

# **Guide to American Composers Alliance- Minutes, 1938-1962**

JPB 90-97

Music Division

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

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## **Descriptive Summary**

**Title:** American Composers Alliance-Minutes, 1938-1962  
**Collection ID:** JPB 90-97  
**Extent:** 0.42 linear feet (1 box)  
**Repository:** Music Division.  
The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

### **Abstract**

The American Composers Alliance-Minutes, 1938-1962, consist of minutes from executive board and general membership meetings of the American Composers Alliance and selected related papers, such as letters and budget reports discussed at meetings.

## **Administrative Information**

### **Access**

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

### **Preferred Citation**

American Composers Alliance Minutes, JPB 90-97, Music Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

## **Historical Note**

The American Composers Alliance was founded in New York in 1937. Its mission was to protect the economic rights of American composers and to promote the performance of new works of “serious” American music. In the early 1940s ACA attempted to partner with ASCAP (The American Society for Composers, Authors, and Publishers). In 1944 ACA signed a contract with BMI (Broadcast Music, Inc.).

The Laurel Leaf award for “distinguished achievement in fostering and encouraging American music” was founded in 1952. That same year the ACA established the Composers Facsimile Edition (CFE) which reproduced scores on demand from master scores held by composers. Composers Recordings, Inc. (CRI) was founded in 1954, as a label for contemporary music recordings.

The ACA is still active today in its mission “to protect the rights of music creators and to strengthen career opportunities for contemporary concert music composers” ([www.composers.com](http://www.composers.com)). The American Composers Edition, founded in 1972, postdates the materials represented in this collection.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The collection American Composers Alliance, Minutes, 1938-1962, contains minutes from regular meetings of the board of governors and the general membership of the American Composers Alliance. Meeting agendas are also included. Several sets of minutes are missing, replaced with pages that indicate the date of the meeting for which minutes are missing. Most of the minutes were signed in ink by the acting ACA secretary.

The collection also includes selected letters, proposed resolutions and regulations, and authorizations passed, as well as periodic operating statements, records of members submitting resignation and composers approved or rejected for membership.

Individuals who were active on the ACA board during the period represented in this collection include Marion Bauer, Elliott Carter, Aaron Copland, Henry Cowell, Vivian Fine, Miriam Gideon, Goddard Lieberson, Otto Luening, Wallingsford Riegger, Elie Siegmeister, and Robert Ward, among many others.

## Organization and Series Description

The collection is organized in one series:

### Series I: Minutes

Box 1	Folder 1	1938
Box 1	Folder 2	1939
Box 1	Folder 3	1940
Box 1	Folder 4	1941
Box 1	Folder 5	1942
Box 1	Folder 6	1943
Box 1	Folder 7	1944
Box 1	Folder 8	1945
Box 1	Folder 9	1946
Box 1	Folder 10	1948
Box 1	Folder 11	1949
Box 1	Folder 12	1950
Box 1	Folder 13	1951
Box 1	Folder 14	1952
Box 1	Folder 15	1953
Box 1	Folder 16	1954
Box 1	Folder 17	1955
Box 1	Folder 18	1956
Box 1	Folder 19	1957
Box 1	Folder 20	1958
Box 1	Folder 21	1959
Box 1	Folder 22	1960
Box 1	Folder 23	1961
Box 1	Folder 24	1962
Box 1	Folder 25	Membership list, [no date]
Box 1	Folder 26	50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary concerts, 1987