Guide to the Composers Recordings, Inc. Records, 1946-2007 [Bulk Dates 1955-2007]

JPB 07-2

Music Division

The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts New York, New York

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Descriptive Summary

Title:	Composers Recordings, Inc. Records
Collection ID:	JPB 07-2
Creator:	Composers Recordings, Inc.
Extent:	14.8 linear feet (36 boxes)
Repository:	Music Division.
	The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

Abstract

The Composers Recordings, Inc. Records contain recording project files, correspondence, business and financial papers and photographs documenting the history of the record label devoted to contemporary American music.

Administrative Information

Access

Collection is open to the public. Library policy on photocopying will apply. Advance notice may be required.

Publication Rights

For permission to publish, contact the Chief, Music Division.

Preferred Citation

Composers Recordings, Inc. Records, JPB 07-2, Music Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Custodial History

The Composers Recordings, Inc. Records were donated to the Music Division in 2006 and 2007 by Blair Weille and Frederick Jacobi.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and cataloged in 2007.

Biographical Note

Composers Recordings, Inc. (CRI) was founded in 1954 by the composers Otto Luening and Douglas Moore and the arts administrator Oliver Daniel. The label's mission was the discovery, distribution and preservation of the finest in contemporary American music. The three founders started the company with a \$5,000 profit left over from the defunct American Recording Society, and \$10,000 in seed money from the American Composers Alliance.

In February, 1976, CRI became one of the nation's first nonprofit, tax-exempt recording companies, and in June, 1980, it received one of the first three recording and distribution grants to be awarded by the National Endowment for the Arts. A 1987 citation from the American Academy of Arts & Letters stated that CRI "has recorded more American music and for a longer time than any other recording company in the world." Over the years, four CRI recordings received Grammy nominations from the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences in the category of Best Contemporary Classical Composition. Among other honors and citations, the label received the Letter of Distinction by the American Music Center.

Literally hundreds of American composers had their first recording released on CRI, making the label a mainstay of career development and audience contact for several generations of composers. Over 600 full-length recordings were released by CRI on LP, cassette and CD, representing well over 1,000 compositions in all styles and genres. While virtually every significant American composer was recorded under the label's banner, CRI was particularly successful in recording important talents early in their careers. Of the thirty-seven Pulitzer Prize-winning composers on the label, twenty-seven were recorded by CRI before they won the prestigious award. CRI also recognized and incorporated into its archives the experimental tradition that is so much a part of American music, including important early recordings of John Cage and Harry Partch. The label was an important advocate of women composers as well, starting from its first release in 1954 which featured the music of Marion Bauer.

In 2003 CRI ceased recording activity, and in 2006 the rights to the label's recordings were transferred to New World Records, which now distributes the CRI catalog. The company was dissolved in 2007.

Source:

http://web.archive.org/web/19980521095812/www.composersrecordings.com/history.html (Accessed 29 October 2007.)

Scope and Content Note

The Composers Recordings, Inc. Records document the history of the record label, mainly through recording project files, but also through business papers, financial papers and photographs. The project files comprise the majority of the collection and contain album, CD and cassette artwork and liner notes, production information, correspondence and reviews. Photographs from the project files, including photos of composers and performers, comprise Series VI.

The business and financial papers trace the history of the company from its inception, through its transition in 1976 to a non-profit venture, to the takeover of its catalog by New World Records and dissolution in 2007. They include meeting minutes, board and composer correspondence, development papers, audits and financial statements, tax returns, bank records and other documentation. Series IV consists of the papers of the composer Nicolas Roussakis, who was a longtime board member of the company. Donated to CRI after his death, his papers contain further CRI business and financial records.

Organization

The collection is organized into 6 series. They are:

Series I: Composer Correspondence, 1956-2006 and undated Series II: Recording Project Files, 1955-2002 and undated

Series III: Business Papers, 1954-2007 and undated

Series IV: Financial Papers, 1981-2006

Series V: Nicolas Roussakis Papers, 1966-1990 Series VI: Photographs, 1946-1999 and undated

Series Descriptions

Series I: Correspondence, 1956-2006 and undated

4 boxes

Arrangement: Alphabetical

Most of this series consists of short letters from and to composers interested in having their work recorded by CRI. The bulk dates from the mid to late-1980s. Longer and more significant company correspondence regarding recordings and company business is in other series, either with the projects it pertains to or with business or financial correspondence.

Series II: Recording Project Files, 1955-2002 and undated

20 boxes

Arrangement: Numerical

This series contains documentation on the production and artwork for CRI's LP, CD and cassette releases, as well as promotional material and reviews of the recordings. Production files contain correspondence, contracts, copyright papers and recording information. Design files contain proofs of record jacket and CD/cassette insert designs and rough drafts and proofs of liner notes. LP and CD releases are grouped together in the series as many of the LPs were later reissued as CDs. Cassette releases appear at the end of the series. Each album/CD/cassette has a note detailing the composers featured on it. Not all CRI releases are documented in this series. Photographs from these files are in Series VI.

Series III: Business Papers, 1954-2005 and undated

4.3 boxes

Arrangement: Alphabetical

This series contains general business files and correspondence. It includes licensing agreements, meeting minutes for the Board of Directors and Board of Trustees, fundraising and development papers, editorial and project policies, documentation of the New World Records transition and CRI dissolution, a "white paper" on the state of CRI in the early 1970s, and other papers. See the Nicolas Roussakis Papers in Series IV for additional CRI business papers.

Series IV: Financial Papers, 1981-2004

5.5 boxes

Arrangement: Alphabetical

This series contains bank statements and correspondence, audits and financial statements, insurance and investment papers, and payroll, royalty and tax records. See the Nicolas Roussakis Papers in Series V for other CRI financial papers.

Series V: Nicolas Roussakis Papers, 1966-1990

2 boxes

Arrangement: Alphabetical

This series contains the CRI files of the composer Nicolas Roussakis, who was long associated with the company. These files were donated to CRI after Roussakis's death in 1994. They contain company information not found in Series III or IV, including documentation of the company's non-profit incorporation in 1976, Executive and Editorial Committee reports, information on the relationship between CRI and the American Composers Alliance, financial papers and other company business.

Series VI: Photographs, 1946-1999 and undated

1 box

Arrangement: Numerical

The photographs in this series are from the recording project files in Series II. They are mostly portraits of the composers and musicians featured on CRI releases and were used in album artwork or for promotional purposes. Artists with photographs include the Dorian Wind Quintet, Harold Shapero, Ramon Zupko, Charles Ives, Martin Buyken, Carson Kierman, Harry Partch, Fred Ho and Jason Kao Hwang, among others.

Series I: Composer Correspondence, 1956-2006 and undated

<u>Box</u> 1	Fol 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	A, 1958-1998 Allen, Susan, 1980-1981 Ba - Beerman, 1959-1987 Belkin - Brevig, 1981-2001 and undated Bell, 1981-1985 Bennington College, 1984-1986 and undated Brief - Burgess, 1957-1987 Ca - Chamber Music Society, 1981-1986 Chambers - Cy, 1957-1999
2	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	D, 1959-2000 E, 1982-1986 F, 1958-1990 G, 1959-1990 Ha, 1959-2002 He, 1981-1986 Hi - Hu, 1981-1987 I, 1981-1983 J, 1981-1987
3	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Ka - Ki, 1981-1986 Kl - Ku, 1956-1990 La - Leb, 1958-1986 Lee, 1982-1985 Lef - Lu, 1958-2006 Ma - Mills, 1981-2003 Mir - Mu, 1981-1986 MIT, 1981-1990 N, 1982-1986 and undated O, 1983-1986 P - Q, 1958-1987 and undated
4	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Ra - Ri, 1981- 1986 Ro - Ru, 1981-1998 Sa - Sc, 1981-1986 Se - Sh, 1980-1988 Si - Sm, 1980-1988 Sn - Sw, 1981-1990 Ta - Te, 1981-1986 Th - Tu, 1958-1985 V- Z, 1985-2001
5	1 2	Series II: Recording Project Files, 1955-2002 and undated LPs and CDs, 1955-2002 and undated CRI 101, 1955-1981 Douglas Moore and Marion Bauer. Production, 1955-1981 Reviews, 1956-1957
	3 4	CRI 120, 1957-1980 Ben Weber and Roger Goeb. Production, 1957-1980 Reviews, 1958-1979

	5 6 7-8	CRI 121, 1957-1977 Mel Powell. Production, 1957-1977 Reviews, 1958-1959 CRI 186, 1963-1975 Alan Hovhaness, Ezra Sims and Lawrence Moss.
	9 10 11 12 13 14	CRI 199, 1963-1999 John Cage. Production, 1963-1999 Reviews, 1965-1981 CRI 200, 1965-1966 Werner Josten. CRI 201, 1963-1980 Gordon Binkerd and Ernst Bacon. Correspondence and Contracts, 1963-1966 Production, 1964-1980 Reviews, 1965-1976
	15 16	CRI 202, 1965-1982 Ned Rorem. Production, 1965-1982 Reviews, 1965-1966
6	1 2	CRI 208, 1963-1967 Robert Gross, John Lessard and Halsey Stevens. Contracts, Correspondence and Reviews, 1963-1967 Production, 1963-1966
	3 4	CRI 245, 1969-1978 Thomas Putsche. Production, 1969-1978 Reviews, 1969-1970
	5 6 7 8 9	CRI 250, 1968-1970 Allan Blank and William Ferguson. Production, 1968-1970 Reviews, 1970 CRI 252, 1969-1970 Julia Perry. CRI 276, 1970-1983 Morton Feldman. Production, 1970-1974 Re-press, 1980-1983
	11	Reviews, 1971-1972 CRI 303, 1972-1982 and undated Otto Luening. Production, 1972-1978
	13 14	Reviews, 1973-1982 and undated CRI 304, 1973-1983 Harry Partch. Production, 1973-1983 Reviews, 1983
7	1	CRI 312, 1970-1982 Vittorio Rieti. See also photographs, Box 36, Folder 1.

		CRI 313, 1972-1980 John Harbison.
	2 3	Production, 1972-1980 Reviews, 1973-1978
		CRI 314, 1973-1982 Charles Ives.
	4	Production, 1974-1982
	5	Reviews, 1973-1977
	6	CRI 318, 1973-1974 Peter Stearns, Brian Fennely and Lawrence Moss. Performed by Dorian Woodwind Quintet. See also photographs, Box 36, Folder 2.
	7	CRI 319, 1971-1974 Harvey Sollberger and Fred Lerdahl.
	8	CRI 320, 1972-1976 William O. Smith (Bill Smith).
	9	CRI 334, 1975 Otto Luening.
	10	CRI 424, 1979-1988 Harold Shapero. See also photographs, Box 36, Folder 3. Production, 1979-1981
	11	Promotional Material and Reviews, 1979-1988
		CRI 425, 1979-1981 Ramon Zupko. See also photographs, Box 36, Folder 4.
8	1 2	Production, 1979-1980 Promotional Material and Reviews, 1980-1981
		CRI 432, 1980-1984 Sydney Hodkinson.
	3 4	Production, 1980 Promotional Material and Reviews, 1980-1984
		CRI 437, 1978-1994 Richard Wilson and Diane Thome.
	5	Production, 1978-1981
	6	Promotional Material and Reviews, 1978-1984
	7 8	Thome, Diane, 1979-1994 Wilson, Richard, 1978-1980
		CRI 439, 1980-1983 William Schuman.
	9	Design and Liner Notes, 1980
	10 11	Production, 1980-1982 Promotional Material and Reviews, 1981-1983
		CRI 462, 1979-1981 Lee Hoiby and Ernst Bacon.
9	1 2	Production, 1981 Proposal, 1979
		CRI 466, 1980-1982 Amy Beach, Jack Beeson, Hugo Weisgall, Lee Hoiby, Ernst Bacon.
	3 4	Production, 1980-1981 Promotional Material and Reviews, 1982
		CRI 475, 1981-1983 Elliot Carter and American Composers Orchestra.
	5	Contracts, 1981-1982

	6 7	Production, 1981-1982 Promotional Material and Reviews, 1982-1983
	8 9 10	CRI 500, 1983-1992 William Schumann. Design and Liner Notes, 1983-1984 Production, 1984-1986 Promotional Material and Reviews, 1985-1992
10	1 2 3	CRI 552, 1988-1994 Francis Thorne, Nicolas Roussakis and Elliott Carter. Performed by American Composers Orchestra. Design and Liner Notes, 1988-1994 Production, 1988-1991 Publicity and Reviews, 1988-1992
	4 5 6	CRI 558, 1982-1988 Lawrence Moss, Edwin Dugger, Conrad Cummings and Andrew Frank. Design and Liner Notes, 1982 and undated Production, 1986-1988 Promotional Material and Reviews, 1988
	7 8 9 10	CRI 563, 1987-1997 Erich Itor Kahn. Design and Liner Notes, 1988 Production, 1987-1992 Promotional Material and Reviews, 1988-1997 CRI 564, 1989 Arthur Berger. CRI 567, 1986-1996 and undated
	11 12 13	Jacob Avshalomov and Frank LaRocca. Design and Liner Notes, 1986 and undated Production, 1987-1996 Promotional Material and Reviews, 1986-1989
	14 15 16	CRI 572, 1989-1994 Wallingford Reigger. Design and Liner Notes, 1990 Production, 1989-1994 Promotional Material and Reviews, 1991
11	1 2 3	CRI 575, 1985-1999 Meyer Kupferman and Richard Wilson. See also photographs, Box 36, Folder 5. Design and Liner Notes, 1989 Production, 1985-1999 Promotional Material and Reviews, 1990-1991
	4 5 6	CRI 576, 1988-1993 Barbara Kolb. Liner Notes, 1989-1990 Production, 1988-1991 Promotional Material and Reviews, 1991-1993
	7 8 9 10	CRI 600, 1990-1997 Otto Luening. Design and Liner Notes, 1991 Fundraising, 1991 Production, 1990-1997 Promotional Material and Reviews, 1991-1993

	11	General, 1990-1995 Contains score for <i>No Jersusalem But This</i> . CRI 611, 1991-1995 Vladimir Ussachevsky, Otto Luening, Bülent Arel, Mario Davidovsky, Pril Smiley and Alice Shields.
12	1 2 3	Design and Liner Notes, 1991 Production, 1991-1992 Reviews, 1992-1995
	4 5	CRI 613, 1991 Lou Harrison. Design and Liner Notes Production
	6 7 8	CRI 620, 1981-1993 Morton Feldman. Design and Liner Notes, 1992 Production, 1981-192 Reviews, 1992-1993
		CRI 628, 1991-1993 Bang On A Can: Tom Johnson, William Doerrfeld, Scott Lindroth, Michael Gordon, Julia Wolfe, Evan Ziporyn and Allison Cameron.
	9 10-11 12	Design and Liner Notes, 1991-1992 Production, 1991-1992 Promotional Material and Reviews, 1992-1993
13	1 2 3	CRI 645, 1993-1994 Evan Ziporyn. Design and Liner Notes, 1993 Production, 1993 Promotional Metarial and Provinces, 1993, 1944
	4 5	Promotional Material and Reviews, 1993-194 CRI 657, 1993-1999 Ned Rorem. See also photographs, Box 36, Folder 6. Design and Liner Notes, 1993 Production and Reviews, 1993-1999
	6 7-8 9	CRI 675, 1994-1997 Charles Ives and Ernst Bacon. Design and Liner Notes, 1994 Production, 1994-1997 Promotional Material and Reviews, 1994-1995
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	2 3 4	David Del Tredici. Design and Liner Notes, 1994-1995 Production, 1995 CRI 690, 1993-1995 Ralph Shapey. CRI 694, 1994-1999 Jack Beeson.
	5 6 7 8	City Opera Performance of <i>Lizzy Borden</i> , 1999 Design and Liner Notes, 1994-1999 Production, 1994-1997 Promotional Material and Reviews, 1995-1999

15	1 2	CRI 700, 1995-1999 John Cage. Design and Liner Notes, 1995 Production, 1995-1999
	3 4	 CRI 721, 1995-1997 Gay American Composers: Robert Helps, Lee Hoiby, Lou Harrison, Chester Biscardi, Ned Rorem, David Del Tredici, Robert Maggio, Conrad Cummings, William Hibbard, Jerry Hunt, Lou Harrison, Chris Deblasio and Robert Helps. Design and Liner Notes, 1995-1997 Production, 1995-1996
	5 6 7	CRI 740, 1993-2000 Henry Cowell. Design and Liner Notes, 1996-1997 Production, 1993-1997 Reviews, 1997-2000
	8 9	CRI 751-754 and CD 7001, 1991-1999 and undated Harry Partch. British Harry Partch Society, 1991-1998 Design and Liner Notes, 1997 and undated
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	2 3 4 5	Production, 1991-1999 1991-1996 1996-1999 Reviews, 1997-1998 General, 1996-1999 Includes score for <i>The Letter</i> . CRI 759, 1994-1997 Brian Fennelly.
	6 7	Design and Liner Notes, 1997 Production, 1994-1997
		CRI 780, 1997-1998 **Lesbian American Composers: Pauline Oliveros, Nurit Tilles, Linda Montono, Lori Freedman, Marilyn Lerner, Paula Kimper, Eve Beglarian, Jennifer Higdon, Annea Lockwood, Madelyn Byrne and Ruth Anderson.
	8 9 10	Biographies, 1997-1998 Correspondence, 1997-1998 Design and Liner Notes, 1998
17	1 2	Production, 1997-1998 CRI 791, 1998 William Schuman. CRI 800, 1998-1999 Roger Sessions.
	3 4 5	Design and Liner Notes, 1998 Production, 1998 Promotional Material and Reviews, 1998-1999
	J	CRI 801, 1993-2000 Phil Kline.
	6 7	Production, 1997-1998 Promotional Material and Reviews, 1993-2000

CRI 803, 1998-2000

	8 9	George Crumb. Design and Liner Notes, 1998 Production, 1998-2000
		CRI 805, 1994-2001 Ying Zhang, Ge Gan-Ru, Kawai Shiu, Luo Jing Jing, Jason Kao Hwang, James Fei, Chen Yuanlin, Byron Au Yong, Fred Ho and Jin Xiang. See also photographs, Box 36 Folder 8.
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	4 5 6	CRI 812, 1998-2000 Arthur Levering. See also photographs, Box 36, Folder 10. Design and Liner Notes, 1998 Production, 1998-2000 Promotional Material and Reviews, 2000
	7 8 9	CRI 825, 1998-2000 Gene Gutchë. Design and Liner Notes, 1999 Production, 1998-2000 CRI 834, 2000 William Anderson, Chester Biscardi, Anthony Braxton, Sebastian Currier, John Halle, David Lang, Robert Pollock and Charles Wuorinen.
	10 11	CRI 835, 1999-2000 Ronald Caltibiano. See also photographs, Box 36, Folder 11. Design and Liner Notes, 1999-2000 (Also contains layout for CRI 820.) Production, 1999-2000
20	1 2 3	CRI 836, 1997-2000 Lou Harrison, Henry Cowell, Colin McPhee and Alan Hovhaness. Design and Layout, 1999-2000 Production, 1997-2000 Promotional Material and Reviews, 2000
	4 5 6	CRI 837, 1994-2000 Charles Ives, Henry Cowell and Lou Harrison. Design and Liner Notes, 2000 Production, 1994-2000 Promotional Material and Reviews, 2000

	7 8	Design and Liner Notes Production and Promotional Material
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21	1 2	CRI 842, 1999 Walter Winslow. Design Production and Promotional Material
	3 4	CRI 844, 1999-2000 Randy Woolf. Design Production
	5	CRI 845, 1999-2000 Carson Kievman. See also photographs, Box 36, Folder 14. Design, 2000 Production, 1999-2000
	7 8	CRI 847, 2000 Gerald Levinson, Steven Stucky, David Finko and David Crumb. Design Production
		CRI 848, 1999-2000 Miguel Del Aguila, Milton Estévez, Carlos Sanchez-Guiteriez, Ricardo Zohn-Muldoon, Orlando Jacinto Garcia, Awilda Villarini, Carlos A. Carrillo, Jorge Mario Liderman, Carlos Delgado and Miguel Chuaqui. See also photographs, Box 36, Folder 15.
	9 10	Design and Liner Notes, 1999-2000 Production, 2000
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22	1 2	CRI 855, 2000-2001 Xak Bjerken. Design and Liner Notes, 2000 Production and Promotional Material, 2000-2001
	3 4	CRI 856, 2000 Rober Starer. See also photographs, Box 35, Folder 16. Design and Liner Notes Production
	5 6 7	CRI 879, 2000-2001 Gerald Cohen. Design and Liner Notes, 2001 Donors, 2000-2001 Production, 2000-2001

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		Dan Welcher.
	8	Design and Liner Notes
	9	New World Symphony
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	3	CRI 895, 2001-2002 Derek Bermel.
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	4	Design, 2001
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	8	William Flanagan, Wallingford Reigger, John J. Becker and Charles Ives. CAS 180/109, 1983
		John Aden Carpenter, Charles Ives, Walter Piston, Henry Cowell, Alan Hovhaness and Daniel Pinkham.
	9	CAS 206/308, 1983 Robert Ward and Andrew Imbrie.
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	5	CRI 575, undated Leon Botstein and Meyer Kupferman.
	6	CRI 657, undated Ned Rorem.
	7	CRI 686, undated Artwork photos, no persons.
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	13	CRI 841, undated Martin Buyken.
	14	CRI 845, undated Carson Kierman.
	15	CRI 848, 1999 and undated

Milton Estevez, Orlando Garcia, Miguel Del Aguila, Carlos Sanchez-Gutierrez, Carlos Delgado, Ricardo Zohn-Muldoan, Miguel Chuaqui and Awilda Villarina.

- 16 CRI 856, undated Miami String Quartet.
- 17 CRI 7001, undated Harry Partch.
- 18 General, 1998 and undated

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