



The New York Public Library  
Music Division

Guide to the

**George Perle papers**

ca. 1948-1991

JPB 89-2

## Summary

**Creator:** Perle, George, 1915-2009

**Title:** George Perle papers

**Date:** ca. 1948-1991

**Source:** 19 boxes: Gift, Perle, George, 06/25/87 5 boxes: Gift, Perle, George, 10/04/90 14 boxes: Gift, Perle, George, 07/15/92

**Abstract:** An American composer and theorist, George Perle received his Ph.D. degree in 1956 from N.Y. Univ. with the dissertation *Serial Composition and Atonality* (publ. 1962; 4th ed. 1977). He also wrote *Twelve-tone Tonality* (1977); *The Operas of Alban Berg* (v. 1, *Wozzeck*, v. 2, Lulu; 1980-1985); *The Listening Composer* (1990); and numerous articles on Berg, Schoenberg, and Webern. He is co-founder and director of the International Alban Berg Society. Manuscripts of books, articles, reviews, and student term papers (the last under the name Perlman); correspondence (about publications; about theory, chiefly with Paul Lansky; and about the Society); bibliography of books and articles by and about Perle; income tax records; programs; flyers; clippings; and musical scores of compositions (page proofs and photocopies of holographs, with emendations in the hand of the composer). Musical scores have classmark JPB 89-3 and will be cataloged separately in the Scores file.

**Access:** Some collections held by the Dance, Music, Recorded Sound, and Theatre Divisions at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts are held off-site and must be requested in advance. Please check the collection records in **the NYPL's online catalog** for detailed location information. For general guidance about requesting offsite materials, please consult:  
<https://www.nypl.org/about/locations/lpa/requesting-archival-materials>

**Preferred citation:** George Perle papers, Music Division, The New York Public Library

**Language of the Material:** Chiefly in English; several items in German

**Related Materials:**

Perle, George, 1915- . Papers, musical scores, and sound recordings

## **Creator History**

An American composer and theorist, George Perle received his Ph.D. degree in 1956 from N.Y. Univ. with the dissertation *Serial Composition and Atonality* (publ. 1962; 4th ed. 1977). He also wrote *Twelve-tone Tonality* (1977); *The Operas of Alban Berg* (v. 1, *Wozzeck*, v. 2, *Lulu*; 1980-1985); *The Listening Composer* (1990); and numerous articles on Berg, Schoenberg, and Webern. He is co-founder and director of the International Alban Berg Society.

## **Custodial History**

Gift of George Perle, 1987; 1990.

## **Scope and Content Note**

Manuscripts of books, articles, reviews, and student term papers (the last under the name Perlman); correspondence (about publications; about theory, chiefly with Paul Lansky; and about the Society); bibliography of books and articles by and about Perle; income tax records; programs; flyers; clippings; and musical scores of compositions (page proofs and photocopies of holographs, with emendations in the hand of the composer). Musical scores have classmark JPB 89-3 and will be cataloged separately in the Scores file.

## **Key Terms**

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

account books  
Articles  
Bibliographies  
Clippings  
Correspondence  
Manuscripts (for publication)  
Musical scores  
Notes  
Programs

### **Subjects**

Atonality  
Composition (Music)  
Twelve-tone system

### **Occupations**

Composers

### **Names**

Perle, George, 1915-2009  
Berg, Alban, 1885-1935  
Lansky, Paul, 1944-  
Schoenberg, Arnold, 1874-1951  
Webern, Anton, 1883-1945

American Music Collection  
International Alban Berg Society