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Guide to the

Symphony of the New World records

1965-1978 [bulk 1970's]

Sc MG 171

Summary

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

Title: Symphony of the New World records

Date: 1965-1978 [bulk 1970's]

Size: 4.5 linear feet (3 record cartons, 2 archival boxes, 3 print boxes)

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

Abstract: The Symphony of the New World was founded in 1964 by an inter-racial 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 performing a standard repertoire of symphonic music and contemporary works. The Symphony of the New World ceased functioning in 1978 due to financial difficulties. 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 composed of biographical information and correspondence discussing bookings with potential soloists and conductors as well as other programmatic issues. 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.

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Creator History

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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 composed of biographical information and correspondence discussing bookings with potential soloists and conductors as well as other programmatic issues. 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, with 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.)