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Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

May O'Donnell and Ray Green papers

1890-2004 (bulk 1940-1988)

(S)* MGZMD 299

Compiled by Lea Jordan, July 2012

Summary

Creator: Green, Ray, 1908-1997

Title: May O'Donnell and Ray Green papers, 1890-2004 (bulk 1940-1988)

Size: 34.79 linear feet (90 boxes)

Source: Donated by Norton Owen (President of O'Donnell-Green Music and Dance Foundation), 2012

Abstract: May O'Donnell was an American modern dancer and choreographer. Her husband, Ray Green was an American composer who created works for dance companies as well as orchestral, choral, and children's pieces. The May O'Donnell and Ray Green papers contain correspondence, choreographic notes, scores, photographs, and other materials relating to the professional and personal lives of the couple.

Access: To request materials, contact the Jerome Robbins Dance Division (dance@nypl.org) in advance.

Inquiries regarding audio/visual materials in the collection may be directed to the Dance Division (dance@nypl.org). Audio/visual materials may be subject to preservation evaluation and migration prior to access.

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For permission to publish, contact the Curator, Jerome Robbins Dance Division.

Preferred citation: May O'Donnell and Ray Green papers, Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library

Processing note: This collection was partially processed by the O'Donnell-Green Music and Dance Foundation. Original order was not retained and it was split into four series: Ray Green, May O'Donnell, Photographs, and Carl Ruggles. These series were retained since the original order is unclear.

Related collections

American Music Edition Archive, 1920-1997. Northwestern University Library

May O'Donnell Collection, 1930-1996. University of Texas at Austin Library

May O'Donnell Papers, 1934-1996. The Newberry Library, Chicago, IL

Creator history

Ray Green (1908-1997) was an American composer who created works for dance companies as well as orchestral, choral, and children's pieces. Green was born in Livingston County, Missouri and began piano lessons at 14. He studied composition as a young man in California with Ernest Bloch, Albert Elkus, and E.G. Stricklen. He also traveled to Paris and studied with Darius Milhaud, Nadia Boulanger and Pierre Monteux. Green received his break after having an entire issue dedicated to his music in Henry Cowell's *New Music Quarterly*. He concentrated on creating a sound that was distinctly American.

In 1937, Green met his future wife, dancer and choreographer May O'Donnell, for whom he wrote a large number of pieces for dance. These include *Of Pioneer Women* (1937) and *Suspension* (1942). He also provided the Martha Graham Dance Company with such works as *Processional Dance for Symphonic Band* (1938) and *American Document* (1938). Green's later compositions for dance include *Dance Sonata* (1953), *There Is a Time for Innocence* (1983) and *Powers of Ten* (1983).

After a creative break in the 1960s, Green returned to music and continued composing until his death in 1997. One of his last works was *Concerto in D* (1995) which he premiered in China with the Shanghai Philharmonic Symphony. Green died in New York City in 1997.

May O'Donnell (1906-2004) was an American modern dancer and choreographer. She began her early dance career in San Francisco studying and performing with Estelle Reed. In 1932, she moved to New York City to study with Martha Graham, and soon after became a member of her company.

Returning to California in 1939, she founded the San Francisco Dance Theatre with her husband Ray Green and Gertrude Shurr, a former Graham Dancer. In 1941, she joined the José Limón Dance Company. She worked with the Martha Graham Company again from 1944 to 1952 as a guest artist, creating roles such as the *Pioneering Woman* in *Appalachian Spring*, and *Attendant* in *Herodiade* (1944). In the mid 1940s she established the O'Donnell-Shurr Modern Dance Studio with Gertrude Shurr and continued the development of her own dance repertory. O'Donnell established her first company, The May O'Donnell Dance Company, in 1942.

Throughout her career O'Donnell created 50 works, from 1937 to 1988. Some of the most notable are *Suspension*, *Sunday Sing Symphony*, and *Drift*. Many of her works were choreographed for her first company in the 1950s and restaged under her second company in the 1970s and 1980s. O'Donnell retired from performing in 1961, but continued to choreograph and teach through 1988.

From 1961 to 1974, O'Donnell disbanded her dance company. She taught for seven years at the High School of Performing Arts in New York City, before restaging *Suspension* for the Alvin Ailey Dance Company in 1971. In 1974, she reestablished her company as the May O'Donnell Concert Dance Company.

In 1974, the May O'Donnell Modern Dance Center was opened and became the basis for her revitalized dance company. She was an influential teacher who taught Robert Joffrey, Ben Vereen, and Gerald Arpino among many others. Her original dance technique influenced generations of modern dancers. O'Donnell died in Manhattan in 2004.

Scope and content note

The May O'Donnell and Ray Green papers contain correspondence, choreographic notes, scores, photographs, and other materials relating to the professional and personal lives of the couple. Green and O'Donnell collaborated throughout their career. Green wrote many compositions for some of O'Donnell's most noted works, and was also the artistic director of the May O'Donnell Concert Dance Company.

The collection also holds papers relating to the composer Carl Ruggles, for whom Green was a friend and business representative.

The collection was grouped into its current series by the O'Donnell-Green Music and Dance foundation, and for continuity these series were retained.

Arrangement

The May O'Donnell and Ray Green papers are organized into the following series:

Series I: Green, Ray, 1933-1997

Series II: O'Donnell, May, 1935-2004

Series III: Photographs, 1890-1990

Series IV: Ruggles, Carl, 1927-1991

Key terms

Subjects

Choreographers -- United States

Dance -- Study and teaching

Dance -- United States

Music -- Instruction and study

Music -- United States -- 20th century

Names

Green, Ray, 1908-1997

O'Donnell, May, 1906-2004

Ruggles, Carl, 1876-1971

Special formats

Correspondence

Notes

Photographs

Scores

Container list

Series I: Green, Ray, 1933-1997

Ray Green's papers hold personal and professional materials spanning his 50 year career as a pianist, composer, and music publisher. The bulk of the papers are composed of correspondence, scores, and American Music Edition materials.

The American Music Edition was a publishing and rights holding institution founded by Green in 1951 to document and disseminate new American music. Green published his own works through the company and represented Carl Ruggles, Halsey Stephens, Eugene Hemmer, and many others. Materials consist of general files, address lists, contracts, correspondence, copyright agreements, and royalties information. There are four records and two tapes of music related to the American Music Edition's holdings. Inquiries regarding audio/visual materials in the collection may be directed to the Dance Division (dance@nypl.org). Audio/visual materials may be subject to preservation evaluation and migration prior to access.

Green's correspondence is a mix of personal and professional – often within the same letter. Of note are exchanges with his sister, Anne Green Jacobson, who funded many of his ventures, as well as his correspondence with wife May O'Donnell while they were separated during various travels as well as during World War II. The couple writes of creative difficulties and often bounced ideas off each other through letters when war or work necessitated time apart. Their close working relationship is evident throughout their correspondence.

Programs, files relating to various professional organizations, military correspondence, reviews, and the drafts and correspondence relating to his children's teaching books, The Ray Green Piano Course, are also here.

Greens' scores comprise the bulk of this series, and are arranged by composition type and title. The scores range from early pencil drafts in notebooks with many revisions to carefully edited printer's copies. Most of his scores are undated, and there are often multiple drafts of each piece with no indication of which is the final product. For example, one should check each folder containing portions of Sunday Sing Symphony to see the progression of the work. Untitled, unidentified, and fragmented work are filed under "untitled sketches."

Alphabetical by subject or name.

	American Music Edition
b.1 f.1-6	General, 1962-1983
b.2 f.1-4	General, 1962-1983
b.3 f.1-4	General, 1962-1983
b.3 f.5	Addresses, undated
b.3 f.6	ASCAP, 1964
b.3 f.7	Badley, Rian, undated
b.3 f.8	Book Requests, 1960-1965
b.4 f.1	Carl Fischer, Inc, 1980
b.4 f.2-3	Catalogs, 1962-1980
b.4 f.4	Chappel and Company, 1954

Series I: Green, Ray, 1933-1997 (cont.)

American Music Edition (cont.)

- b.4 f.5-6 Contracts, 1954-1975
- b.5 f.1-4 Copyrights, 1961-1973
- Correspondence
- b.5 f.5-6 General, 1960-1980
- b.6 f.1-3 General, 1960-1980
- b.6 f.4 Carl Fischer, Inc, 1974-1977
- b.6 f.5 Rek-O-Kut, 1974
- b.6 f.6 Rigger, Wallingford, 1965
- b.6 f.7-9 Financial, 1960-1980
- b.7 f.1 Orders, 1960-1962
- b.7 f.2-3 Piano Teacher's Series, undated
- b.7 f.4 Publications, 1960-1979
- b.7 f.5-6 Royalties, 1960-1978
- b.8 f.1-2 Royalties, 1960-1978
- b.8 f.3-5 Sales, 1962-1977
- b.8 f.6 ASCAP, undated
- b.8 f.7 Artist Certification, 1981
- b.8 f.8 Chappel and Company, 1949-1955
- b.9 f.1 Chopin Foundation, 1995
- b.9 f.2-5 Copyrights, 1950-1991
- Correspondence
- General
- b.9 f.6 Undated
- b.9 f.7 1929-1936
- b.10 f.1-7 1936-1965
- b.11 f.1-5 1970-1997
- b.12 f.1 Boulanger, Nadia, undated
- b.12 f.2 Bowles, Paul, undated
- b.12 f.3 Brown, Kittie, undated
- b.12 f.4 Carlson, J.B. Salinger, 1981
- b.12 f.5 Cowell, Henry and Olive, 1933-1937
- b.12 f.6 Drennan, Vincent, undated
- b.12 f.7 Elkus, Albert, 1945-1961
- b.12 f.8 Falkenstein, Claire, 1946-1951
- b.12 f.9-10 Green Family, 1940-1951
- b.12 f.11 Hughes, Langston, 1934

Series I: Green, Ray, 1933-1997 (cont.)

Correspondence (cont.)

Jacobson, Anne Green

b.12 f.12-14 1936-1969

b.13 f.1-2 1970-1993

b.13 f.3 Johnson, Ada, undated

b.13 f.4 Military, 1943-1945

O'Donnell, May

b.13 f.5-7 1937-1943

b.14 f.1-5 1944-1949

b.15 f.1-3 1950-1976

b.15 f.4 Ruggles, Mike, 1976

b.15 f.5 Shurr, Gertrude, undated

b.15 f.6 Weiss, Abraham, 1946-1951

b.15 f.7 Diary, 1993-1994

b.15 f.8 Family Papers, undated

b.15 f.9 Guggenheim Application, 1979

b.15 f.10 Military, 1943-1945

b.16 f.1-7 Notes, undated

b.17 f.1-3 Notes, undated

Organizations

b.17 f.4-5 Music and Dance Foundation, 1988

b.17 f.6 Music Teacher's Association, 1955

b.17 f.7 National Piano Guild, undated

b.17 f.8 NEA Grants, 1976-1977

b.17 f.9 Piano Teacher's Congress of New York, 1987

b.89 f.7 Posters, undated

b.89 f.9 Presidential Citation, 1961

b.18 f.1 Press, undated

Programs

b.18 f.2 undated

b.18 f.3-7 1938-1960

b.19 f.1-2 1950-1997

The Ray Green Piano Course

b.19 f.3-7 General, 1950-1958

b.20 f.1-6 General, 1950-1958

Book Drafts

b.21 f.1-6 A - Book, undated

Series I: Green, Ray, 1933-1997 (cont.)

The Ray Green Piano Course (cont.)

Book Drafts (cont.)

- b.22 f.1-5 B - Book, undated
- b.23 f.1-3 C - Book, undated
- b.23 f.4-5 D - Book, undated
- b.23 f.6 E - F Book, undated

b.24 f.1 Reviews, 1940-1949

Scores

General

- b.84 f.1 *Africa*, undated (for Martha Graham)
- b.51 f.1 *An American Agon*, 1933
- b.72 f.1 *An American Agon*, 1933
- b.72 f.2-3 *American Document*, undated
- b.51 f.2 *American Indian Fugue*, undated
- b.73 f.1 *Beautiful Women*, undated
- b.73 f.2-5 *The Birds of Aristophanes*, 1934
- b.73 f.6 *A Caution to Poets*, undated
- b.51 f.3-7 Children's Songs, undated
- b.52 f.1 Children's Songs, undated
- b.73 f.7 Children's Songs, undated
- b.52 f.2 Choral Music, undated
- b.73 f.8 *Concluded Lives*, undated
- b.73 f.9 *Contrapunctus*, undated
- b.52 f.3-4 *Conversation With a Cloud*, 1962
- b.73 f.10 *Corpus Christi*, undated
- b.74 f.1 *Dance*, undated
- b.52 f.5 *Dance Energies*, undated
- b.52 f.6 *Dance Set*, 1955
- b.74 f.2 *Dance Set*, 1955
- b.52 f.7-8 *Dance Sonata*, undated
- b.74 f.3-4 *Dance Sonata*, undated
- b.74 f.5 *Dance Theme and Variations*, undated
- b.52 f.9-10 *Dedications*, undated
- b.53 f.1 *Dedications*, undated
- b.74 f.6 *Dedications*, undated
- b.87 f.5 *Dedications*, undated
- b.53 f.2 Early Pieces, 1930
- b.53 f.3 Emily Dickinson Song Project, undated

Series I: Green, Ray, 1933-1997 (cont.)

Scores (cont.)

General (cont.)

- b.53 f.4 *Etude for Igor*, undated
- b.53 f.5 *Fanfare*, undated
- b.53 f.6 *Festival Fugues*, undated
- b.53 f.7 *Five Epigrammatic Romances*, undated
- b.74 f.7 *Five Finger Piano*, 1931
- b.53 f.8 *Folk Song Fantasies*, undated
- b.75 f.1 *Folk Song Fantasies*, undated
- b.89 f.4 *Folk Song Fantasies*, undated
- b.70 f.9 *Forsaken Garden*, undated
- b.70 f.11 *Fortress of Tragedy*, undated
- b.75 f.2 *Four Epigrammatic Romances*, undated
- b.53 f.9 *Four Preludes for Piano Solo*, undated
- b.75 f.3 *Four Short Songs*, undated
- b.75 f.4 *Fugue III for Piano*, undated
- b.53 f.10-11 *Fuges and Interludes*, undated
- b.54 f.1-2 *Fuges Sonata*, undated
- b.75 f.5 *Gigue*, undated
- b.54 f.3 *Holiday for Four*, 1949
- b.70 f.10 *Horizon Song*, undated
- b.54 f.4-6 *Hymn Tunes*, 1939
- b.70 f.8 *Hymn Tunes*, 1939
- b.75 f.6-8 *Hymn Tunes*, 1939
- b.89 f.2 *Hymn Tunes*, 1939
- b.54 f.7 *I Loved My Friend*, undated
- b.75 f.9 *I Wanna Man With Uniform On*, undated
- b.54 f.8-10 *Iphigenia in Tauris*, undated
- b.54 f.11 *Jericho*, undated
- b.75 f.10-12 *Jig Tune*, undated
- b.54 f.12 *John Henry Choral Prelude*, undated
- b.54 f.13 *Kentucky Mountain Running Set*, undated
- b.75 f.13-14 *Kentucky Mountain Running Set*, undated
- b.55 f.1 *Labor on the March*, undated
- b.75 f.15 *Lonesome Valley*, undated
- b.55 f.2 *Macbeth*, undated
- b.55 f.3 *Madrigals*, undated
- b.76 f.1 *Madrigals*, undated

Series I: Green, Ray, 1933-1997 (cont.)

Scores (cont.)

General (cont.)

- b.55 f.4 *March Sonatina*, undated
- b.89 f.3 *Martha Graham*, undated
- b.76 f.2 *A Mood*, undated
- b.76 f.3 *A Motorcycle*, undated
- b.76 f.4 *New Set for Viola and Piano*, 1941
- b.76 f.5 *O Tempone O Mores*, undated
- b.84 f.2 *Of Pioneer Women*, undated
- b.76 f.6 *Of the People, By the People*, undated
- b.76 f.7 *Peeannie Soot (yerself)*, undated
- b.55 f.5 *Pieces for Children*, undated
- b.76 f.8 *Pieces for Children*, undated
- b.55 f.6 *Peter's Edition*, undated
- b.55 f.7 *Powers of Ten*, undated
- b.55 f.8 *Prelude and Nocturne*, undated
- b.55 f.9 *Prelude for Organ*, undated
- b.76 f.9 *Prelude Introduction and Fugue for Orchestra*, undated
- b.76 f.10 *Prelude Promenade*, undated
- b.76 f.11-12 *Preludes and Fugues*, undated
- b.76 f.13 *Preludes Four for Piano*, undated
- b.76 f.14 *Processional*, 1938
- b.55 f.10 *Quartet*, 1933
- b.77 f.1 *Quartet*, 1933
- b.84 f.3 *The Queens' Obsession*, undated
- b.77 f.2 *Quintet*, 1933
- b.56 f.1 *Rhapsody*, undated
- b.77 f.3-4 *Rhapsody for Harp and Orchestra*, undated
- b.84 f.4 *River Primeval*, undated
- b.77 f.5 *Rondo-Patetico*, undated
- b.70 f.12 *Run Set*, undated
- b.77 f.6 *Sea Calm*, undated
- b.77 f.7 *Song for Baritone*, undated
- b.77 f.8 *Song of Saul Before His Last Battle*, undated
- b.56 f.2 *Songs for Children*, undated
- b.77 f.9-11 *String Quartet*, undated
- b.77 f.12 *Structures and Proclamations*, undated
- b.56 f.3-4 *Suite for Piano*, 1931

Series I: Green, Ray, 1933-1997 (cont.)

Scores (cont.)

General (cont.)

- b.77 f.13 *Suite for Piano*, 1931
 - b.56 f.5 *Suite for Viola and Clarinet or Piano*, undated
 - b.77 f.14 *Suite for Viola and Piano*, undated
 - b.77 f.15 *Suite for Violin*, undated
 - b.78 f.1 *Theme and Variations for Piano Solo*, undated
 - b.56 f.7 *...there is a time for innocence...*, undated
 - b.70 f.7 *...there is a time for innocence...*, undated
 - b.78 f.2 *There Was a Pig Went Out to Dig*, undated
 - b.84 f.5 *This Story Is Legend*, undated
 - b.56 f.8 *Three Inventories of Casey Jones*, undated
 - b.78 f.3-5 *Three Inventories of Casey Jones*, undated
 - b.78 f.6 *Three Inventories on a Texas Tune*, undated
 - b.56 f.9 *Three Pieces for a Concert*, undated
 - b.78 f.7-8 *To the Moon*, undated
 - b.78 f.9 *To You*, undated
 - b.57 f.1 *Twelve Inventions*, undated
 - b.78 f.10 *Union Wives*, undated
 - b.57 f.2-4 Untitled Sketches, undated
 - b.71 f.1-6 Untitled Sketches, undated
 - b.89 f.6 Untitled Sketches, undated
 - b.78 f.11 *Viola*, undated
 - b.57 f.5 *Walk Around*, undated
 - b.78 f.12 *Wayfarin' Stranger*, undated
 - b.57 f.6 *Westron Wind*, undated
 - b.78 f.13 *Westron Wind*, undated
 - b.78 f.14 *What So Proudly We Hail*, undated
- Concertantes and Concertinos
- b.57 f.7 *Concertante for Flute, Clarinet, Basson and Orchestra*, undated
 - b.78 f.15 *Concertante for Viola and Orchestra*, 1948
 - b.57 f.8 *Concertante for Viola and Piano*, undated
 - b.78 f.16 *Concertante for Viola and Piano*, undated
 - b.57 f.9 *Concertante for Violin and Piano*, undated
 - b.57 f.10 *Concertino*, undated
 - b.57 f.11 *Concertino I*, undated
 - b.57 f.12 *Concertino II*, undated
 - b.78 f.17 *Concertino for Piano and Orchestra*, undated

Series I: Green, Ray, 1933-1997 (cont.)

Scores (cont.)

Concertantes and Concertinos (cont.)

- b.57 f.13 *Concertino for Piano and Organ*, undated
b.78 f.18 *Duo Concertante for Violin and Piano*, undated

Concertos

- b.58 f.1 *Concerto*, undated
b.58 f.2 *Concerto Grosso*, undated
b.58 f.3-6 *Concerto in D*, undated
b.59 f.1-6 *Concerto in D*, undated
b.60 f.1-6 *Concerto in D*, undated
b.61 f.1-5 *Concerto in D*, undated
b.79 f.1-6 *Concerto in D*, undated
b.80 f.1-2 *Concerto in D*, undated
b.86 f.1-2 *Concerto in D*, undated
b.87 f.2-4 *Concerto in D*, undated
b.89 f.8 *Concerto in D*, undated
b.62 f.1 *Concerto in Eb*, undated
b.62 f.2 *Concerto in G*, undated
b.62 f.3 *Concerto of the Four Seasons*, undated
b.62 f.4 *A Symphony of Concertos*, undated
b.62 f.5 *Violin Concerto*, undated

Sonatas and Sonatinas

- b.72 f.4-6 *American Sonatinas*, undated
b.62 f.6 *Short Sonata for Piano*, undated
b.62 f.7 *Short Sonata in Ab*, undated
b.62 f.8 *Short Sonata in Bb*, undated
b.80 f.3 *Short Sonata in Bb*, undated
b.63 f.1-3 *Short Sonata in C*, undated
b.80 f.4 *Short Sonata in C*, undated
b.63 f.4 *Short Sonata in D*, undated
b.80 f.5 *Short Sonata in D*, undated
b.63 f.5 *Short Sonata in Db*, undated
b.63 f.6 *Short Sonata in Eb*, undated
b.63 f.7 *Short Sonata in F*, undated
b.64 f.1 *Sonata for Violins and Piano*, undated
b.64 f.2 *Sonata in A*, undated
b.64 f.3 *Sonata in Ab*, undated
b.64 f.4 *Sonata in B*, undated

Series I: Green, Ray, 1933-1997 (cont.)

Scores (cont.)

Sonatas and Sonatinas (cont.)

- | | |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| b.64 f.5-7 | <i>Sonata in Bb</i> , undated |
| b.64 f.8-9 | <i>Sonata in C</i> , undated |
| b.65 f.1 | <i>Sonata in C</i> , undated |
| b.80 f.7 | <i>Sonata in C</i> , undated |
| b.65 f.2 | <i>Sonata in D</i> , undated |
| b.80 f.8 | <i>Sonata in D</i> , undated |
| b.65 f.3 | <i>Sonata in E</i> , undated |
| b.65 f.4 | <i>Sonata in Eb</i> , undated |
| b.65 f.5-6 | <i>Sonata in F</i> , undated |
| b.65 f.7 | <i>Sonata in G</i> , undated |
| b.66 f.1-4 | <i>Sonata in G</i> , undated |
| b.66 f.5 | <i>Sonata in Gb</i> , undated |
| b.80 f.6 | <i>Sonatina for Piano</i> , undated |
| b.67 f.1-3 | <i>Sonatinas</i> , undated |
| Symphonies | |
| b.67 f.4-5 | General Symphony Sketches, undated |
| b.81 f.1 | <i>Short Symphony in Ab</i> , undated |
| b.81 f.2 | <i>Short Symphony in D</i> , undated |
| b.81 f.3 | <i>Short Symphony in Eb</i> , undated |
| b.56 f.6 | <i>Sunday Sing Symphony</i> , undated |
| b.81 f.4-10 | <i>Sunday Sing Symphony</i> , undated |
| b.82 f.1-6 | <i>Sunday Sing Symphony</i> , undated |
| b.87 f.1 | <i>Sunday Sing Symphony</i> , undated |
| b.68 f.1 | <i>Symphony in A</i> , undated |
| b.88 f.1 | <i>Symphony in B</i> , undated |
| b.68 f.2-4 | <i>Symphony in Bb</i> , undated |
| b.82 f.7 | <i>Symphony in Bb</i> , undated |
| b.68 f.5-7 | <i>Symphony in C</i> , undated |
| b.82 f.8-10 | <i>Symphony in C</i> , undated |
| b.69 f.1 | <i>Symphony in Db</i> , undated |
| b.69 f.2 | <i>Symphony in E</i> , undated |
| b.83 f.1-3 | <i>Symphony in E</i> , undated |
| b.69 f.3-4 | <i>Symphony in Eb</i> , undated |
| b.69 f.5-6 | <i>Symphony in F</i> , undated |
| b.83 f.4-11 | <i>Symphony in F</i> , undated |
| b.88 f.2 | <i>Symphony in F</i> , undated |

Series I: Green, Ray, 1933-1997 (cont.)

Scores (cont.)

Symphonies (cont.)

- b.69 f.7 *Symphony in Gb*, undated
- b.67 f.6-7 *Symphony No. 1*, undated
- b.83 f.12 *Symphony No. 1*, undated
- b.24 f.2 Shanghai Festival of the Arts, 1995
- b.24 f.3-4 Teaching Materials, undated
- b.24 f.5-8 Workshops, 1955-1975
- b.24 f.9 Writings, undated

Series II: O'Donnell, May, 1935-2004

May O'Donnell's papers hold choreographic notes, correspondence, dance company records, family papers, interviews, programs, and papers relating to the May O'Donnell Modern Dance Center.

The choreographic notes consist of sketches, written direction and occasionally photographs that correspond to specific works. The notes are often just ideas and brainstorming and do not include labanotation. Much of O'Donnell's choreography is set to the work of Ray Green.

O'Donnell's correspondence is primarily personal. The bulk of the letters are from her husband, Ray Green, documenting their close working and emotional relationship. Other correspondents include Nancy Lang and Gertrude Shurr, O'Donnell's studio partner and close friend.

O'Donnell worked with many dance companies throughout her career, including her own, the May O'Donnell Concert Dance Company. The files for her personal company include photographs, administrative correspondence, mailing lists, programs, reviews, and workshop materials. There are 48 slide filmstrips and 13 reel tapes of the May O'Donnell Dance Company. Inquiries regarding audio/visual materials in the collection may be directed to the Dance Division (dance@nypl.org). Audio/visual materials may be subject to preservation evaluation and migration prior to access.

Other companies represented include the Martha Graham Dance Company, the Houston Ballet, and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre.

The May O'Donnell Modern Dance Center was founded in 1974 to teach the O'Donnell technique. The center became the support and base for her already existent dance company. O'Donnell taught there until the studio was sold in the mid-1980s. These files hold correspondence, flyers, press releases, and other materials relating to the day to day business of running a dance studio.

This series has an extensive collection of programs, often listing both O'Donnell and Green as their work was extremely collaborative. Programs are arranged by date and cover the years 1930 to 1985. The programs trace O'Donnell's career as a dancer, then as a choreographer and soloist, and finally to owning her own company and concentrating solely on choreography.

Alphabetical by subject or name.

- b.25 f.1 Address Book, undated
- b.25 f.2-3 Awards, 1990-2002
- Choreographic Notes
- b.25 f.4-5 General, undated
- b.25 f.6 Bartok, undated

Series II: O'Donnell, May, 1935-2004 (cont.)

Choreographic Notes (cont.)

- b.25 f.7 *Dance Energies*, undated
- b.25 f.8 *Dance Sonata*, undated
- b.25 f.9 *Drift*, undated
- b.26 f.1 *Early Dance Forms*, undated
- b.26 f.2 *From the Book of Esther*, 1969
- b.26 f.3 *Legendary Forest*, undated
- b.26 f.4 *March Sonatina*, undated
- b.26 f.5 *Polka Sonatina*, undated
- b.26 f.6 *Sunday Sing Symphony*, undated
- b.26 f.7-10 *Suspension*, undated
- b.26 f.11 *Transition*, undated (photographs only)

Correspondence

General

- b.27 f.1-6 1935-1989
- b.28 f.1-5 1990-2004
- b.29 f.1-2 Brown, Ada, 1950-1969
- b.29 f.3-4 Falkenstein, Claire, 1944-1991
- Green, Ray
 - b.29 f.5 1936-1939
- b.30 f.1-6 1943-1978
 - b.30 f.7 Jacobson, Ann, 1944-1960
 - b.30 f.8 Kaans, Adrian, undated
 - b.31 f.1 Lang, Nancy, 1967-1970
 - b.31 f.2-3 Shurr, Gertrude, 1944-1992

Dance Companies

- b.31 f.4 Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, 1971
- b.31 f.5 Estelle Reed Company, 1928-1930
- b.31 f.6 Houston Ballet, 1973
- b.31 f.7 Hunter College, undated
- b.31 f.8-10 Martha Graham Dance Company, 1933-1945
- May O'Donnell Concert Dance Company

General

- b.32 f.1-6 1951-1969
- b.33 f.1-5 1976-1981
- b.34 f.1-4 1981-1988
- b.35 f.1-2 1981-1988

Series II: O'Donnell, May, 1935-2004 (cont.)

Dance Companies (cont.)

May O'Donnell Concert Dance Company (cont.)

- b.35 f.3 Amsterdam, 1985
- b.35 f.4 Incorporation, 1975
- b.35 f.5-6 Joyce Theatre, 1983
- b.36 f.1-3 Mailing Lists, undated
- b.36 f.4-5 New York State Council on the Arts, 1983

Photographs

- b.36 f.6 Undated
- b.37 f.1-2 Undated
- b.85 f.6-8 Undated
- b.37 f.3-7 1950-1986
- b.38 f.1-4 1970-1986
- b.38 f.5-6 Potential Sponsors, undated

Programs

- b.49 f.6-8 1950-1986
- b.50 f.1-2 1980-1986
- b.39 f.1-2 Publicity, 1970-1986
- b.39 f.3 Resumes, undated

Reviews

- b.39 f.4-6 1940-1988
- b.50 f.3-4 1970-1988
- b.39 f.7 Riverside Dance Festival, 1981
- b.40 f.1 Workshops, 1975-1988
- b.50 f.5 Workshops, 1975-1988
- b.40 f.2 Oakland Ballet, 1987-1989
- b.40 f.3 Shawl-Anderson Dance Company, 1973
- b.40 f.4 Diary, 1993-1997

Family Papers

- b.40 f.5-6 Ada Brown Estate, 1976
- b.40 f.7-8 Charles Herbert Estate, 1969-1973

Interviews

- b.41 f.1-2 *Ballet Review*, 1980
- b.41 f.3-4 CBS Cable, 1981
- b.41 f.5-7 *May O'Donnell: American Modern Dance Pioneer*, undated
- b.42 f.1 *May O'Donnell: American Modern Dance Pioneer*, undated

May O'Donnell Modern Dance Center

- b.42 f.2-5 1973-1976

Series II: O'Donnell, May, 1935-2004 (cont.)

May O'Donnell Modern Dance Center (cont.)

- b.43 f.1-4 1977-1979
- b.44 f.1 National Federation of Music Clubs, 1959
- b.44 f.2-3 Notes, undated
- b.44 f.4 Oral History Project, 1979
- Posters
 - t.1 Oversize, undated
- b.90 f.1 Oversize, undated
- b.89 f.5 *So Proudly We Hail*, undated
- b.44 f.5 Press Releases, 1940-1979
- Programs
 - b.44 f.6-8 1930-1939
- b.45 f.1-13 1940-1985
 - b.46 f.1 Resumes, 1950-1980
 - b.46 f.2 Scrapbook, 1940
 - b.46 f.3-8 Teaching Materials, 1970-1988
 - b.46 f.9 Writings, undated

Series III: Photographs, 1890-1990

Series III holds personal and professional photographs of Ray Green, May O'Donnell, and their friends and family. Headshots and promotional photographs of Green and O'Donnell make up the bulk of the series. There are also photographs of Green's sister Ann Jacobson, Gertrude Shurr, and family portraits dating back to the 1890s. Photographs of the May O'Donnell Concert Dance Company can be found with those materials in Series II.

Alphabetical by subject or name.

- b.47 f.1-2 General, 1940-1990
- b.85 f.1 Green Family, 1890-1940
- b.47 f.3-7 Green, Ray, 1930-1970
- b.47 f.8 Jacobson, Ann, undated
- b.47 f.9-10 O'Donnell Family, 1890-1940
- b.48 f.1-2 O'Donnell Family, 1890-1940
- b.90 f.3 O'Donnell Family, 1890-1940
- O'Donnell, May
 - b.89 f.10 1916
- b.48 f.3-8 1925-1990
- b.90 f.2 1940-1980
- b.85 f.2-5 undated
- b.48 f.9 Norman Walker Company, undated
- b.48 f.10 Shurr, Gertrude, undated

Series IV: Ruggles, Carl, 1927-1991

Carl Ruggles's papers consist of material collected by Green in his role as Ruggles's representative as well as as a close friend. Green handled all requests for Ruggles's music, publication permissions, and interviews. The series holds contracts, correspondence (primarily to Green), copyright materials, photographs, and programs. There are published scores with edits, as well as some original drafts. This series also documents the posthumous rights transfers after Ruggles's death in 1971.

Alphabetical by subject.

- b.70 f.1 Contracts, 1955-1968
- b.49 f.1 Correspondence, 1958-1971
- b.70 f.2-3 Correspondence, 1958-1971
- b.49 f.2 Copyrights, 1960-1991
- b.49 f.3 Photographs, undated
- b.84 f.12 Photographs, undated (oversize)
- Programs
- b.70 f.4 1927-1957
- b.49 f.4 1958-1971
- b.49 f.5 Posthumous Concerts , 1971-1991
- b.70 f.5 Published Music, undated
- Scores
- b.70 f.6 General Sketches, undated
- b.89 f.1 *A Clear Midnight*, undated
 Handwritten manuscript inscribed "To Charlotte"
- b.84 f.6 *Evocations*, 1953 (revisions)
- b.84 f.7 *Men and Mountains*, undated
- b.84 f.8 *Portals*, 1949 (revisions)
- b.84 f.9 *Sun Treader*, undated (revisions)
 Vox Clamans In Deserto, undated
- b.84 f.10 1923
- b.84 f.11 Transcription by Ray Green, undated