

UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES
HENRY MADDEN LIBRARY
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

JACK FORTNER (1935-)

PAPERS, 1963-2005
3 linear feet

ACQUISITION: The collection was donated by Jack Fortner in 2002, 2005.

ACCESS: The papers are open for research.

COPYRIGHT: Copyright has been transferred to California State University, Fresno.

PROCESSED BY: Heather Crowder, 2003. Adam Wallace, 2006.

Biography

Jack Fortner was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in 1935. He began the study of composition at the Julliard School of Music in New York in 1960. He received his bachelor's degree in music at Aquinas College in 1959 and his master's degree in music and A. Mus. D. (Doctor of Musical Arts) at the University of Michigan in 1965 and 1968, respectively. He was a conductor and member of the composition faculty at the University of Michigan from 1966 to 1970. In 1970, he joined the composition faculty at California State University, Fresno.

In addition to teaching, he served as the music director of the Sinfonia Chamber Orchestra in Grand Rapids, Michigan, from 1964 to 1967 and the Merced (California) Symphony from 1971 to 1977. He was the assistant conductor of the Grand Rapids Symphony from 1964 to 1965 and the conductor of the Contemporary Directions Ensemble at the University of Michigan from 1966 to 1970. Fortner has also served as a guest conductor of the Detroit Symphony and in Germany and Romania. He is also the artistic director of Orpheus, a professional chamber music ensemble dedicated to the presentation of unusual music of all eras.

Some of his most well known compositions are *Trois Gymnopédies*, *Sonnets* and *Für Eloisa*. Of note is his piece called *Symphonies*, which he composed for the celebration of the 1,200th anniversary of the founding of the city of Münster, Germany. All of these compositions are included in this collection.

Jack Fortner has received numerous awards and commissions for his work, including the 1966 International Composition Prize, the 1967 Rome Prize Fellowship, and grants from the Martha Baird Rockefeller Foundation. He also received awards from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers in 1967, 1968, and 1969. His music is published in Europe by Editions Jobert, Paris, and in the United States by Theodore Presser Company, Philadelphia.

Scope and Content Note

The Jack Fortner papers measure 3 linear feet and date from 1961 to 2005. The collection is arranged in eight series: Correspondence, CSUF Orchestra, Compositions, Merced Symphony Orchestra, Newspaper clippings, Orpheus programs, Programs and posters, and Sketches.

The **Artwork** series (1976) contains an original ink drawing by Fortner.

The **Correspondence** series (1992 and undated) contains letters about the music piece Symphonies. Also included in this series are some of Fortner's notes about music.

The **California State University Fresno**, series (1971-1998) contains programs, play-lists, and articles pertaining to Fortner's time as head of the CSUF music department and conductor of the orchestra.

The **Compositions** series (1963 and undated) contains some completed compositions by Fortner, including *Il Combattimento di Fiati, Ottoni, e la Batteria*.

The **Merced Symphony Orchestra** series (1971-1977) contains programs and play-lists from performances of the orchestra conducted and composed by Fortner.

The **Newspaper clippings** series (1969-29004) contains newspaper articles written about Fortner's conducting and performances as well as his musical group, Orpheus.

The **Orpheus programs** series (1978-2005) contains programs from the performances of the chamber ensemble headed by Fortner.

The **Programs and posters** series (1961-2005) contains play-lists, posters and programs from concerts and music festivals where Fortner either conducted or his songs were performed.

The **Sketches** series (1964-2002 and undated) comprises the great majority of the collection. It contains many songs written by Fortner, such as *Trois Gymnopédies*, *Sonnets* and *Symphonies*.

Box no. Description

Box 1

Artwork

Ink drawing, 1976 [oversize: in box 12]

Correspondence

Letters about *Symphonies*, 1992 and undated

Notes (handwritten), undated

California State University Fresno, Orchestra

1971-1998

Compositions

Composition sketches, undated

Il Combattimento di Fiati, Ottoni, e la Batteria, undated [shelved in map case A,
drawer 25]

Lo Spécchio, 1963

Song and Dance, undated

Merced Symphony Orchestra

1971-1974/1975

1974/1975-1976/1977

Box 2

Newspaper clippings

Conducting and Composing

1969-2004 and undated

Orpheus

1978-2003 and undated

Orpheus programs

1978-1988

1989-1997

1997-1999

1999-2001

2001-2003

2003-2005

Box 3

Programs and posters

1961-1979

1980-1991

Box no. Description

Box 3 (cont.)

Programs and posters (cont.)

1992-1998

1999-2002

2003-2005 and undated [1 oversize folder shelved in box 12]

Box 4

Sketches

Amanhã e Amanhã e Amanhã. . ., 2001-2002

Aurora, 2002 and undated (2 folders)

Aurora Redux, 2004 and undated

Blanche and Prieto, 2002

Bossa Baixa, 2003

Burleske, 1964-1966 and undated

Box 5

CHART, 1976 and undated

Chiaroscuro, 1996-1997 and undated

Concert piece (1 folder)

Concerto

General, undated

Concerto I, undated

Concerto II, 1989 and undated

Concerto III, 1990-1991 and undated

Concerto IV, 1991 and undated

Miscellaneous, 1985-1992 and undated [shelved in oversize box 12]

Dark Music, 1998-2000 and undated

Box 6

De plus en plus, undated

Dickinson Songs, 1976, 1982 and undated

Études for Two Cellists, 1995-1996 and undated

Farben II, 2000 and undated

Box 7

Festive piece for Alexander Calder, undated

Flow chart I, 1974

Found Objects, undated [shelved in oversize box 12]

Frammento Cantundo, 2004-2005

Für Eloisa, 1993 and undated

Box no. Description

Box 7 (cont.)

Sketches (cont.)

Il Combattimento, 1997-2002 and undated
June dawns, undated
Miscellaneous, undated (folder 1)

Box 8

Miscellaneous, undated (folder 2)
Musikalishes Opfer, undated
Pas de Quatre, 1987-1988 and undated
Prelude to an Opera: The House of Atreus, undated
Quadri, undated

Box 9

Quartet (1 folder)
 Sketch for movement, 1966-1968
 Miscellaneous, undated
6 for Brass, undated
Sonata for Violin and Piano, 1963
Sonnets (1 folder)
 Sonnets I, 1991-1992 and undated
 Sonnets II, 1993-1994
Sonnets (1 folder) (cont.)
 Sonnets III, 1994 and undated
 Sonnets IV, 1994
 Miscellaneous, 1991-1994 and undated
S pr ING, 1965 and undated

Box 10

Symphonies [1 folder and 1 oversize folder shelved in box 7]
 General, 1992 and undated
 Advertisement for *Symphonies*, undated
 Paper about *Symphonies*, undated
 Symphony I: Spiel/Spieler/Spielerei, 1992 and undated
 Symphony II: Farben, 1992 and undated
 Symphony III: Prozession, 1992 and undated
Trois Gymnopédies, 1989-1990 and undated
What a Meandertalltale to Unfurl, 2002-2003 and undated

Box no. Description

Box 11

Sketches (cont.)

Windsong, 2003-2004 and undated (2 folders)

Woodwind Quintet Score, 1988

Box 12

Oversize:

Artwork

Ink drawing, 1976

Programs and posters

2004

Sketches

Concert pieces

Miscellaneous, 1985-1992 and undated

Found Objects, undated

Symphonies, undated