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Guide to the

Larry Bell papers

1965-2013

JPB 15-69

Compiled by Matthew Snyder, 2015

Summary

Creator: Bell, Larry, 1952-

Title: Larry Bell papers

Date: 1965-2013

Size: 5.62 linear feet (15 boxes)

Source: Donated by Larry Bell, 2013.

Abstract: Larry Bell (born 1952) is an American composer and pianist. The Larry Bell papers, dating from 1965 to 2013, document the composer's career through published scores, sketches, programs, clippings, correspondence, subject files, writings, and photographs.

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Processing note: Compiled by Matthew Snyder, 2015

Creator History

Larry Bell (born 1952) is an American composer and pianist. He studied at East Carolina University and Appalachian State University with Gregory Kosteck, receiving his bachelor of music from Appalachian in 1974. At the Juilliard School, where he received masters and doctoral degrees in 1977 and 1982, he studied with Vincent Persichetti and Roger Sessions. A Guggenheim Fellowship (1981), Rome Prize (1982–1983), and Rockefeller grant (1985) took Bell to Italy, where he began a performing career as a pianist.

After teaching at the Juilliard Pre-College, Bell taught at The Boston Conservatory (1980–2005), the New England Conservatory (from 1992), and the Berklee College of Music (from 2007). By 2010, he had produced 110 works. Bell's music has been performed by the Seattle and Atlanta Symphony Orchestras under conductors Gerard Schwarz, Jorge Mester, and Benjamin Zander; the Juilliard and Borromeo String Quartets; Speculum Musicae; cellists Eric Bartlett and Andrés Díaz; pianists Sara

David Buechner and Jonathan Bass; and singers Robert Honeysucker, Matthew DiBattista, and D'Anna Fortunato.

Scope and Content Note

The Larry Bell papers, dating from 1965 to 2013, document the composer's career through published scores, sketches, programs, clippings, correspondence, subject files, writings, and photographs.

About 130 scores and sketches comprise the majority of the collection. With the exception of two scores by Gregory Kosteck and one by Roger Sessions, all are for music by Bell. Most of the scores, dating from 1970 to 2013, were published by Bell's company, Casa Rustica Publications. Bell's music is arranged by opus number, which roughly matches chronological order. Two scores that do not bear opus numbers are at the end of Bell's score list. Loose sketches and sketchbooks are integrated with the score files, with the exception of sketchbooks containing work on more than one composition. These are arranged chronologically under Sketches at the end of the score list.

Scores for Gregory Kosteck's fourth and fifth string quartets are dedicated to Bell, and the score for the fourth includes Bell's analysis of the work. Roger Sessions' *Adagio for Piano Solo* (1947) was discovered by Andrea Olmstead in 2006 and published by Casa Rustica.

Clippings and programs cover Bell's career from 1973 to 2013. Bell's correspondence is with musicians such as Ursula Oppens, Ken Frazelle, and Daniel Horn, as well as with orchestras and friends. It also includes contracts. Among the other files are documentation of performances of Bell's *Sacred Symphonies*; the unpublished manuscript of *Larry Bell: Portrait of a Composer as a Young Man*, a book by Andrea Olmstead; an article by Bell about Vincent Persichetti titled "Reflections On Reflective Keyboard Technique"; Bell's instructional books on composition and solfège; photographs of Bell; information on commissions; correspondence with the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation and the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters; and a list of Bell's compositions.

Arrangement: The papers are arranged alphabetically by subject or format. Scores are arranged by composer. Bell's scores are arranged by opus number.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Clippings (information artifacts)
Correspondence
Photographs
Programs (documents)
Scores
Writings (document genre)

Occupations

Composers
Musicians

Subjects

Composers -- United States

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 50th Birthday Party 2002
- b. 1 f. 2 American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters 1976-1977
- b. 1 f. 3 Boston Conservatory Programs 1980s-1992
- b. 1 f. 4 Broadcast Music, Inc 1980-2010
- b. 1 f. 5 Commissions 1985-2007
- b. 1 f. 6 Composition List 2013
- b. 1 f. 7 *A Composition Workbook* 2002
- b. 1 f. 8-9 Correspondence 1972-2011
- b. 1 f. 10 Harpsichord CD 2011
- b. 1 f. 11 *Holy Ghosts* 2007
- b. 1 f. 12 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation 1981-1982
- b. 1 f. 13 Kennedy Center Friedheim Awards 1985
- b. 1 f. 14 *Larry Bell: Portrait of a Composer as a Young Man by Andrea Olmstead* 2002
- b. 1 f. 15 Photographs 1974-1985
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- b. 2 f. 1-5 1973-2013
- b. 3 f. 1-5 1983-2013
- b. 4 f. 1 Radnofsky, Kenneth 1996-2000
- b. 4 f. 2 "Reflections On Reflective Keyboard Technique" 1993
- b. 4 f. 3 The Rockefeller Foundation 1984
- b. 4 f. 4 Russe Philharmonic Orchestra 1996
- b. 4 f. 5-6 *Sacred Symphonies Performances* 1987-1996
- Scores and Sketches
- Bell, Larry
- b. 5 f. 1 *Arrival and Novellette for String Quartet, Op. 1 and 1A* 1970
- b. 4 f. 7 *Domination of Black: A Madrigal for Five Solo Voices, Op. 2* 1971
- b. 4 f. 8 *Continuum for Chamber Orchestra, Op. 3* 1971
- b. 5 f. 2 *Mirage for Flute and Piano, Op. 4* 1972
- b. 6 f. 1 *Eclogue for Saxophone Quartet, Op. 5* 1973
- b. 5 f. 3 *String Quartet No. 1, Op. 6* 1973
- b. 4 f. 9 *Variations for Piano, Op. 7* 1974
- b. 4 f. 10 *Reality is an Activity of the Most August Imagination for Voice and Piano, Op. 8* 1976
- Grand Sonata, Op. 10* 1977
- b. 5 f. 4 For Piano Four Hands
- b. 6 f. 2 Partial Orchestration
- b. 4 f. 11 *Caprice for Solo Cello, Op. 12* 1978
- b. 5 f. 5 *The Idea of Order at Key West for Violin and Soprano, Op. 13* 1981
- b. 5 f. 6 *Prologue and End of the World for Chorus, Op. 14* 1982
- b. 4 f. 12 *Miniature Diversions for Piano, Op. 15* 1983

Scores and Sketches (cont.)

Bell, Larry (cont.)

- b. 5 f. 7 *String Quartet No. 1, Op. 16* 1982
- b. 7 f. 1 *Fantasia on an Imaginary Hymn, Op. 17* 1983
- b. 4 f. 13 *Sleep Song: A Lullaby for Violin and Piano, Op. 18* 1984
- b. 4 f. 14 *Incident for Baritone Voice and Piano, Op. 19* 1984
- b. 4 f. 15 *Four Sacred Songs for Soprano and Piano, Op. 20* 1984
Revivals for Piano, Op. 21 1984
- b. 4 f. 16 Sketches
- b. 7 f. 2 Score
- b. 4 f. 17 *First Tango in London for Piano, Op. 22* 1985
Sacred Symphonies for Orchestra, Op. 23 1985
- b. 7 f. 3 Sketches
- b. 6 f. 3-4 Sketches
- b. 8 f. 1 Score
- b. 8 f. 2 *Celestial Refrain for Guitar, Op. 24* 1985
- b. 8 f. 3 *River of Ponds for Cello and Piano, Op. 25* 1986
- b. 8 f. 4 *The Evangelicals for Two Pianos, Op. 26* 1986
- b. 8 f. 5 *A Sacred Harp, Op. 27* 1986
- b. 8 f. 6-7 *The Black Cat for Narrator, Cello, and Piano, Op. 28* 1987
- b. 8 f. 8 *In Memory of Roger Sessions for Solo Violin, Op. 29* 1987
- b. 8 f. 9 *The Parable of the Parabola, Op. 30* 1988
- b. 8 f. 10 *The Book of Moonlight for Violin and Piano, Op. 31* 1988
- b. 8 f. 11 *Concerto for Oboe and Five Instruments, Op. 32* 1988
- b. 9 f. 1-2 *Concerto for Oboe and Five Instruments, Op. 32* 1988
- b. 9 f. 3-4 *Piano Concerto, Op. 33* 1989
- b. 7 f. 4 *Piano Sonata, Op. 34* 1990
- b. 6 f. 5 *Late Night Thoughts on Listening to Mahler's Ninth Symphony, Op. 35* 1991
- b. 9 f. 5 *Piano Quartet, Op. 36* 1991
- b. 9 f. 6 *Blues Theme with Variations, Op. 37* 1992
- b. 9 f. 7 *What Goes Around Comes Around for Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Viola, Cello, and Piano, Op. 38* 1992
- b. 9 f. 8 *Quintessence for Woodwind Quintet, Op. 39* 1993
Idumea Symphony for Orchestra, Op. 40 1996
- b. 9 f. 9 Score
- b. 6 f. 6-7 Orchestration Manuscripts
- b. 9 f. 10 *Four Pieces in Familiar Style for Two Violins, Op. 41* 1994
- b. 9 f. 11 *A Cry Against the Twilight: Madrigals for Five Solo Voices, Op. 42* 1998
- b. 10 f. 1 *Mahler in Blue Light for Alto Saxophone, Violoncello, and Piano, Op. 43*
1996
- b. 10 f. 2 *Song and Dance: A Divertimento for Chamber Orchestra, Op. 44* 1997
- b. 10 f. 3 *The Sentimental Muse: Concerto for Bassoon and Orchestra, Op. 45* 1997
- b. 10 f. 4 *Reminiscences and Reflections: Twelve Preludes and Fugues for Piano, Op. 46* 1998

Scores and Sketches (cont.)

Bell, Larry (cont.)

- b. 10 f. 5 *Short Symphony for Band, Op. 47* 1999
- b. 10 f. 6 *Harmonium for Brass Quartet, Op. 48* 1998
- b. 10 f. 7 *Two Haiku, Op. 49* 1999
- b. 10 f. 8 *The Immortal Beloved for Mezzo-Soprano and Piano, Op. 50* 1999
- b. 10 f. 9 *Caprice No. 2 for Flute, Op. 51* 1999
- b. 10 f. 10 *Ten Poems of William Blake for Soprano and Piano, Op. 53* 2003
- b. 10 f. 11 *Caprice No. 3 for Alto Recorder, Op. 54* 2000
- b. 6 f. 8 *Songs of Innocence and Experience for Children's Chorus and Orchestra, Op. 55* 2000
- b. 10 f. 12 *Caprice No. 4 for Solo Marimba, Op. 56* 2000
- b. 10 f. 13 *Caprice No. 5 for Alto Saxophone, Op. 57* 2001
- b. 11 f. 1 *Shakespeare Sonnets for Tenor and Piano, Op. 58* 2001
- b. 11 f. 2 *Hansel and Gretel: A Fable for Narrator and Orchestra, Op. 59* 2001
- b. 11 f. 3 *Four Lyrics for Trumpet and Piano, Op. 60* 2001
- b. 11 f. 4 *Tâla for Piano, Op. 61* 2003
- b. 11 f. 5 *Just As I Am for Violin and Piano, Op. 62* 2002
- b. 11 f. 6 *Songs of Time and Eternity for Soprano and Piano, Op. 64* 2002
- b. 11 f. 7 *Suite from Hansel and Gretel for Piano, Op. 65* 2003
- b. 11 f. 8 *Tarab for Double Cello Quartet, Op. 66* 2003
- b. 11 f. 9 *Four Choral Preludes for Piano, Op. 67, No. 1* 2003
- b. 11 f. 10 *Spirituals: A Chamber Symphony for Ten Players, Op. 68* 2004
- b. 11 f. 11 *Liturgical Suite for Organ, Op. 69* 2004
- b. 11 f. 12 *The Triumph of Lightness: A Concerto for Violoncello and Orchestra, Op. 70* 2011
- b. 11 f. 13 *String Quartet No. 3, Op. 71* 2004
- b. 12 f. 1 *Elegy for Piano, Op. 72* 2005
- b. 12 f. 2 *Caprice No. 6 for Clarinet Solo, Op. 73* 2005
- b. 12 f. 3 *Pop Set for Double Bass and Piano, Op. 74* 2005
- b. 6 f. 9 *Caprice No. 7: Echo and Narcissus for Vibraphone and Piano, Op. 75* 2005
- b. 12 f. 4 *Dark Orange Partita for Violin Solo, Op. 76* 2005
- b. 6 f. 10 *Dark Orange Concerto for Viola and Winds, Op. 77* 2005
- b. 6 f. 11 *Two Encores for Double Cello Quartet, Op. 78, No. 1* 2006
- b. 12 f. 5 *Dream Within A Dream for High Voice and Piano, Op. 79, No. 1* 2006
- b. 6 f. 12 *Holy Ghosts No. 1 - Chorale Prelude No. 1 for Wind Ensemble, Op. 80, No. 1* 2006
- b. 12 f. 6 *Music of the Spheres for Piano, Op. 82* 2006
- b. 12 f. 7 *Piano Sonata No. 3, Op. 83* 2006
- b. 12 f. 8 *Serenade for Guitar, Op. 84* 2006
- b. 12 f. 9 *Poems for Trumpet and Piano, Op. 85, No. 1* 2006
- b. 7 f. 5 *Fall: Autumnal Raptures, Op. 86* 2006
- b. 12 f. 10 *Choral Fantasia on Unchanging Love for Vocal Soloists, Chorus, and Piano, Op. 87* 2010

Scores and Sketches (cont.)

Bell, Larry (cont.)

- b. 12 f. 11 *Unchanging Love for Organ and Brass Quintet, Op. 88* 2007
- b. 13 f. 1 *David and "Old Ironsides" for Narrator and Orchestra, Op. 89* 2007
- b. 12 f. 12 *Holy Ghosts: An Opera in Two Acts, Op. 90* 2007
- b. 12 f. 13 *Remembering Al for Solo Piano, Op. 91* 2007
- b. 12 f. 14 *Exaltation of Snowy Stars for Mezzo-Soprano and Piano, Op. 92* 2007
- b. 12 f. 15 *Duet from Holy Ghosts for Tenor and Soprano, Op. 93* 2007
- b. 12 f. 16 *Contempo for Two Pianos, Op. 94* 2008
- b. 12 f. 17 *Caprice No. 8, Wayfaring Stranger for Solo Trumpet, Op. 95* 2008
- b. 7 f. 6 *Fifteen Two-Part Inventions for Piano, Op. 96, No. 1* 2008
- b. 12 f. 18 *Partita No. 1 for Harpsichord, Op. 97* 2009
- b. 7 f. 7 *Serenade No. 2 for Alto Recorder, Harpsichord, and 'Cello, Op. 98* 2010
- b. 7 f. 8 *III. Spring: In a Garden of Dreamers for Baritone and Harpsichord, Op. 99*
2009
- b. 7 f. 9 *Summer: The Fragrant Pathway of Eternity for Soprano and Guitar, Op. 100* 2009
- b. 14 f. 1 *Partita No. 2 for Harpsichord, Op. 102* 2010
- b. 14 f. 2 *Psalm I for Vocal Soloists and Organ, Op. 103* 2010
- b. 14 f. 3 *Psalm 23 for Soprano and Organ, Op. 104* 2010
- b. 14 f. 4 *Psalm 150 for Chorus and Organ, Op. 105* 2010
- b. 14 f. 5 *Psalm 96 for Chorus and Organ, Op. 106* 2010
- b. 14 f. 6 *Baroque Concerto for Alto Recorder, Harpsichord, 'Cello, and Strings, Op. 107* 2010
- b. 14 f. 7 *The Ecolocations of Cellos for Tenor, Mezzo-Soprano, Baritone, Soprano, Harp, Piano, Harpsichord, and Guitar, Op. 108* 2010
- b. 14 f. 8 *Piano Etudes, Book I, Op. 109, No. 1* 2010
- b. 14 f. 9 *'Cello Suite, Op. 110* 2010
- b. 14 f. 10 *Serenade No. 3 for Trumpet, Tenor Saxophone, and Piano, Op. 111* 2010
- b. 14 f. 11 *Serenade No. 4 Lonesome Valley for Clarinet, Violin, and Piano, Op. 112*
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- b. 14 f. 12 *Emersonia: A Unitarian Service for Chorus, Op. 113, No. 1* 2011
- b. 14 f. 13 *Revels: A Song Cycle for Baritone and Piano, Op. 114, No. 1* 2011
- b. 14 f. 14 *INGS: Ten Bagatelles for Solo Piano, Op. 115, No. 1* 2011
- b. 14 f. 15 *Twelve Lyric Preludes for Piano Solo, Op. 116, No. 1* 2012
- b. 15 f. 1 *Fancies for Tenor Voice and Piano, Op. 117, No. 1* 2012
- b. 15 f. 2 *Trois Préludes Non Mesurés Avec Fugues, Op. 118, No. 1* 2012
- b. 15 f. 3 *Songs of Reconciliation for Soprano and Orchestra, Op. 120, No. 1* 2013
- b. 15 f. 4 *Invocation for Piano and Unison Voices, Op. 121* 2013
- b. 13 f. 2 *Fanfare for Orchestra* 1971
- b. 7 f. 10 *Poems of Our Climate for Voice and Piano 1977-1978*
Unfinished.
- b. 15 f. 5-9 *Sketches 1965-2007*
- Kosteck, Gregory
- b. 13 f. 3 *String Quartet No. 4* 1971

Scores and Sketches (cont.)

Kosteck, Gregory (cont.)

- b. 15 f. 10 *String Quartet No. 5* 1974
- b. 15 f. 11 *Sessions, Roger: Adagio for Piano Solo* 1947
- b. 15 f. 12 Sherman, Robert 1992, 1999
- b. 15 f. 13 *The Solfège Book: A Two-Year Curriculum for Students and Teachers, Year One* 2005
- b. 15 f. 14 Stella, Frank 1985, 1998