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Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

**Symphony of the New World records**

1965-1978 [bulk 1970s]

Sc MG 171

Processed by Janice Quinter, 2008.

## Summary

**Creator:** Symphony of the New World (New York, N.Y.)

**Title:** Symphony of the New World records

**Date:** 1965-1978 [bulk 1970s]

**Size:** 4.58 linear feet (8 boxes)

**Source:** Gift, Symphony of the New World and Friends of Symphony of the New World, 1982 and 1988.

**Abstract:** The Symphony of the New World was founded in 1964 by an interracial committee of professional musicians to provide opportunities for minorities, particularly black and Puerto Rican musicians, who were being discriminated against by the major symphonies. The Symphony of the New World Records reflect some of the activities of this orchestra.

**Preferred citation:** [Item], Symphony of the New World records, Sc MG 171, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Processed by Janice Quinter, 2008.

**Separated Materials:**

Transferred to the Moving Image and Recorded Sound Division: audio material. For more information, please contact the division at [schomburgaudiovisual@nypl.org](mailto:schomburgaudiovisual@nypl.org) or 212-491-2270.

Transferred to the Photographs and Prints Division: 34 photographs and one print box of photographs.

## Creator History

The Symphony of the New World (SNW) was founded in 1964 by an interracial committee of professional musicians to provide opportunities for minorities, particularly black and Puerto Rican

musicians, who were being discriminated against by the major symphonies. It claimed to be the first "fully integrated symphonic orchestra in the United States." Many African-American conductors were introduced via the SNW, which also featured works by minority composers as well as a standard repertoire of symphonic music and contemporary works. The Symphony of the New World ceased functioning in 1978 due to financial difficulties.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The Symphony of the New World Records reflect some of the activities of this orchestra. The Administration series includes files for music director Everett Lee, which are composed of biographical information and correspondence. The general correspondence concerns performances, bookings, financial matters, and auditions. The bulk of the material in the Administration series contains publicity information about musicians, vocalists, and conductors who sought to perform with the orchestra.

The Performances series consists primarily of programs and playbills for concerts that the orchestra performed in New York as well as program notes, reviews, and announcements in newspapers. Compositions can be found in the Music series. A few of the compositions were written especially for the Symphony of the New World by black composers. Of particular interest is the holograph music and copyist's score for "Till Victory is Won" (1967), an opera in four episodes with prologue (music by Mark Fax and poem authored by Owen Dodson originally written for Howard University). Among other scores that form part of this series are Edward Boatner's "Troubled in Mind"; "Forbidden Love: An Afro-American Slave Musical", 1970 (photocopy); "Concerto for Piano and Orchestra", by William Foster McDaniel, 1975 (photocopy); and the copyist's score for viola and violin 2 of "Visions of Ishwara", by Rasul Talib Hakim (a.k.a. Stephen Chambers).

**Arrangement:** Collection is organized into three series: I. Administration; II. Performances; and III. Music

## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

African American composers  
African American musicians  
African American singers  
African Americans in the performing arts  
Composers  
Conductors (Music)  
Musicians  
Singers  
Symphony orchestras -- New York (State) -- New York

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Scores  
Sheet music

### **Names**

Boatner, Edward  
Dodson, Owen, 1914-1983  
Fax, Mark, 1911-1974

Fax, Mark, 1911-1974. Till victory is won. Till victory is won.  
Lee, Everett  
Symphony of the New World (New York, N.Y.)

## Container List

### Administration 1965-1978

- b. 1 f. 1 By-laws, fact sheets, and background information  
Board of Directors and legal correspondence
- b. 1 f. 2 Gutman, Jeremiah S., chairman 1973-1977
- b. 1 f. 3 Carnegie Hall Corporation 1977
- b. 1 f. 4-8 Everett Lee, Music Director 1975-1976  
Includes biographical information.
- b. 1 f. 9-10 General correspondence 1971-1978  
Financial records
  - b. 1 f. 11 1965-1975
  - b. 1 f. 12 Financial statements 1972-1976
  - b. 1 f. 13 1977
- b. 1 f. 14-15 Subscriptions  
Includes Association of Friends of the Symphony of the New World.
- b. 1 f. 16-17 Fundraising  
Includes National Endowment for the Arts.
- b. 1 f. 18 Personnel (musicians and singers) 1974-1976
- b. 1 f. 19-20 Contracts 1971-1976
  - b. 1 f. 21 Audition schedule and commentary 1975 October 23  
First Annual National Competition for Vocalists and Instrumentalists and  
Annual Gala Concert
- b. 1 f. 22 Announcements 1977
- b. 1 f. 23 Correspondence 1977  
Performers and applicants
  - b. 1 f. 24 Ab-AI
  - b. 1 f. 25 Am-Ay
    - b. 2 f. 1 Ba
    - b. 2 f. 2 Bea-BI
    - b. 2 f. 3 Bo-Bu
    - b. 2 f. 4 Ca-Col
    - b. 2 f. 5 Con-Cu
    - b. 2 f. 6 Da-De
    - b. 2 f. 7 Di-Du
    - b. 2 f. 8 E
    - b. 2 f. 9 F
    - b. 2 f. 10 G
    - b. 2 f. 11 Ha
    - b. 2 f. 12 He-Hol
    - b. 2 f. 13 Hon-Hou
    - b. 2 f. 14 Hu-I

Administration (cont.)  
Performers and applicants (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 15 Ja-Jon
- b. 2 f. 16 Jor-Ke
- b. 2 f. 17 Ki-Ku
- b. 2 f. 18 La-Lin
- b. 2 f. 19 Lip-Ly
- b. 2 f. 20 Mac-Mc
- b. 2 f. 21 Ma
- b. 2 f. 22 Me-Mu
- b. 2 f. 23 N
- b. 2 f. 24 O
- b. 2 f. 25 Pa
- b. 2 f. 26 Pe-Pu
- b. 2 f. 27 Ra-Ri
- b. 2 f. 28 Ro-Ru
- b. 2 f. 29 Sa-Sch
- b. 2 f. 30 Sco-Sh
- b. 2 f. 31 Si-So
- b. 3 f. 1 Sp-Sw
- b. 3 f. 2 T
- b. 3 f. 3 U-Wa
- b. 3 f. 4 We-Z
- Music management rosters
- b. 3 f. 5 A-C
- b. 3 f. 6 D-L
- b. 3 f. 7 M
- b. 3 f. 8 N-S
- b. 3 f. 9 News clipping
- b. 3 f. 10 "A Survey of Minority Musicians in Major and Metropolitan Symphony Orchestras of the U.S.A." 1974
- b. 3 f. 11 "Radio and T.V. Registry" (musicians) 1976
- b. 3 f. 12 Collaborative projects 1977
- b. 3 f. 13 Workshop, choral society, and festival  
Proposal and correspondence.
- b. 3 f. 14 Vertical file (news clippings)
- b. 3 f. 15 American Symphony Orchestra League 1971-1976
- b. 3 f. 16 Job openings at other institutions
- b. 3 f. 17 Announcements from other music organizations
- b. 3 f. 18 Newsletters from black organizations 1968-1975
- Performances 1965-1977
- Programs
- Organized by season.
- b. 3 f. 19 1965-1966

Performances (cont.)

Programs (cont.)

- b. 3 f. 20 1966-1967
- b. 3 f. 21 1967-1968
- b. 3 f. 22 1968-1969
- b. 3 f. 23 1969-1970
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- b. 3 f. 28 1974-1975
- b. 4 f. 1 1975-1976
- b. 4 f. 2 1976-1977
- b. 4 f. 3 1977-1978
- b. 4 f. 4 Order forms and schedules
- b. 4 f. 5 Newspaper announcements
- b. 4 f. 6 Reviews 1966-1977
- b. 4 f. 7-12 Program notes and concert planning
- b. 4 f. 13 Performance and program forms
- Music 1970-1976
- b. 5 f. 1 *Boatner, Edward – Troubled in Mind, "Forbidden Love," an Afro-American slave musical* 1970
- b. 5 f. 2 Hakim, Talib Rasul (a.k.a. Stephen Chambers), "Visions of Ishwara" – viola and violin 2
- b. 5 f. 3 McDaniel, William Foster – "Concert for Piano and Orchestra", copyist's score (photocopy) 1975
- b. 5 f. 4 Valerio, Raphael – "Sergeant Champe", facsimile score
- b. 5 f. 5 *The Bicentennial Music Celebration: A Gift from J. C. Penney, music for chorus – voice parts with piano* 1975
- 'Till Victory Is Won, An Opera* ca. 1967-1974  
Poem by Owen Dodson and music by Mark Fax. Written for the Centennial of Howard University.
- b. 6 f. 1-2 Copyist holograph full score
- b. 6 f. 3 Copyist holograph parts
- b. 7 f. 1-2 Copyist score (parts 1-2)
- b. 7 f. 3 "The Death of Bessie Smith" – holograph full score
- Copyist vocal score
- b. 8 f. 1 Ozalid reproduction
- b. 8 f. 2 "Prologue"
- b. 8 f. 3 "African Scene"
- b. 8 f. 4 "Dance Pantomime"
- b. 8 f. 5 "The Death of Bessie Smith"
- b. 8 f. 6 "Harriet Tubman"
- b. 8 f. 7 "Song"
- b. 8 f. 8 "Interlude"

Music (cont.)

'Till Victory Is Won, An Opera (cont.)

- b. 8 f. 9 "Prelude to Medgar Evers"
- b. 8 f. 10 "Medgar Evers"