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FELIX LABUNSKI
PAPERS, 1930-1977
(bulk dates, 1946-1968)
2 linear feet (5 boxes)

Call No.: JPB 02-4

ACQUISITION:	The collection was acquired from the estate of Felix Labunski.
ACCESS:	The collection is open for research without restrictions.
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PHOTOGRAPHS:	In Box 3.
PRINTED MATERIAL:	Clippings in Box 1 and scattered throughout the collection.
SEPARATED MATERIAL:	Audiotapes can be found in the Labunski (Felix) Collection within the Rodgers and Hammerstein Archives of Recorded Sound (Call no.: *L (Special) 88.42).
PREFERRED CITATION:	Felix Labunski Papers, JPB 02-4, Music Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.
PROCESSED BY:	Peter Hirsch and Dan Santamaria, February 2003.

Abstract

Papers documenting the career of the Polish-born American composer between the 1930s and the 1970s. Includes correspondence, clippings, programs, grant applications, notebooks, and scores.

Biography

Felix Labunski was a Polish-born American composer. Born in Ksawerynow, Poland on December 27, 1892, his father was a prominent civil engineer and his mother an amateur pianist. His mother was influential in developing his musical tastes, as well those of his brother Wiktor (later Director of the Kansas City Conservatory of Music), at an early age. After graduation from a private high school in Moscow, Labunski studied architecture at the Polytechnic Institute in St. Petersburg. His studies were interrupted when he was drafted into the Russian army during World War I. By the time Labunski rejoined his family in Warsaw in 1921, he had decided to give up the study of architecture and devote his time to music.

Labunski studied with Lucjan Marczewski and Witold Maliszewski at the Warsaw Conservatory (1922-24) and with Paul Dukas, Nadia Boulanger (composition) and Georges Migot (musicology) at the Ecole Normale de Musique in Paris (1924-34). In 1927 he helped found the Association of Young Polish Composers in Paris. In 1933 Labunski married Dorothea Gierasch-Boit, an American sculptor who later exhibited under the name Labunska. One year later he returned to Warsaw and was appointed the head of the Department of Classical Music at Polish Radio, Inc.

Labunski moved to the United States in 1936, and settled in New York City, where his son was born in 1937. He was naturalized as an American citizen in 1941. In 1940-41 Labunski served as professor of counterpoint and composition at Marymount College in Tarrytown, NY. In 1945 he joined the faculty of the Cincinnati College of Music, where he taught orchestration, composition, and form until 1964. Labunski also made appearances as a pianist, often performing his own compositions, and was an active writer and critic. He received an honorary doctorate from the Chicago Music College in 1951 and an award from ASCAP in 1977.

Felix Labunski died on April 28, 1979. For more detailed information on Labunski's life and work see Wierzbicki, James, "Traditional Value in a Century of Flux: The Music of Feliks Labunski (1892-1979)" in *Polish Music Journal*, vol. 4, no. 1 (Summer 2001), or the sources listed below.

Sources:

Ewen, David. *American Composers Today*. New York: H.W. Wilson, 1949.

New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians. London: Macmillan Publishers Limited, 2001.

Scope and Content Note

The Felix Labunski Papers consist of approximately 2 linear feet of material documenting Labunski's professional activities from the 1930s to the 1970s. The papers, with the exception of two scores, date from the period after Labunski's immigration to the United States in 1936, through the early 1970s. The collection has been divided into seven series: **Biographical, Correspondence and Topical Files, Grants and Foundations, Joseph Firszt, Notebooks and Teaching Charts, Photographs, and Scores.**

The **Biographical** series includes newspaper clippings about Labunski and his activities, as well as clippings related to various topics that were collected by Labunski. The series also includes a list of the first performances of many of Labunski's works.

The **Correspondence and Topical Files** series consists of approximately 0.75 linear feet of material documenting Labunski's activities from the 1940s to the 1970s. The series includes correspondence with conductors, musical organizations and societies, and other individuals. Although most of the correspondence is professional in nature, some personal correspondence can be found scattered throughout the series. In addition to correspondence, the series also contains programs, clippings, organizational meeting minutes, and other supplementary material.

The **Grants and Foundations** series consists of approximately 0.25 linear feet of correspondence, grant applications, and other material related to Labunski's efforts to find funding for his work. Some of the grant applications contain biographical information on Labunski, including lists of compositions, publications, and performances, and his plans for future work. The Ford Foundation material includes three folders of correspondence which each contain letters to and from Edwin Gershefski. In the letters Labunski asks for Gershefski's advice concerning grant applications.

The **Joseph Firszt** series documents Labunski's relationship with Joseph Firszt, who served as Conductor and Music Director of the Lima (Ohio) Symphony Orchestra from 1967-1996. Firszt has conducted orchestras in cities throughout Europe and in the United States, performed extensively as a violist, and has been a popular music lecturer and clinician in the U.S., Canada, Europe and Central America. The series includes clippings and biographical material on Firszt, correspondence between Firszt and Labunski, and material related to Firszt's work, including programs and schedules of the Lima Symphony Orchestra.

The **Notebooks and Teaching Charts** series has been divided into two subseries. The Music subseries consists of material written on staff paper in music notation, including several small composition notebooks and teaching charts. The Non-Music subseries consists of one notebook containing writings, notes, and clippings.

The **Photographs** series consists of two photographs: a black and white portrait of Karol Szymanowski, and a photograph of an unidentified man autographed to Labunski, signed "Antoine."

The **Scores** series consists of 14 scores, which have been divided into two subseries: Works by Labunski and Works by Others. Works by Labunski have been arranged alphabetically by title. The one work not composed by Labunski is listed separately.

Box/Folder	Description
Series I: Biographical	
Clippings	
Box 1	
Folder 1	General, 1946 and undated
Folder 2	Symposium for Young Composers, 1948-1949
Folder 3	Miscellaneous (Non Labunski) clippings, 1965-1975 and undated
Folder 4	First performances list, c. 1974
Folder 5	Programs, 1959-1971 and undated
Series II: Correspondence and Topical Files	
	American Symphony Orchestra League
Folder 6	1946
Folder 7	1947
Folder 8	Belgisch Nationaal Instituut Voor Radio-Omroep, 1946-1947(correspondence in French)
Folder 9	Centre Culturel Americain, 1963-1965 (correspondence in French)
Folder 10	Cichowlas, Bruce, 1965
Folder 11	Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, 1966
Folder 12	Conductor correspondence, 1952-1965 (Includes correspondence with Franco Autori and various conductors.)
Folder 13	Contemporary Chamber Ensemble Composers' Workshops, 1965
Folder 14	Contemporary Music Project for Creativity in Music Education, undated
Folder 15	Goehlich, Herman J., 1965
	Golschmann, Vladimir - Denver Symphony Society
Folder 16	June 1964 - September 1965
Folder 17	October 1965
Folder 18	November 1965- December 1965
Folder 19	1966-1968 and undated
Folder 20	Johnson, Roland, 1964-1966 and undated
Folder 21	Kennedy, Claude, 1965
Folder 22	Kettering, Eunice Lea, 1958-1965
Folder 23	Leipniker, Felix, 1965
Folder 24	MacDowell Society and concert, 1959 and undated
Folder 25	Manziarly, Marcelle - Sheridan Stricker, 1972-1975 and undated
Folder 26	Ohio Theory-Composition Teachers, 1958-1959 (Meeting Minutes.)
	Ohioana Library Association Citation Award
Folder 27	1975
Folder 28	Undated
Folder 29	Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, 1965 and undated
Folder 30	Solomon, Izler - Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, 1964-1966
Folder 31	Stone, Thomas, 1965
Folder 32	"String Quartet 1962-1964"
	Taos, New Mexico
Folder 33	Helen Wurlitzer Foundation, 1956-1958
Folder 34	Correspondence, 1959
Folder 35	Correspondence, March - June 1960
Folder 36	Correspondence, July 1960
Folder 37	Correspondence, August 1960
Folder 38	Correspondence, September 1960
Folder 39	Correspondence, October - December 1960
Folder 40	Correspondence, Undated

Box/Folder	Description
Correspondence and Topical Files (cont.)	
	University Composers Exchange
	Annual Festivals
Box 1 (cont.)	
Folder 41	1 st Festival, 1952
Folder 42	2 nd Annual Festival, 1953
Folder 43	3 rd Annual Festival, 1954
Folder 44	4 th Annual Festival, 1955
Folder 45	5 th Annual Festival, 1956
Box 2	
Folder 46	6 th Annual Festival, 1957
Folder 47	7 th Annual Festival, 1958
Folder 48	8 th -11 th Annual Festivals, 1959-1962
Folder 49	12 th Annual Festival, 1963
Folder 50	13 th -14 th Annual Festival, 1964-1965
	Miscellaneous
Folder 51	Composition lists, undated
Folder 52	Music Teachers National Association, 1959
Folder 53	Organizational and membership information, 1951 and undated
Folder 54	Report on the questionnaire for composers, undated (written by Labunski)
Folder 55	Supplement, 1953
Folder 56	Washington University, 1950-1951
Folder 57	Watanabe, Akeo, 1965
Folder 58	H.W. Wilson Company, 1941
	Xalapa Orchestra - Francisco Savin
Folder 59	December 1964 – July 1965
Folder 60	August 1965 - June 1966 and undated
Folder 61	Miscellaneous and unidentified, 1965-1966 and undated
Series III: Grants and Foundations	
	Ford Foundation
	Correspondence
Folder 62	1951-1952 (Includes Edwin Gerschefski correspondence.)
Folder 63	1953 (Includes Edwin Gerschefski correspondence.)
Folder 64	1955 and undated (Includes Edwin Gerschefski correspondence.)
Folder 65	Notes and application form, 1953-1955 and undated
Folder 66	Fulbright Exchange Program, 1951-1953 and undated
	Guggenheim Foundation
Folder 67	1945-1947
Folder 68	1948
Folder 69	1950
Folder 70	1951
Folder 71	1952
Folder 72	1953-1955
Folder 73	1956
Folder 74	1957-1958
Folder 75	1972 and undated
Folder 76	Huntington Hartford Foundation, 1965
Folder 77	Miscellaneous, 1953-1955, and undated

Box/Folder	Description
Series IV: Joseph Firszt	
Box 3	
Folder 78	Biographical material, 1966-1973 and undated
	Clippings
Folder 79	1962-1972
Folder 80	1973-1977
Folder 81	Undated
	Correspondence
Folder 82	1965-1967
Folder 83	1967-1969
Folder 84	1970-1972
Folder 85	1973-1975
Folder 86	Undated
Folder 87	Letters of recommendation (by Labunski), 1973-1975
	Lima Symphony Orchestra
Folder 88	Programs, 1969-1978
Folder 89	Schedules and Repertoire, 1972-1977 and undated
Folder 90	Ohio Arts Council, 1975-1977 and undated
Folder 91	Miscellaneous, 1970-1971 and undated
Series V: Notebooks and Teaching Charts	
	Music
	Composition Notebooks
Folder 92	3 ½ by 5 ½ inch notebooks, undated (3 notebooks)
Folder 93	5 by 7 inch notebook, 1946
Folder 94	5 by 7 inch bound notebook, scattered dates 1937-1949
Folder 95	Notebooks labeled "Cuernavaca, 1961" (3 notebooks)
Folder 96	Teaching charts (unbound notebook of with teaching notes and manuscript scores), undated
	Non-Music
Folder 97	Notebook, c. 1957-1958 (includes notes, writings and clippings.)
Series VI: Photographs	
Folder 98	Karol Szymanowski and unidentified autographed photograph, undated
Series VII: Scores	
	Works by Labunski
Box 4	
Folder 99	<i>Ballet Suite</i> , 1968 (1 ms. score -- Photocopy. Includes pages 1,8, 9, 28, 35, 70, 92 and 108 only)
Folder 100	<i>Birds</i> , undated (1 ms. score -- reproduction.)
Folder 101	<i>God's Man Ballet</i> , undated(1 ms. score. Also includes ballet outline and notes.)
Folder 102	<i>Kantata</i> , 1931 (1 ms score.)
Folder 103	<i>Polish Renaissance Suite</i> , 1967 (1 ms. score --photocopy.)
Folder 104	<i>Primavera</i> , 1973 (1 ms. score, and 1 ms. score -- reproduction. Also includes negatives for inside cover pages.)
Folder 105	<i>Sielanka</i> , 1930 (1 ms. score.)

Box/Folder	Description
Series VII: Scores (cont.)	
Works by Labunski (cont.)	
Box 5	
Folder 106	<i>String Quartet No. 2</i> , 1962 (1 ms. score -- reproduction, and 1 study score with notations)
Folder 107	<i>Symphonic Dialogues for Orchestra</i> , 1960 (1 ms score -- reproduction and 1 ms. score -- photocopy)
Folder 108	<i>Symphonic Movement - In Memoriam</i> , 1941 (1 ms. score.)
Folder 109	<i>Symphony in B Major</i> , 1956 (1 ms. score -- reproduction.)
Folder 110	<i>There is No Death</i> , 1946 (1 ms. score.)
Folder 111	<i>Variations for Orchestra</i> , 1951 (1 ms. score -- photocopy with notations. Also includes program and newspaper clippings.)
Works by Others	
Folder 112	<i>Five Pieces for Woodwinds and Piano</i> / Smith, Lani, undated (1 ms. score.)