, and Bert Henry's Schillinger Center of Cleveland. Memorabilia includes articles and essays by and about Joseph Schillinger and his methods, as well as publicity materials.

Folder 1: Jerome Gross coursework correspondence

Contents

Correspondence between Dr. Gross & the Schillingers, discussing the course and Dr. Gross' progress. Other materials include an assignment on Instrumental Form, as well as a 1956 letter to Frances Schillinger from Bert Henry regarding proceeds paid to her from his Schillinger Center of Cleveland.

Folder 2: Jerome Gross correspondence & clippings

Contents

The materials in this folder appear to have been passed on from Jerome Gross and/or his widow to Bert Henry and include the following items. A 1942 letter to Jerome Gross from Frances Schillinger explaining she is sending parts 1 & 2 of Orchestration and indicating he paid in full for the correspondence course. An unattributed essay: "On the Schillinger System of Composition." Letters to Dr. Gross from Mrs. Schillinger mentioning Joseph Schillinger's illness and thanking Dr. Gross for his visit, dated one month before Mr. Schillinger's death. A 1942 letter from Mr. Schillinger to Dr.

Correspondence & Schillinger memorabilia

Gross with homework corrections. A 1944 Newsweek article "Music by Slide Rule." A Western Union telegram from Mrs. Schillinger to Dr. Gross announcing Joseph Schillinger's death. A copy of Mr. Schillinger's essay "The Engineering of Art."

Folder 3: Pamphlets & clippings, part 1/2

Contents

The materials in this folder appear to have been passed on from Jerome Gross and/or his widow to Bert Henry and include the following items. A New York Times obituary for Joseph Schillinger. An article from the Hammond Times: "Joseph Schillinger: His Theories Work." A pamphlet written by Lyle Dowling: "A Brief Note on the Schillinger System: The Scientific Way to Success in Music," which accompanied the Schillinger System of Musical Composition (SSOMC). A pamphlet written by Joseph Schillinger: "The Destiny of Tonal Art." An article about Joseph Schillinger entitled "Finding the Cube Root of Inspiration," as well as two Metronome articles. A note to Bert Henry from Mrs. Gross, which mentions sending him Schillinger memorabilia.

Folder 4: Pamphlets & clippings, part 2/2

Contents

The materials in this folder appear to have been passed on from Jerome Gross and/or his widow to Bert Henry. Includes promotional materials for the Schillinger System of Musical Composition, a Kaleidophone article ("Plain Talk on Musical Genius"), and a "Music News" pamphlet.

Folder 5: Bert Henry correspondence

Contents

Correspondence between Bert Henry and Frances Schillinger regarding payments to use the Schillinger name, as well as his plans for the Schillinger Center of Cleveland, including its eventual dissolution and his decision to pursue a career in mathematics rather than music for financial reasons. Also includes

Schillinger Correspondence Course lessons

exchanges between Mr. Henry and Stan Kenton regarding his student Roger Kiraly; and between Bert Henry and Carl Fischer.

Series II Schillinger Correspondence Course lessons : 120 folders

Contents

This series is comprised of lessons from Jerome Gross' correspondence course with Joseph Schillinger. Included here are lessons 57-103, 130-185, and 258-274 in the areas of Theory of Melody, Special Theory of Harmony, The Correlation of Harmony and Melody, Theory of Counterpoint, and Theory of Orchestration.

Subseries 1 Lessons 57-64 : 8 folders.

Contents

These materials appear to be related to SSOMC Book IV (Theory of Melody), Chapter 4 (Climax & Resistance).

Subseries 2 Lessons 65-84 : 20 folders.

Contents

These materials appear to be related to SSOMC Book V (Special Theory of Harmony), Part I, Chapter 1 (Diatonic) and Chapter 6 (Passing 6/4).

Subseries 3 Lessons 85-103 : 19 folders.

Contents

Lessons 130-147

These materials appear to be related to Part II of SSOMC Book V (Special Theory of Harmony), particularly Chapter 9 (Seventh Chords).

Subseries 4 Lessons 130-147 : 18 folders.

Contents

These materials appear to be related to SSOMC Book VI (The Correlation of Harmony and Melody) in full.

Subseries 5 Lessons 148-169 : 22 folders.

Contents

These materials appear to be related to SSOMC Book VII (Theory of Counterpoint), Chapters 1-8, on the topic Art of the Fugue.

Subseries 6 Lessons 170-185 : 16 folders.

Contents

These materials appear to be related to SSOMC Book VII (Theory of Counterpoint). Topics include: two-part melodization & harmonization; harmonic and contrapuntal ostinato.

Subseries 7 Lessons 258-274 : 17 folders.

Contents

These materials appear to be related to Part One of SSOMC Book XII (Theory of Orchestration).

Exercises

Series III Exercises : 4 folders.

Scope and Contents

This series is comprised of exercises which appear to have been completed by Jerome Gross and Bert Henry in the areas of: Theory of Counterpoint, Art of the Fugue, and Theory of Orchestration.

Folder 1: Exercises, part 1/4

Contents

These exercises, presumably completed by Jerome Gross, appear to be related to SSOMC Book VII (Counterpoint), Chapter 9 and include corrections in red, presumably by Schillinger. Includes Counterpoint Plans as well.

Folder 2: Exercises, part 2/4

Contents

These exercises, presumably completed by Jerome Gross, appear to be related to SSOMC Book VII (Theory of Counterpoint) in the areas of canon writing, fugue writing, and melodization of harmony. Pages have exercise numbers that might refer to specific assignments in the correspondence course.

Folder 3: Exercises, part 3/4

Contents

These exercises, presumably completed by Jerome Gross, appear to be related to SSOMC Book VII (Theory of Counterpoint), Chapter 8 (Art of the Fugue).

Folder 4: Exercises, part 4/4

Other materials

Contents

These exercises, presumably completed by Bert Henry, appear to be related to SSOMC Book XII (Theory of Orchestration) and consist of graph analysis of standards.

Series IV Other materials : 9 folders.

Scope and Contents

Musical exercises and mathematical equations.