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GEORGE PERLE LETTERS TO PAUL LANSKY,
1969-1973

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Call No.: JPB 03-21

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Abstract:

The George Perle letters to Paul Lansky date from July 1969 through October 1973. They explore Perle's development of his "12-tone modal system" that modifies the dodecaphonic theories of the composers, Arnold Schoenberg, Alban Berg and Anton Webern by applying certain principles of tonality to them.

Administrative Information:

Acquisition:	Gift of Paul Lansky.
Access:	The collection is open to the public.
Restrictions on Use:	For permission to copy or to publish please contact the Music Division.
Preferred Citation:	George Perle Letters to Paul Lansky, JPB 03-21, Music Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Biography/History

George Perle was born May 6, 1915 in Bayonne, N.J. His composition teachers include Wesley La Violette at De Paul University and Ernst Krenek, who he took lessons from privately. After graduating from De Paul in 1938 he took his Masters of Music at the American Conservatory of Music in 1942 and finally his Ph.D in Musicology at New York University in 1956. Perle has taught composition at the University of Louisville, University of California, Davis and Queens College of CUNY in addition to holding numerous visiting professorships in theory, composition and music history. He was awarded two Guggenheim Fellowships (1966 and 1974) and the MacArthur Fellowship (1986) and received the 1986 Pulitzer Prize in Music for his Wind Quintet no. 4. Aside from his work as a composer and teacher, he is widely recognized as a major authority on the "Second Viennese School" and for his writings on that subject, in particular his two volume "The Operas of Alban Berg" and his articles "Webern's 12-Tone Sketches" and "The Secret Program of the Lyric Suite".

Paul Lansky was born on June 18, 1944 in New York City, where he attended the High School of Music and Art, graduating in 1961. Lansky continued his studies, majoring in French horn, at Queens College, where he studied composition with George Perle and Hugo Weisgall. He later received his MFA (1969) and Ph.D (1973) from Princeton University, where his composition teachers included Milton Babbitt, Edward Cone and Earl Kim. His earliest compositions were written for acoustic instruments, but computer-generated sounds took a progressively central role starting with his *Mild und leise*, written in 1973. He has served on the faculty at Princeton since 1969 and was made a full Professor of Music in 1984. His works have been widely recorded and he has received numerous commissions. Honors include fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation (1981) and the National Endowment for the Arts (1981, 1988).

Sources:

Antokoletz, Elliott: 'Paul Lansky', *Grove Music Online* ed. L. Macy (Accessed 13 Jan., 2004), <<http://www.grovemusic.com/>>

Lansky, Paul: 'George Perle', *Grove Music Online* ed. L. Macy (Accessed 15 Jan., 2004), <<http://www.grovemusic.com>>

Lansky, Paul: 'Curriculum vitae' (Accessed 13 Jan., 2004)
<<http://silvertone.princeton.edu/~paul/cv.html>>

McCarthy, David: 'Paul Lansky', (Accessed 13 Jan., 2004)
<<http://silvertone.princeton.edu/~paul/bio.html>>

Slonimsky, Nicolas, Laura Kuhn and Dennis McIntire: 'George Perle', *Baker's Biographical Dictionary of Musicians*, 8th Edition, 2001

Scope and Content Note

The George Perle letters to Paul Lansky date from July 1969 to October 1973. Perle's exchange with Lansky centers on his study of the twelve-tone method and his attempts to explore what he perceived as modal and tonal relationships within the framework of atonality. Perle's letters are mostly typewritten, with some holograph, originals and Lansky's are all copies. Some of the items are in fragile condition and have been encapsulated for preservation.

Arrangement

The George Perle letters to Paul Lansky are arranged chronologically in a single series.

Box/Folder Description

Series I: Correspondence**Box 1**

F. 1	1969 July 22 - 1969 July 27
F. 2	1969 Aug. 1 - 1969 Aug. 31
F. 3	1969 Sept. 2 - 1969 Sept. 30
F. 4	1969 Oct. 3 - 1969 Oct. 30
F. 5	1969 Nov. 4 - 1969 Nov. 30
F. 6	1969 Dec. 1 - 1969 Dec. 5
F. 7	1969 Dec. 12 - 1969 Dec. 23
F. 8	1969 Dec 30 - 1969 Dec. 31
F. 9	1970 Jan. 8 - 1970 Jan. 31
F. 10	1970 Feb. 2 - 1970 Feb. 26
F. 11	1970 Mar. 5 - 1970 Mar. 26
F. 12	1970 Mar. 28 - 1970 Mar. 30
F. 13	1970 Apr. 10
F. 14	1970 Apr. 14 - 1970 Apr. 20
F. 15	1970 Apr. 23 - 1970 Apr. 24
F. 16	1970 Apr. 30
F. 17	1970 July 6 - 1970 July 16
F. 18	1970 July 17 - 1970 July 27
F. 19	1970 Aug. 5 - 1970 Aug. 22
F. 20	1970 Aug. 23 - 1970 Aug. 31
F. 21	1970 Sept. 4 - 1970 Sept. 10
F. 22	1970 Nov. 4 - 1970 Nov. 10
F. 23	1971 Mar. 10 - 1971 Mar. 29
F. 24	1971 Apr. 2 - 1971 Apr. 10
F. 25	1971 Apr. 12 - 1971 Apr. 19
F. 26	1971 July 8 - 1971 July 31
F. 27	1971 Aug. 4
F. 28	1971 Aug. 10 - 1971 Aug. 12
F. 29	1971 Aug. 15 - 1971 Aug. 19
F. 30	1971 Aug. 25 - 1971 Aug. 28
F. 31	1971 Aug. 31
F. 32	1971 Sept. 14 - 1971 Sept. 16
F. 33	1971 Sept. 19 - 1971 Sept. 22
F. 34	1971 Sept. 2 - 1971 Sept. 4
F. 35	1971 Oct. 4 - 1971 Oct. 28
F. 36	1971 Nov. 8 - 1971 Nov. 15
F. 37	1971 Dec. 2 - 1971 Dec. 24
F. 38	1972 Jan. 32 - 1972 Jan. 11
F. 39	1972 Jan. 12 - 1972 Jan. 27
F. 40	1972 Feb. 1
F. 41	1972 Mar. 1 - 1972 Mar. 28
F. 42	1972 Apr. 11 - 1972 Apr. 16
F. 43	1972 May 11 - 1972 May 12
F. 44	1972 May 15 - 1972 May 26
F. 45	1972 May 31
F. 46	1972 June 4 - 1972 May 31
F. 47	1972 Aug. 4 - 1972 Aug. 23
F. 48	1972 Nov. 3
F. 49	1972 Dec. 4 - 1972 Dec. 7
F. 50	1973 Apr. 19

Box/Folder	Description
	<u>Series I: Correspondence (cont.)</u>
F. 51	1973 May 11
F. 52	1973 June 14
F. 53	1972 June 20
F. 54	1973 July 3
F. 55	1973 July 28
F. 56	1973 Aug. 9
F. 57	1973 Aug. 13 - 1973 Aug. 29
F. 58	1973 Sept. 2 - 1973 Sept. 29
F. 59	1973 Oct. 15 - 1973