



## The New York Public Library Music Division

Guide to the

### **John Edmunds correspondence and other papers**

1957-1961

JPB 96-24

#### **Summary**

**Creator:** Edmunds, John, 1913-1986

**Title:** John Edmunds correspondence and other papers

**Date:** 1957-1961

**Size:** .5 cu. ft.

**Abstract:** More than 350 letters between John Edmunds and many important composers and other musicians of the day, with the bulk of the letters dated 1960. A very few other papers include programs, minutes of organizations, and brochures. Besides Peter Yates, correspondents include Ernst Bacon, Ingolf Dahl, Roy Harris, and Roger Reynolds. Papers and correspondence of organizations include Composers' Forum and Institute of International Education.

**Preferred citation:** John Edmunds correspondence and other papers, Music Division, The New York Public Library

#### **Creator History**

John Edmunds, an American composer and librarian, was born in San Francisco in 1913 and died in Berkeley in 1986. At the time of the present collection, he was curator of the Americana Collection of the research Music Division of the New York Public Library, and was also active in Composers' Forum, Eva Gauthier Society, Institute of International Education, Committee on American Recordings Project, and American Music Center. Although he is better known as a composer of songs and editor of Elizabethan and Italian songs for which he realized the basso continuo, the present correspondence barely touches on these activities. In 1960, he traveled in Europe to talk about American music. The year also saw the publication of the second volume of *Some Twentieth Century American Composers*, a bibliography edited by Edmunds and Gordon Boelzner with an introduction by Nicholas Slonimsky (Peter Yates having written the introduction to volume one).

Peter Yates, who wrote some 35 of the letters, was a poet and music critic whose radio program, *Evenings on the Roof*, included "talk-tapes" of modern composers explaining their music. During the years of the correspondence, he wrote the books *Twentieth Century Music* and *An Amateur at the Keyboard*.

## Scope and Content Note

More than 350 letters between John Edmunds and many important composers and other musicians of the day, with the bulk of the letters dated 1960. A very few other papers include programs, minutes of organizations, and brochures. Besides Peter Yates, correspondents include Ernst Bacon, Ingolf Dahl, Roy Harris, and Roger Reynolds. Papers and correspondence of organizations include Composers' Forum and Institute of International Education.

**Arrangement:** Organization is alphabetical, by persons and then by organizations; chronological within these categories

## Key Terms

### Subjects

Composers -- United States

### Genre/Physical Characteristic

Correspondence

Letters (correspondence)

Postcards

### Names

Edmunds, John, 1913-1986

Bacon, Ernst, 1898-1990

Dahl, Ingolf, 1912-1970

Harris, Roy, 1898-1979

Reynolds, Roger, 1934-

Yates, Peter, 1909-1976

American Music Collection

Composers' Forum (U.S.)

Institute of International Education (New York, N.Y.)