



The New York Public Library
Music Division

Guide to the

Margaret Mills papers

1948-2014

JPB 16-02

Compiled by Amelia Carlin, 2016.

Summary

Creator: Mills, Margaret (Margaret Aydelotte)

Title: Margaret Mills papers

Date: 1948-2014

Size: 1.3 linear feet (4 boxes)

Source: Donated by Margaret Mills, 2015.

Abstract: Margaret Mills is an American concert pianist. She made her debut in 1974 and has performed throughout the United States and internationally. Her repertoire includes traditional European music and newer American works, many of them by women composers. The collection consists of letters from Mills to her family written whilst in Germany, 1955-1956; concert, festival, and solo recital programs; letters; contracts; press clippings; and photographs. The collection also contains musical scores autographed by the composers.

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>

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Processing note: Compiled by Amelia Carlin, 2016.

Creator History

Margaret Mills is an American concert pianist. She made her debut in 1974 and has performed throughout the United States and internationally. Her repertoire includes traditional European music and newer American works, many of them by women composers. She graduated from Vassar College with

the Frances Walker Piano Prize, and pursued her studies in Freiburg, Germany before returning to the United States to complete her master's degree at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. She is associated with the Third Street Chamber Music School Settlement in New York City as a teacher and administrator.

Scope and Content Note

The Margaret Mills papers date from 1948 to 2014 and document Mills's career as a pianist through programs for concerts, festivals, and recitals; letters; contracts and commissions; photographs; scores; and press clippings

The collection consists chiefly of programs for performances from her student years to 2014. Mills's letters to her family whilst studying in Germany (1955-1956) document her day-to-day life and early experiences as a pianist. These are the only outgoing letters in the collection; much correspondence is in the form of letters of praise and appreciation, including from Seymour Bernstein, Gloria Coates, and Eugene List. Other letters are from event organizers, composers, and musicians and mostly relate to Mills's work as a pianist. Contracts and agreements with event organizers document information on works to be played, rights, and honorarium details. Photographs include publicity portraits, photos of Mills performing and with other musicians. Copies and originals of newspaper and journal articles, including CD reviews, record Mills's musical achievements throughout her career. The music scores are dedicated and autographed by the composers Miriam Gideon, Ruth Schonthal, Lowell Liebermann Eugene McBride, Ruth Crawford (score is signed by Crawford's daughter), James Park, Deborah Karasch, and Betty Wishart, and may include markings. There are several award certificates.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Concert programs
Music scores

Occupations

Pianists

Subjects

Women composers
Women pianists

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 Letter Album 1955-1956
Letters written home during study in Germany.
- b. 1 f. 2 Europe and China 1956-2012
- b. 1 f. 3 Photographs and Miscellany 1978-1990s
- b. 1 f. 4 Original Programs, German and Other European Reviews 1956, 1981
- b. 1 f. 5 Commissions, Concert Hall, Contracts 1974-2008
- b. 1 f. 6 Letters and Certificates 1950-2007
Programs, Letters, Clippings
- b. 1 f. 7-8 2013-2014
- b. 2 f. 1-6 1985-2013
- b. 3 f. 1-5 1948-1985
- b. 4 f. 1-3 Autographed Scores 1970-2005