



The New York Public Library  
Music Division

Guide to the

**Vivian Fine papers**

1929-1973

JPB 14-16

Compiled by Matthew Snyder, 2014

## Summary

**Creator:** Fine, Vivian, 1913-2000

**Title:** Vivian Fine papers

**Date:** 1929-1973

**Size:** .25 linear feet (1 box)

**Source:** Donated by Vivian Fine in 1976 and 1978.

**Abstract:** Vivian Fine (1913-2000) was an American composer and pianist. The Vivian Fine papers, dating from 1929 to 1973, contain score manuscripts and concert programs.

**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>

### **Conditions Governing Access:**

Inquiries regarding audio materials in the collection may be directed to the Rodgers and Hammerstein Archives of Recorded Sound ([rha@nypl.org](mailto:rha@nypl.org)). Audio materials will be subject to preservation evaluation and migration prior to access.

**Conditions Governing Use:** For permission to publish, contact the Chief, Music Division, New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

**Preferred citation:** Vivian Fine papers, JPB 14-16. Music Division, The New York Public Library.

**Processing note:** Compiled by Matthew Snyder, 2014

## Creator History

Vivian Fine (1913-2000) was an American composer and pianist. At the age of five, she was awarded a scholarship to study piano at the Chicago Musical College. She later studied piano with Djane Lavoie-Herz and Abby Whiteside, composition with Ruth Crawford and Roger Sessions, and orchestration with George Szell. Henry Cowell, Dane Rhudyar and Imrie Weisshaus were also supportive of her talent.

Fine made her compositional debut at the age of 16 when her compositions were performed in Chicago, New York (at a Pan-American Association of Composers concert) and Dessau (at an International Society of Contemporary Composers concert). After moving to New York in 1931, Fine worked as an accompanist and composer for dance companies led by Doris Humphrey, Charles Weidman and Hanya Holm. A member of the Young Composers' Group, she participated in the first Yaddo Festival of Contemporary American Music in 1932. She was one of the founding members of the American Composers Alliance, the musical director of the Rothschild Foundation, and a faculty member at Bennington College. Fine's awards included a Guggenheim Fellowship and grants from the Ford, Rockefeller, and Koussevitzky foundations. In 1980, she was elected to the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters.

Source: Heidi Von Gunden. "Fine, Vivian." Grove Music Online. Oxford Music Online. Oxford University Press, accessed March 5, 2014, <http://www.oxfordmusiconline.com/subscriber/article/grove/music/09667>.

## **Custodial History**

Received order was maintained. Content was rehoused.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The Vivian Fine papers, dating from 1929 to 1973, contain score manuscripts and concert programs. The manuscripts hold complete scores as well as works-in-progress for four compositions: Four Pieces for Two Flutes (1930), Duo for Flute and Viola (1961), Missa Brevis (1972), and Solo for Oboe (1929). Also present in the score folders are concert programs for either premieres or performances held within a year or two of the completion of the piece.

The collection also holds a 1965 audio recording of a performance of Three Distinguished Waltzes of the Disgusted Precieux by Erik Satie, featuring Fine on piano, and Fine's performance of part of Satiana, a ballet by Lucas Hoving.

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**Arrangement:** The collection is arranged alphabetically by composition title.

## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

20th century music

Women composers

**Occupations**

Composers

Musicians

**Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Programs (documents)

Scores

## Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 *Duo for Flute and Viola* 1961
- b. 1 f. 2 *Four Pieces for Two Flutes* 1930
- b. 1 f. 3-4 *Missa Brevis* 1972-1973
- b. 1 f. 5 *Solo for Oboe* 1929