

PRELIMINARY INVENTORY
S0483 (SA2446, SA3156, SA3357, SA3910, SA4452)
NEW MUSIC CIRCLE RECORDS

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis. If you would like more information, please contact us at stlouis@shsmo.org.

Introduction

Approximately 12 cubic feet

New Music Circle (NMC) was founded in 1959 and provided a forum for area composers and musicians. NMC is interested mainly in contemporary and avant-garde music. These records include correspondence, flyers, programs, meeting minutes, one LP recording, one 45 RPM recording, two cassettes, one reel-to-reel, and photographs of the group's activities and concerts.

On April 17, 1959, the Junior Division of the St. Louis Symphony Society presented a benefit concert at the American Theater entitled "Music in Our Time." The purpose of this concert, which featured St. Louis composers and performers, was to raise money for a commissioned symphony to honor the orchestra's 80th Anniversary Season in 1959-60. The sold-out house of about 1400 persons produced a net sum of \$7,500. This amount represented an international record for a contemporary concert.

Elizabeth Gentry Sayad (then Elizabeth Gentry Coleman), the chairman of "Music in Our Time" and three of the composers who were represented on the program---Manus Sasonkin, music reviewer on the Post-Dispatch and graduate consultant at the St. Louis Institute of Music; Robert Wykes and Harold Blumenfeld, composers-in-residence at Washington University---felt that it had been proven that there was an audience, as well as a need, for a forum of new musical works in St. Louis. In early May of 1959, these composers and Mrs. Sayad met with a group of young people from the community who were devoted to the cause of supporting contemporary music. At this time, the New Music Circle was born.

Elizabeth Sayad was one of the major driving forces behind the group. Several illustrious and talented St. Louisans joined her in her efforts. The Founding board members were: Elizabeth Gentry Coleman (now Sayad) (Chairman); John T. Rogers (Treasurer); Edward Corn (Publicity Chairman); Eloise Polk; Louise Conant; Mrs. Charles Baumgarten; Martin Schweig, Jr.; Patricia Krebs; Linda Robertson; Leslie Laskey; Barbara Blake; Nancy Turner; and Rudolph Kremer.

The primary purpose of the NMC is to present contemporary music in the City of St. Louis. The contemporary visual arts have developed a large audience in St. Louis; their reception stimulated local artists. NMC hoped to establish and focus regional attention on St. Louis as a midwestern center for the performance of modern music. The NMC attempted to present new works that represent the best creative efforts of local, national, and foreign composers, as well as twentieth-century classics by the musical pioneers of our time and the experimental works of the avant-garde. The organization also tried to serve the existing audience and to help enlarge it by providing an educational forum through the medium of discussion with the composers at the conclusion of each concert.

S0231 (SA2446, SA3156, SA3357, SA3910, SA4452)
NEW MUSIC CIRCLE RECORDS

In addition, the NMC provides a permanent record of the best of each season through commercial recordings.

The NMC has been active in the St. Louis community for 30 years. Elizabeth Gentry Sayad retired as chairman after seven years of service, but she still supports the group with her multiple talents. Each year the NMC sponsors three concerts, and in some seasons, the group sponsors special events. These special events are usually held on the group's anniversaries, such as the Catalytic Celebration which was held to commemorate the NMC's 10th Anniversary.

Donor Information

The records were donated to the University of Missouri by Elizabeth Gentry Sayad on January 26, 1992 (Accession No. SA2446). An addition was made on June 29, 1994 by Elizabeth Gentry Sayad (Accession No. SA3156). An addition was made on November 19, 1999 by Elizabeth Gentry Sayad (Accession No. SA3357). An addition was made on August 24, 2010 by Anna Lum (Accession No. SA3910). An addition was made on July 28, 2019 by Elizabeth Gentry Sayad (Accession No. SA4452).

Copyright and Restrictions

The Donor has given and assigned to the University of Missouri all rights of copyright which the Donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor's works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the University from others.

Box List

Box 1

Concerts and Projects

- NMC Catalytic Celebration, 1969
- Sensorium, 1969-1970
- NMC season, 1971-1980 (9 folders)
- St. Louis Women's Club participation, 1970-1976

Correspondence

- 1989-1981, no date (23 folders)
- Arts and Education Council of Greater St. Louis, 1963-1967
- Missouri State Council on the Arts, 1974-1975
- Eleanor Newman, 1969-1971

Daily Affairs

- By-Laws, 1964
- Contracts, 1973-1980
- Grants, 1967-1979
- Financial Records, 1961-1979
- KFUO

**S0231 (SA2446, SA3156, SA3357, SA3910, SA4452)
NEW MUSIC CIRCLE RECORDS**

- Meeting minutes, 1961-1979 (14 folders)
- Membership Lists, 1965-1979
- Non-NMC Programs, 1951, 1960-1970
- Program Preparation, 1964-1972
- Public Relations
 - Newspaper Articles, 1959-1981
 - Newspaper Articles, no date
 - News Releases, 1961-1962, 1976, no date

Box 2

- Posters and Flyers
- Programs, 1960-1973
- Program Announcements, 1959-1981
- Scrapbooks, 1961-1966
- Recordings
 - Cassette and Long Playing album: New Music Circles
 - Cassette: The Prince and the Pauper
- Photographs
 - Photographs, 14310-11746

Box 3

Programs and PR, 1981-1986; 1994-2008

Box 4

- New Directions
- CAMA, 2007
- Newspaper Clippings, 1990-1992
- Harmonic Choir
- Tchevepnin, 2003-2004
- To-Do, NMC
- MAAA Grant Proposal
- A&E Camelot, 1987-1988
- Picnic for Elizabeth Gentry Sayad, 1986
- By Laws
- Board Lists
- Meeting Minutes
- Khaduraho
- Michael Hunt
- Income and expenses
- New Music Circle
- Entertainment Coupon
- Annual Picnic

S0231 (SA2446, SA3156, SA3357, SA3910, SA4452)
NEW MUSIC CIRCLE RECORDS

Sheldon
Publicity
BMI
1987-1988 Season
Pure Halloween Potential
Phoenix Rising
Dean Minderman
SEESAW Drumming
Mark Deutsch

Box 5

1960-1980

Box 6

Grants, 1993-2008

Box 7

Programs and PR, 1987-1993
Benefit Invitations, 1980-2009
Events History Compilations, 1960-2009

Box 8

NBA, MAAA, MAC, RAC, A&E, 1983-1993

Box 9

Performances on CD and DAT

Box 10

Performances on CD and DAT

Box 11

Flo's Benefit concert poster Mixed Bag concert poster Catalytic Celebration folder
Bylaws and Correspondence, 1964 Performance posters Performances on CD and DAT

Box 12

Oversize

45 rpm single: "St. Louis is My Home Town"
Reel-to-reel: Goell-Sayad Duo