



The New York Public Library  
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

**Anita Feldman Tap collection**

1961-2017

(S) \*MGZMD 496

Collection processed by Heather Halliday, 2018.

## Summary

**Creator:** Feldman, Anita, 1951-

**Title:** Anita Feldman Tap collection

**Date:** 1961-2017

**Size:** 5.43 linear feet (13 boxes, 1 oversize folder)

**Source:** The collection was donated by Anita Feldman in April, 2018.

**Abstract:** Anita Feldman is a choreographer, teacher, and dancer best known for her innovative work in Tap and close collaborations with composers. The Anita Feldman Tap collection documents her professional life, including the dance company she founded, through files relating to performances and artist residencies; Feldman's original choreography; her student years and early work; the Tap Dance Instrument, a percussion instrument she co-invented; her teaching career; articles and a book written by Feldman; performance and publicity photographs; clippings of performance reviews; administrative records; and recordings of performances, music, and interviews.

### Conditions Governing Access:

Audio and video recordings are unavailable pending digitization.

**Preferred citation:** Anita Feldman Tap collection, (S) \*MGZMD 496. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Collection processed by Heather Halliday, 2018.

## Creator History

Anita Feldman is a Modern dancer and choreographer best known for her experimental work in Tap and close collaborations with composers. A practicing dancer since childhood, who was trained in music

and percussion, Feldman uses the sound of tap dancing as a musical element within her works. In the mid-1980s she co-invented and patented the Tap Dance Instrument (TDI), a wood and brass multi-timbre floor platform, which is featured in many of her pieces. With her dance company, Anita Feldman Tap, she has performed in over 100 venues, ranging from academic settings to theaters in New York City, around the United States, and in Japan and Germany. Festivals in which she has performed include the Colorado Dance Festival, the Boston Dance Umbrella, and the American Dance Festival. Her collaborators include Lois V. Vierk, Guy Klucevsek, David Bierman, Toby Twining, Larry Polansky, Rhonda Price, Gary Schall, and James Tenney. In the 1980s, Feldman adapted composer Steve Reich's *Clapping Music* for Tap, performing it as *Tapping Music*. She is currently (2018) a full-time dance professor at Hofstra University.

## Scope and Content Note

The Anita Feldman Tap collection, which dates from 1961 to 2017, is divided into two main sections: Media and Papers.

The Media section of the collection primarily consists of video recordings of performances staged around New York City or as part of artist residencies around the country, as well as the Anita Feldman Tap dance company's domestic and international touring performances. Recordings of music that accompany performances, sometimes including the sound of dancers' tapping feet, are also well-represented in this section. A smaller quantity of video and audio recordings of interviews with Feldman and others are included. Audio and video recordings are unavailable pending digitization.

The Papers section of the collection traces the creative and professional life of Anita Feldman as a performer, choreographer, and teacher as well as the activity of her dance company, Anita Feldman Tap. The Performances and Residencies, and the Choreography subsections occupy the greatest share of the Papers section.

Dating from 1977 to 1999, the Performances and Residencies subsection is arranged chronologically. These files are titled by venue, festival name, or name of composer or collaborator and include: programs; fliers; press releases; budgets; guest lists; a few photographs; and correspondence with residency hosts, event organizers, and collaborators.

The Choreography subsection, which dates from 1974 to 1996, illuminates the underlying creative processes that preceeded public performance events. Files include: scores; choreographic charts, diagrams, and sketches; some photographs; and correspondence with collaborators. These files are arranged roughly chronologically and by name of collaborator.

The Writing subsection includes the manuscript, its corrections, and publisher correspondence relating to *Inside Tap: Technique and Improvisation for Today's Tap Dancer* written by Feldman and published by Princeton Books in 1996. This subsection also contains articles written by Feldman over the years, including a remembrance of her mentor, Robert Ellis Dunn.

The Photographs subsection is organized chronologically and contains portraits and performance images from the 1970s through the 1990s. Several files in this subsection were shot by L.V. Feldman, Anita Feldman's father, who was an accomplished amateur photographer.

The Administrative subsection includes promotional material, resumes, grants, and contracts related to both Anita Feldman Tap dance company and to Anita Feldman as an individual performer.

Another subsection covers Feldman's teaching career mostly at Hofstra University and various workshops throughout the United States. Included in this subsection are files on educational conferences; lecture notes; curricula and syllabi; student dance concert programs; job applications and letters recommending Feldman for various teaching positions.

The collection also contains smaller subsections on Feldman's student years, dating back to childhood, and her early work; on the Tap Dance Instrument, a percussion instrument designed by Feldman and Daniel Schmidt, to be played by the feet of tap dancers; and published performance reviews.

## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

Choreographers -- United States  
Modern dance  
Performance art  
Tap dancers  
Women choreographers -- United States -- 20th century

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Sound recordings  
Tap dancing  
Video recordings

### **Occupations**

Teachers.

### **Names**

Behrman, David  
Bufalino, Brenda  
Dunn, Robert Ellis  
Feldman, Anita, 1951-  
Klucevsek, Guy  
Loewen, Debra  
Nelson, Jalalu Kalvert  
Pickett, Lenny  
Polansky, Larry, 1954-  
Reich, Steve, 1936-  
Rodiger, Ann  
Schall, Gary  
Tenney, James  
Twining, Toby  
Vierk, Lois V.

## Container List

### Media 1980-1996

The Media section of the collection contains 65 video recordings and 33 audio recordings of live performances; accompanying music, sometimes including the sound of dancers' tapping feet; and interviews of Anita Feldman or other dancers and choreographers. Audio and video recordings are unavailable pending digitization.

### Papers 1961-2017

#### Performances and Residencies 1977-1999

- b. 1 f. 1 o. 1 1977-1984
  - b. 1 f. 2 Performing in Others' Works 1980s
  - b. 1 f. 3 Recording Notes 1980s-2017  
Notes relating to audio and video recordings of performances.
  - b. 1 f. 4 Brenda Bufalino early 1980s
  - b. 1 f. 5 Roulette 1982 May 24  
With Larry Polansky.
  - b. 1 f. 6 California Tour 1982-1983  
With Ann Rodiger and Larry Polansky.
  - b. 1 f. 7 Ann Rodiger 1982 October
  - b. 1 f. 8 Cal Arts Contemporary Arts Festival 1983 March
  - b. 1 f. 9 *Mapped Tap* 1983 May
  - b. 1 f. 10 American Dance Guild 1984-1987
  - b. 1 f. 11 Berkeley Contemporary Chamber Players 1984 March
  - b. 1 f. 12 Vital Arts Center 1984 April
  - b. 1 f. 13 Chelsea Fest 1984 September
  - b. 1 f. 13 o. 1 Downtown Dance Festival 1984 September  
At World Trade Center.
  - b. 1 f. 15 Residency at University of Montana 1985 June - July
  - b. 1 f. 16 Lincoln Center Out-Of-Doors 1985 August
  - b. 1 f. 17 1986  
Japan Tour
  - b. 1 f. 18 1986
  - b. 1 f. 19 Choreographer Kazuo Kamizawa 1986-1999
  - b. 1 f. 20 Correspondence 1986-1987
  - b. 2 f. 1 Oberlin College 1986
  - b. 2 f. 2 Real Art Ways 1986  
Residency with Lenny Pickett; includes performance of *Milwaukee Blues*.
  - b. 2 f. 3 Bard Theater of Drama and Dance 1986 November
  - b. 2 f. 4 American Dance Festival 1987
  - b. 2 f. 5 Emanuel Midtown YMHA 1987 March
  - b. 2 f. 6 New Music America 1987 October
  - b. 2 f. 7 American Dance Festival 1988
  - b. 2 f. 8 Long Island Residency 1988
  - b. 2 f. 9 Alverno College 1988 January

Papers (cont.)

Performances and Residencies (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 10 The Kitchen 1988 February
- b. 2 f. 11 Central Park Summer Stage 1988 July
- b. 3 f. 1 Whitney Museum, Philip Morris 1988 September
- b. 3 f. 2 Affiliated Artists, University Club 1988 October
- b. 3 f. 3 Northwestern University 1988 October
- b. 3 f. 4 Port Washington Public Library 1989 February
- b. 3 f. 5 Bloomington, Indiana Residency 1989 May
- b. 3 f. 6 o. 1 Colorado Dance Festival 1989 July
- b. 3 f. 7 Lincoln Center Out-Of-Doors 1989 August
- b. 3 f. 8 Making Waves Festival, Staten Island 1989 September
- b. 3 f. 9 Dance Theater Workshop 1989 November
- b. 3 f. 10 Gloversville, New York Residency 1989 November
- b. 3 f. 11 Colorado Dance Festival 1990
- b. 3 f. 12 Washington Performing Arts Society and Dance Place 1990-1991
- b. 3 f. 13 Hope College 1990 April
- b. 3 f. 14 National Tap Dance Day 1990 May
- b. 3 f. 15 Boston Dance Umbrella 1990 June
- b. 3 f. 16 Evansville, Indiana Residency 1990 November
- b. 3 f. 17 Village Gate 1990 December
- b. 3 f. 18 Culver Academies Residencies 1991 January
- b. 3 f. 19 Morningside Dance Festival 1991 March
- b. 3 f. 20 Helena Presents 1991 June  
Montana.
- b. 3 f. 21 Colorado Dance Festival 1992
- b. 3 f. 22 Great Tap Gathering, Houston 1992 February
- b. 3 f. 23 Bay City, Michigan 1992 March
- b. 4 Dance Theater Workshop 1992 June
- b. 4 f. 2 Alverno College 1992 October
- b. 4 f. 3 Port Washington Public Library 1992 November
- b. 4 f. 4 Florida Dance Festival 1993
- b. 4 f. 5 Benefit Performance at Dia in Honor of Robert Ellis Dunn 1993 March
- b. 4 f. 6 Merkin Concert Hall 1993 March
- b. 4 f. 7 Dimson Theatre 1993 April-May
- b. 4 f. 8 Podewil 1993 June  
Berlin, Germany.
- b. 4 f. 9 Merkin Concert Hall 1994 March
- b. 4 f. 10 Tap Extravaganza 1994 May
- b. 4 f. 11 Woodpeckers 1994 September-October
- b. 4 f. 12 Skidmore and Union Colleges 1995 March
- b. 4 f. 13 Sylvia and Danny Kaye Playhouse 1995 June
- b. 4 f. 14 Port Washington 1995 November
- b. 4 f. 15 Manchester Dance 1996 February 17

Papers (cont.)

Performances and Residencies (cont.)

- b. 4 f. 16 Dance on the Edge, Towson State University 1996 March 30
- b. 4 f. 17 Columbia Festival of the Arts 1996 June
- b. 4 f. 18 Dance Theater Workshop 1996 June
- b. 4 f. 19 Bryant Library, Roslyn, New York 1996 December 12
- b. 4 f. 20 Knitting Factory 1996 December 17
- b. 4 f. 21 Port Washington 1997
- b. 4 f. 22 *Three Takes On Tap, Huntington Summer Arts Festival* 1997 June 29
- b. 5 f. 1 Lincoln Center Out-Of-Doors 1997 August
- b. 5 f. 2 Alverno College 1992 October  
Milwaukee
- b. 5 f. 3 Columbia College, South Carolina 1998 January 23
- b. 5 f. 4 92nd Street Y 1998 February
- b. 5 f. 5 Germany Tour 1998 April
- b. 5 f. 6 Dance Place, Washington, D.C 1998 May
- b. 5 f. 7 *Symphony for Feet, The Kitchen* 1998 June
- b. 5 f. 8 Experimental Intermedia 1999 March 29
- b. 5 f. 9 Hartwick College 1999 March
- b. 5 f. 10 *Tap In, Town Hall* 1999 March 19
- Choreography 1974-1999
- b. 5 f. 11 *Tenney, James, Three Quartets for Eight Feet* 1974-1985
- b. 5 f. 12 Sound Specifications 1980s-1997  
Polansky, Larry
- b. 5 f. 13 *Three Monk Tunes* 1982-1983  
*Milwaukee Blues*
- b. 5 f. 14 *Milwaukee Blues* 1984
- b. 5 f. 15 *Study for Milwaukee Blues* 1986
- o. 1 Score 1984
- b. 5 f. 16 Unrealized Proposal circa 1987
- b. 5 f. 17 Reich, Steve 1985-1987  
Includes published *Clapping Music* score; photographs of Feldman and Gary Schall performing *Tapping Music* and three postcards from Reich to Feldman.
- b. 6 f. 1 *Nelson, Jalalu Kalvert, Shimmer* 1987
- b. 6 f. 2 *Schall, Gary, The Next Step* 1987  
Vierk, Lois V
- b. 6 f. 3 *Pilot* 1987
- b. 6 f. 4 *Hexa* 1988
- b. 6 f. 5 *Shaded* 1989
- b. 6 f. 6 *Twister* 1992-1994
- b. 7 f. 1 *Swash* 1994
- b. 7 f. 2 *Shoo* 1997-1999
- b. 7 f. 3 o. 1 *Klucsevsek, Guy, City Scraped* 1991
- b. 7 f. 4 *Behrman, David, Hooved Mammals* 1993

Papers (cont.)

Choreography (cont.)

- b. 7 f. 5 *Twining, Toby, A Pitch Is a Groove* 1996
- Student Years and Early Work 1961-1993
  - b. 7 f. 6-7 1961-1970s
  - b. 8 f. 1-3 University of Illinois late 1960s-early 1970s
  - b. 8 f. 4 Dunn, Robert Ellis 1979-1993
  - Tap Dance Instrument 1986-1994
  - b. 8 f. 5 Construction 1986-1988
  - b. 8 f. 6 Patent 1988-1994
  - Teaching 1970s-2017
    - b. 9 f. 1 1980s
    - b. 9 f. 2 Choreography 1990-1995
    - b. 9 f. 3 Conferences 2007-2008
    - b. 9 f. 4 Friends Academy 2001-2004
    - b. 9 f. 5-9 Hofstra University 2000-2018
      - Includes curriculum proposals, syllabi, and student dance concert programs.
    - b. 9 f. 10 Improvisation 1987
    - b. 9 f. 11 Job Applications 1970s-1980s
    - b. 9 f. 12 Kennedy Center Partners in Education 2011
    - b. 9 f. 13 Lecture and Workshop Notes 1980s-1990s
    - b. 9 f. 14 Letters of Recommendation 1980s
    - b. 9 f. 15 National Dance Education Organization Conference 2005-2017
    - b. 9 f. 16 Rhythmic Training circa 1970, 1990s
    - b. 9 f. 17 Dunn, Robert Ellis 1980-1997
    - b. 9 f. 18 Teachers College / Columbia University 1996-1997
    - b. 9 f. 19 Tucson 2013
    - University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign 1973
  - Writing 1988-2007
    - Articles
      - b. 10 f. 1 1990-1997
      - b. 10 f. 2 *Leonardo article* 1984-1990
      - b. 10 f. 3 *On Tap* 2003-2007
      - Inside Tap: Technique and Improvisation for Today's Tap Dancer*
    - b. 10 f. 4-5 Manuscript 1995
    - b. 10 f. 6 Manuscript Notes 1995
    - b. 10 f. 7 Princeton Book Company, Publishers 1994-2002
    - b. 10 f. 8 Reviews 1996
    - International Tap Association
      - b. 10 f. 9 Newsletters 1988-1993
      - b. 10 f. 10 Closing the Gap Interview Project 2002-2003
      - b. 11 Dunn, Robert Ellis 1996-1997
    - Photographs 1970s-1998

Papers (cont.)

Photographs (cont.)

- b. 11 f. 2 By L. V. Feldman 1970s
- b. 11 f. 3 The Yard with Michael Cicchetti 1976
- b. 11 f. 4 With Deborah Loewen late 1970s
- b. 11 f. 5 Portraits and Performance Stills by Dan Breslin 1980s
- b. 11 f. 6 Portraits by L. V. Feldman 1980s
- b. 11 f. 7 Contact Sheets by L. V. Feldman 1980s-1990s
- b. 11 f. 8 By Jan Roberts-Breslin circa 1980
- b. 11 f. 9 *City Riffle* 1985
- b. 11 f. 10 *Landings Takeoff* 1989-1990
- b. 11 f. 11 By L. V. Feldman 1990s
- b. 11 f. 12 Portraits 1990s  
*Landings*
- b. 11 f. 13 By Tom Brazil circa 1991
- b. 11 f. 14 By Steven Speliotis 1991
- b. 11 f. 15 *Twister and Hooved Mammals* 1992-1993
- b. 11 f. 16 By Tom Caravaglia 1992-1998
- b. 12 f. 1 By Beatrice Schiller 1996
- b. 12 f. 2 *Shoo* 1998
- b. 12 f. 3 *Twister and Landings Takeoff* 1998
- b. 12 f. 4-5 Reviews 1980-2000s  
Administrative 1980s-2010
- b. 12 f. 6 Ads 1980s-1990s
- b. 12 f. 7 Affiliated Artists 1986-1992
- b. 12 f. 8 Contracts 1983-1987  
Grants
- b. 12 f. 9 Aaron Copland Fund for Music 1997
- b. 12 f. 10 Guggenheim Foundation 1991-1992
- b. 12 f. 11 Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust 1988-1997
- b. 12 f. 12 Meet the Composer 1990-1997
- b. 12 f. 13 National Endowment for the Arts 1988-1991
- b. 12 f. 14-15 New York Foundation for the Arts 1986
- b. 13 f. 1 New York State Council on the Arts 1993-1998
- b. 13 f. 2 Sue Latham 1992-1993
- b. 13 f. 3 Press Kit 1996
- b. 13 f. 4 Press Releases 1983-1992
- b. 13 f. 5 Resumes 1980s, 2010s