

UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES
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ARTHUR C. BERDAHL (1906-1989)

PAPERS, 1924-1989
7.5 linear feet

ACQUISITION: The papers were donated by Mrs. Berdahl in 1989.

ACCESS: The papers are open for research.

AUDIOVISUAL: Magnetic tapes in box 5 and records in box 7.

COPYRIGHT: Copyright has not been transferred to California State University, Fresno.

PHOTOGRAPHS: In boxes 5 and 7.

PROCESSED BY: Heather Crowder, 2001.

Biography

Arthur C. Berdahl was born on September 26, 1906, in South Dakota. In 1927 he received an A.B. at Augustana College and an M.A. and Ph.D. at the State University of Iowa (now the University of Iowa) in 1931 and 1936, respectively. During the summer sessions of 1930 to 1934 he taught music at the State University of Iowa and in the summer of 1936 he conducted the symphony orchestra there.

Berdahl came to Fresno State Teachers College (now California State University, Fresno) in 1932 to teach music. During his time at Fresno State, he formed the Fresno State College Symphony Orchestra, which performed free concerts from 1932 to 1954. From 1943 to 1955 he was the head of the Music department. After stepping down as head of the department, he taught Music Theory and Music Appreciation and continued to conduct the college orchestra. In 1952, he performed his oratorio *Judas Iscariot*, to celebrate his 20th year of teaching at Fresno State. He retired from teaching in 1970.

Outside of teaching, he was also very involved with music in the community. In 1939, Berdahl became the director of the Fresno Symphony Orchestra. Later, in 1954, the Fresno Philharmonic Orchestra was formed. This orchestra was an extension of Berdahl's college and community orchestras. He was also the musical director of the Central California Symphony Association.

Arthur C. Berdahl died in Fresno on June 19, 1989.

Scope and Content Note

The Arthur C. Berdahl papers measure 7.5 linear feet and date from 1924 to 1989.

The Class notes contain handouts about music that Berdahl used as teaching supplements for his Music Theory and Music Appreciation classes.

The Compositions were all written by Berdahl and include the sketches and drafts for each song before it was finished. Some of the songs were published and have copyrights reserved for Berdahl. The composition that Berdahl is most renowned for is his oratorio *Judas Iscariot*. Included is a complete set of individual orchestra parts for *Judas Iscariot*. A complete bound score of the song is also included and is shelved in oversize box 7.

The Concert and performance programs are from pieces that Berdahl conducted, performed in, or directed. These range from performances at various churches, the Fresno Philharmonic Orchestra, Fresno State College, the State University of Iowa, and the Fresno

Scope and Content Note (cont.)

Symphony Orchestra.

Included in Correspondence are various letters to and from Berdahl that pertain to his music. Some of the letters are to music publishers, to whom Berdahl wrote in the hope of getting his music compositions published.

The *Hockett-Cowan Hour* was a radio show that Berdahl put on weekly. He was the spokesman for the show.

There is an interview done with Berdahl in 1976 on reel-to-reel tapes.

The Recordings contain records and reel-to-reel magnetic tapes of songs by Berdahl.

The Scores and songbooks are from published sources that he later used in composing his own songs and include notes made by Berdahl.

The Scrapbooks primarily contains newspaper clippings and pictures that Berdahl acquired over the years. Included are newspaper articles about the basketball team that he coached and other articles pertaining to things outside of his professional career. Berdahl's funeral announcement is laid in one of the scrapbooks.

Box no. Description

Box 1

Class notes, undated

Compositions

Affirmation and Hymn, undated

Alleluia! Christ Is Risen, 1973

American Faith and A Little Te Deum, 1973

Baptism Hymn, 1973

Blue Moon Dance #1, 1974

Built on the Rock the Church Doth Stands, 1957

Canonic Variations on a Second Theme: A Christmas Jubilation in 5 Voices, 1964

Canzonétta, 1931

Cardinal Fight Song, undated

Carol for Children on Christmas Morning (a cappella), 1958

Carol for Children on Christmas Morning (baritone solo), 1958

A Child's Dream, 1983

A Choral Benediction, 1973

A Choral Invocation, 1977

Choral Invocation, 1982

Choral Responses, 1967

Christmas Greetings, 1978-1980 and 1982-1983

A Christmas Song, 1930

A Communion Prayer, undated

Descant, 1966

Ding, Dong! Bells and Carolers—A Christmas Round, 1958, 1960 and 1965

A Dirge, 1931

Epithalamium, 1952 and 1964

Fanfare For 3 Trumpets, 1979

Festival Fanfare, 1967

4 Fold Amen, 1983

Fragment for Orchestra, undated

Fresno State College Rally Songs, undated

Gavotte, 1924

Giants in the Mist, undated

Goin' Home, 1929

Graduals, 1967

He Is Risen! Alleluia!, 1977

Henry Cowell: Big Song, 1945

Horn Quartets, undated

How Do I Love Thee, 1931, 1966 and 1977

Box no. Description

Box 1 (cont.)

Compositions (cont.)

How Great the Dream, 1975
I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve, 1967
I See His Blood upon the Rose (unfinished), undated
Introduction to Spring, 1973
Introit, 1975
Introit for Easter Monday Until Ascension Day, 1962
Introit for Easter Sunday, 1968
An Introit for Palm Sunday, undated
Judas Iscariot, 1938
 Complete bound score [shelved in oversize box 7]
 Individual orchestra parts
 Folder 1

Box 2

Folders 2-6

Julekveld, 1973
Land-Sighting, 1930
Lillium Regis, 1934
Love Song, 1963
Lullaby, 1970, 1975 and 1977
Lullaby for the Baby Jesus, 1973
Lullaby of the Infant Jesus, 1935, 1958, 1967 and 1975
Melankolsk Melodi, 1938
Mellow Breezes, 1977
Melody for Contra Bass and Piano, 1970
Melody for Violin and Piano, 1938
A Mighty Fortress Is Our God, 1967 (2 folders)
Mini-Suite: Spring Lights, 1972
Mutability, 1938
Neath the Crust of an Old Apple Pie, undated
Now Sleeps the Crimson Petal, undated
Now the Day is Over, undated
O Come Let Us Sing Unto the Lord, 1975
O Sanctissima, 1961
Of the Father's Love Begotten, 1965
On the Road to Mandalay, undated
Part Of Your Life, 1974
And Peder Led the Rear (unfinished), undated

Box no. Description

Box 2 (cont.)

Compositions (cont.)

Phillis Has Such Charming Graces, 1931

Praise the Lord All Ye People, 1974

Psalm 23, 1952, 1957 and 1977

Psalm 48, 1931

Psalm 61, 1932

Psalm 67, 1932

Box 3

Psalm 117, 1964

Psalm 130, 1933

Psalm 150, 1952

Requiem for Grace, 1974

Rise Up, O Men Of God, 1960

Ruth 1:16, 1982 and 1983

Silent Night, 1958

Solitude, 1971

Song of the Creche, 1960 and 1970

String Quartet in C Minor, 1929

Surely He Hath Borne Our Grievs, undated

There Is a Laddie, 1929

This Is the Day, 1969

Threnos, 1931

Thy Little Ones Dear Lord Are We, undated

To Cliff and Berna on Their Wedding Day, 1930

Unfinished manuscripts and sketches, undated (3 folders)

Veni Emmanuel With 3 Voice Canonic Descant, 1961

We Gather, Dear Jesus, 1967

Wesley's Song, 1934, 1944, 1952, 1963 and 1977

Why Is Night?, 1930, 1944, 1952, 1957, 1963, 1973, 1977 and 1980

Wide Open Are Thine Arms, 1974

Widor, undated

Concert and performance programs

Church, 1959-1985

Fresno Philharmonic Orchestra, 1954-1974 (2 folders)

Fresno State College, 1932-1989 (3 folders)

Folder 1

Box 4

Folders 2-3

Fresno Symphony Orchestra, 1937-1942

Box no. Description

Box 4 (cont.)

Concert and performance programs (cont.)
State University of Iowa, 1931-1954
Correspondence, 1930-1984 (A-Z, 29 folders)
Fresno symphony orchestra
Correspondence, 1935-1938
Newspaper clippings, 1935-1938, 1952 and undated
Notes, undated
Orchestra members, undated
Sponsors, undated

Box 5

Interview with Berdahl (4 magnetic tapes), 1976
Newspaper clippings, 1932-1981 and undated (2 folders)
Photographs
Fiorello, 1966
Fresno State Symphony Orchestra, 1952-1953 season
Fresno State Symphony Orchestra, 1954 [shelved in oversize box 7]
Judas Iscariot, 1938
Play scripts
Beggar's Opera, undated
Bye Bye Birdie, 1963
Fifth International Festival, 1937
Fiorello, 1966
Messiah, 1939
Press reviews of *Judas Iscariot*, 1938 and 1952
Radio show
Hockett-Cowan Hour, 1949-1951 (3 folders)
Recordings
Magnetic tapes
Alumni Day Concert, 1977
Assorted songs (3 tapes), 1974 and undated
Beau Marché USA, 1964
California Writers and Artists Centennial Program (2 tapes), 1956
Chamber Orchestra, 1976
A Communion Prayer, undated
Fresno Philharmonic Youth Concert, 1977
Guys N Dolls, 1959
Judas Iscariot (2 tapes), 1956
Judas Iscariot and assorted songs, 1956
Overture to "Der Freischutz," 1968

Box no. Description

Box 5 (cont.)

Recordings (cont.)

Records

Berdahl's own music and scores, 1964 [shelved in oversize box 7]

Judas Iscariot (4 records), 1952 [shelved in oversize box 7]

Scrapbooks [shelved in oversize box 7]

Box 6

Scores and songbooks

Warnor's Theater Project

Correspondence, 1972

Newspaper clippings, 1971-1973

Notes, 1972-1973 and undated

Box 7

Oversize:

Compositions

Judas Iscariot, 1938

Complete bound score

Photographs

Fresno State Symphony Orchestra, 1954

Recordings

Records

Berdahl's own music and scores, 1964

Judas Iscariot (4 records), 1952

Scrapbooks (14 scrapbooks)