



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.

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: 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.)