The Leonard Burkat Papers

MSS 25

Compiled by Curtis Nelson and Adrienne Nesnow

1996-2007

120 High Street
PO Box 208240
New Haven, CT 06520
musicspecialcollections@yale.edu
https://guides.library.yale.edu/MusicSpecialCollections
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Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Yale University Music Library  
120 High Street  
PO Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520  
musicspecialcollections@yale.edu  
https://guides.library.yale.edu/MusicSpecialCollections

**CALL NUMBER:** MSS 25

**CREATOR:** Burkat, Leonard, 1919-1992

**TITLE:** The Leonard Burkat Papers

**DATES:** 1943–1981

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 3 linear feet (4 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** Materials chiefly in English.

**SUMMARY:** Correspondence, music, and photographs by and about the American music librarian, critic, music administrator, recording executive, and program annotator Leonard Burkat (1919-1992)

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/music.mss.0025

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/music.mss.0025.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box  
f. folder

Administrative Information

**Immediate Source of Acquisition**

The Leonard Burkat Papers were established in the Music Library of Yale University by Burkat in 1979.

**Conditions Governing Access**

The Papers are open to researchers by appointment. There are no restricted materials in the collection. Please contact the Special Collections staff to schedule an appointment.
The Leonard Burkat Papers are the physical property of the Irving S. Gilmore Music Library of Yale University. Copyrights belong to the composers and authors, or their legal heirs and assigns.

Preferred Citation

Biographical / Historical
Leonard Burkat was born in Boston, Massachusetts on July 20 or 21, 1919. As a boy, he attended the Boston Latin School and played saxophone and oboe. Later he took courses at Boston University, Harvard University, and the Columbia University School of Library Science. Burkat had several careers in music. He wrote music criticism for the Boston Globe and the Boston Evening Transcript. He worked as a music librarian at the Boston Public Library, and then, beginning in 1946, for the Berkshire Music Center and the Boston Symphony Orchestra; eventually he became the Orchestra’s artistic administrator. In 1963, Burkat joined Columbia Records; by the time of his retirement in 1973, he was a vice-president. In his later years, he established the Leonard Burkat Program Note Service; he wrote program notes for thousands of works, and they were used by hundreds of prominent orchestras and soloists. Leonard Burkat died in Danbury, Connecticut on August 25, 1992.

Scope and Contents
The Leonard Burkat Papers consist primarily of correspondence written to Burkat by composers, conductors, musical performers, and writers. The Papers also contain manuscript corrections from Lukas Foss regarding his Oboe concerto and from William Walton regarding his Cello concerto. Photographs are also included in the Papers.

Arrangement
In four series as follows: I. Correspondence. II. Music. III. Photographs. IV. Original Register.
## Collection Contents
### Series I. Correspondence

For additional correspondence from Lukas Foss and William Walton, see Series II.

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1 item  
1 typed postcard signed | no date    |
| b. 1, f. 1 | Alexander, Josef  
4 items  
1 autograph letter signed  
2 typed letters signed  
1 program notes | 1969–1975  |
| b. 1, f. 2 | Allen, Betty  
1 item  
1 autograph postcard signed | no year [Dec] no date |
| b. 1, f. 3 | Amram, David  
1 item  
1 typed letter signed | 1968 Jul 2  |
| b. 1, f. 4 | Ansermet, Ernest Alexandre  
2 items  
2 envelopes | 1961  |
| b. 1, f. 5 | Avshalomov, Jacob  
3 items  
1 typed letter signed  
1 typed postcard signed  
1 brochure | 1975–1976  |
| b. 1, f. 6 | Babbitt, Milton  
1 item  
1 autograph letter signed | [1967]  |
| b. 1, f. 7 | Baker, Michael C.  
1 item  
1 typed letter signed | 1978 Aug 1  |
| b. 1, f. 8 | Balendonck, Armand  
2 items  
1 typed letter signed  
1 program notes | 1949  |
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| b. 1, f. 9 | Barber, Samuel  
6 items  
2 autograph letters signed  
1 typed letter signed  
2 autograph postcards signed  
1 typed letter signed to Barber |
| b. 1, f. 10 | Bavicchi, John  
4 items  
1 autograph letter signed  
1 program notes  
1 resume |
| b. 1, f. 11 | Berger, Arthur  
1 item  
1 autograph postcard signed |
| b. 1, f. 12 | Bergsma, William Lawrence  
4 items  
1 autograph letter signed  
2 typed letters signed  
1 program notes |
| b. 1, f. 13 | Berio, Luciano  
1 item  
1 card signed |
| b. 1, f. 14 | Berlin, Irving  
2 items  
1 typed letter signed  
1 envelope |
| b. 1, f. 15 | Bernstein, Leonard  
20 items  
10 autograph letters signed  
1 typed letter signed  
3 autograph postcards signed  
1 revision for TV script  
1 news clipping  
2 cards  
2 autograph letters signed from Felicia Bernstein |
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| b. 4, f. 2 | Bland, William  
2 items  
1 autograph letter signed  
1 brief biography | 1981       |
| b. 1, f. 16 | Bolcom, William  
3 items  
2 typed letters signed  
1 program notes | 1974–1975  |
| b. 1, f. 17 | Boulanger, Nadia  
2 items  
1 autograph letter signed  
1 envelope | 1967       |
| b. 1, f. 18 | Brant, Henry Dreyfuss  
2 items  
1 typed letter signed  
1 program notes | 1978       |
| b. 4, f. 3  | Bresnick, Martin  
1 item  
1 program notes | 1979       |
| b. 1, f. 19 | Cantelli, Guido  
1 item  
1 typed letter signed | 1953 Apr 5 |
| b. 1, f. 20 | Casadesus, Robert  
3 items  
2 autograph letters signed  
1 card signed | 1957–1964  |
| b. 1, f. 21 | Castelnuovo-Tedesco, Mario  
2 items  
2 autograph letters signed in French | 1952–1953  |
| b. 1, f. 22 | Chapin, Schuyler  
3 items  
3 typed letters signed | 1973–1974  |
| b. 1, f. 23 | Chavez, Carlos  
1 item  
1 typed letter signed | 1973 Jul 23|
| b. 1, f. 24 | Chiang, Kai-shek, Madame  
1 item  
1 typed letter signed | 1960 Jun 6 |
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<td>1 biography</td>
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| b. 1, f. 48 | Gillis, Don  
1 item  
1 typed letter signed | 1967 Oct 2 |
| b. 1, f. 49 | Ginastera, Alberto  
2 items  
2 cards signed | 1965–1968 |
| b. 1, f. 50 | Goodman, Benny  
1 item  
1 typed letter signed | 1956 Aug 24 |
| b. 1, f. 51 | Gould, Glenn  
4 items  
4 cards signed | 1964 |
| b. 4, f. 15 | Gottlieb, Jack  
2 items  
1 autograph letter signed  
1 photocopied newspaper clipping | 1980 |
| b. 1, f. 52 | Graffman, Gary  
3 items  
1 typed letter signed  
2 autograph postcards signed | 1975–1978 |
| b. 1, f. 53 | Haieff, Alexi  
4 items  
4 autograph letters signed | 1957–1968 |
| b. 1, f. 54 | Healy, Derek  
1 item  
1 autograph letter signed | 1978 Aug 31 |
| b. 1, f. 55 | Henriot, Nicole  
1 item  
1 card signed | 1979 |
| b. 1, f. 56 | Hétu, Jacques  
1 item  
1 autograph letter signed | 1975 Oct 18 |
| b. 1, f. 57 | Hopkins, James  
3 items  
2 typed letters signed  
1 program notes | 1975 |
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2 autograph letters signed | 1967–1968 |
| b. 1, f. 67 | Laderman, Ezra  
1 item  
1 typed letter signed | 1968 Apr 30 |
| b. 4, f. 17 | Lambro, Phillip  
1 item  
1 typed letter signed | 1981 |
| b. 4, f. 18 | Larsen, Libby  
6 items  
1 autograph letter signed  
1 typed letter signed  
1 program notes  
1 biography  
1 resume  
1 photocopied magazine article | 1981 |
| b. 4, f. 19 | Lehmann, Wilfred  
6 items  
1 autograph letter signed  
2 program notes  
1 concert program  
1 press release  
1 business card | 1979 |
| b. 4, f. 20 | Leinsdorf, Erich  
1 item  
1 typed letter signed | 1980 |
| b. 4, f. 21 | Luke, Ray E.  
5 items  
1 typed letter signed  
1 resume  
2 photocopied magazine articles  
1 brochure | 1980 |
| b. 1, f. 70 | Lyon, Laurence  
2 items  
1 typed letter signed  
1 typed letter | 1976 |
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| b. 4, f. 22 | McDermott, Vincent  
2 items  
1 program notes  
1 typed letter signed | 1979       |
| b. 4, f. 23 | McKinley, William T.  
2 items  
1 program notes  
1 autograph letter signed | 1980       |
| b. 2, f. 1 | Makris, Andreas  
4 items  
1 autograph letter signed  
3 program notes | 1977       |
| b. 2, f. 2 | Markevitch, Igor  
1 item  
1 autograph letter signed | 1957 Dec 29 |
| b. 2, f. 3 | Mayer, William  
2 items  
1 typed letter signed  
1 program notes | 1968       |
| b. 2, f. 4 | Messiaen, Olivier  
1 item  
1 autograph letter signed in French | 1950 May 25 |
| b. 2, f. 5 | Milhaud, Darius  
1 item  
1 autograph letter signed | 1963 May 31 |
| b. 2, f. 6 | Monteux, Pierre  
4 items  
4 autograph letters signed | 1958–1960  |
| b. 2, f. 7 | Moore, Margaret  
1 item  
1 typed letter signed | 1978 Aug 14 |
| b. 2, f. 8 | Moore, Marianne  
1 item  
1 typed letter signed | 1966 Dec 11 |
| b. 2, f. 9 | Morawetz, Oskar  
2 items  
1 typed letter signed  
1 program notes | 1968       |
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| b. 2, f. 10 | Muczynski, Robert  
2 items  
1 typed letter signed  
1 program notes | 1978       |
| b. 2, f. 11 | Munch, Charles  
11 items  
7 autograph letters signed  
4 autograph postcards signed  
7 in French | 1959–1967  |
| b. 2, f. 12 | Ormandy, Eugene  
2 items  
1 autograph letter signed  
1 typed letter signed | 1963–1968  |
| b. 2, f. 13 | Pendleton, Edmund  
2 items  
1 typed letter signed in French  
1 program notes | 1951       |
| b. 2, f. 14 | Pepin, Clermon  
1 item  
1 autograph letter signed in French | 1974 Oct 10 |
| b. 2, f. 15 | Perle, George  
2 items  
1 typed letter signed  
1 program notes | 1976       |
| b. 2, f. 16 | Phillips, Burrill  
1 item  
1 typed letter signed | 1967 Dec 5  |
| b. 2, f. 17 | Piatigorsky, Gregor  
2 items  
1 autograph letter signed  
1 card signed | 1959–1967  |
| b. 2, f. 18 | Pinkham, Daniel  
1 item  
1 typed letter signed | 1949 Jan 14 |
| b. 2, f. 19 | Pisk, Paul  
3 items  
1 typed letter signed  
2 program notes | 1948       |
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| b. 2, f. 20 | Piston, Walter  
1 item  
1 autograph letter signed | 1967 Jan 31 |
| b. 2, f. 21 | Poulenc, Francis  
10 items  
10 autograph letters signed in French | 1960–1961 |
| b. 2, f. 22 | Rains, Claude  
1 item  
1 autograph letter signed | 1963 Dec 18 |
| b. 2, f. 23 | Rascher, Sigmund  
1 item  
1 typed letter signed | 1968 May 22 |
| b. 2, f. 24 | Reed, Alfred  
1 item  
1 typed letter signed | 1970 Oct 12 |
| b. 4, f. 24 | Rhodes, Phillip  
9 items  
1 typed letter signed  
1 program notes  
1 biography  
1 biography/program notes  
1 copy of a citation  
3 photocopied newspaper clippings  
1 photocopied magazine article | 1979 |
| b. 2, f. 25 | Ribicoff, Abraham  
8 items  
8 typed letters signed | 1968–1974 |
| b. 2, f. 26 | Richter, Marga  
1 item  
1 autograph letter signed | 1959 Mar 31 |
| b. 2, f. 27 | Ridout, Godfrey  
1 item  
1 autograph letters signed | 1975 May 29 |
| b. 2, f. 28 | Riegger, Wallingford  
1 item  
1 typed letter signed | 1958 Oct 28 |
| b. 2, f. 29 | Rodrigo, Joaquín  
2 items  
2 program notes | no date |
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| b. 2, f. 30 | Romanainova, Dora  
1 item  
1 autograph letter signed | 1968 Jul 19 |
| b. 2, f. 31 | Rorem, Ned  
1 item  
card signed | 1967 |
| b. 2, f. 32 | Rosten, Leo  
1 item  
1 typed letter signed | 1968 Oct 10 |
| b. 2, f. 33 | Rubinstein, Artur  
1 item  
1 autograph letter signed in French | 1958 Jan 20 |
| b. 4, f. 25 | Safire, William  
1 item  
1 typed postcard signed | 1980 |
| b. 2, f. 34 | Salk, Jonas  
1 item  
1 typed letter signed | 1968 Dec 9 |
| b. 4, f. 26 | Sapieyevski, Jerzy  
1 item  
1 program notes | 1979 |
| b. 2, f. 35 | Schoenberg, Arnold  
2 items  
2 typed letters signed | 1949 |
| b. 4, f. 27 | Schuller, Gunther  
2 items  
2 typed letters signed | 1980–1981 |
| b. 2, f. 36 | Schuman, William  
6 items  
3 typed letters signed  
1 envelope  
1 program  
1 copy of letter from Burkat | 1968–1980 |
| b. 4, f. 28 | Schwarz, Gerard  
2 items  
1 typed letter signed  
1 note from Burkat | 1981 |
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| b. 2, f. 37 | Schweitzer, Jean-Jacques  
4 items  
3 autograph letters signed  
1 card signed | 1977–1978 |
| b. 2, f. 38 | Siegmeister, Elie  
2 items  
1 typed letter signed  
1 program notes | no date |
| b. 2, f. 39 | Serkin, Rudolf  
1 item  
1 autograph letter signed | 1958 Oct 5 |
| b. 2, f. 40 | Serly, Tibor  
1 item  
1 program notes | 1970 Feb 4 |
| b. 2, f. 41 | Shapero, Harold  
1 item  
1 autograph postcard signed | 1948 jun 11 |
| b. 2, f. 42 | Sheinfeld, David  
2 items  
1 typed letter signed  
1 program notes | 1969 |
| b. 2, f. 43 | Shostakovich, Dmitri  
2 items  
2 typed letters signed, one in Russian, the other an English translation | 1965 Jul 3 |
| b. 2, f. 44 | Slonimsky, Nicolas  
8 items  
2 typed letters signed  
2 autograph postcards signed  
1 typed postcard signed  
1 obituary list  
1 biography--Wendy Carlos (née Walter)  
1 copy of letter from Burkat | 1972–1981 |
| b. 2, f. 45 | Smit, Leo  
2 items  
1 autograph letter signed  
1 autograph postcard signed | 1957 |
| b. 4, f. 29 | Somers, Harry  
1 item  
1 typed letter signed/program notes | 1981 |
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| b. 2, f. 46 | Starer, Robert  
1 item  
1 autograph letter signed | 1959 May 23 |
| b. 2, f. 47 | Stein, Leon  
3 items  
1 typed letter signed  
2 program notes | 1976 |
| b. 2, f. 48 | Stern, Isaac  
1 item  
1 autograph postcard signed | 1959 May 23 |
| b. 2, f. 49 | Stokes, Eric  
2 items  
1 autograph letter signed  
1 program notes | 1975 |
| b. 2, f. 50 | Stravinsky, Igor  
2 items  
1 autograph letter signed  
1 envelope | 1963 |
| b. 2, f. 51 | Strouse, Charles  
1 item  
1 autograph letter signed | 1966 Apr 1 |
| b. 2, f. 52 | Subotnick, Morton  
1 item  
1 typed letter signed | 1979 Jan 19 |
| b. 2, f. 53 | Surinach, Carlos  
7 items  
1 typed letter signed  
1 brochure  
5 advertisements | 1967 |
| b. 2, f. 54 | Svoboda, Tomas  
7 items  
1 typed letter signed  
4 program notes  
1 envelope  
1 list of performances | 1977–80 |
| b. 2, f. 55 | Szigeti, Joseph  
1 item  
1 autograph letter signed | 1957 Nov 12 |
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| b. 2, f. 56 | Taxin, Ira  
1 item  
1 program notes | 1977 Jun 23 |
| b. 2, f. 57 | Thomson, Virgil  
1 item  
1 typed letter signed | 1969 Jun 14 |
| b. 2, f. 58 | Thorne, Francis  
1 item  
1 typed letter signed | 1973 Feb 6 |
| b. 2, f. 59 | Toch, Ernst  
1 item  
1 autograph letter signed in German | 1956 May 23 |
| b. 2, f. 60 | Tourel, Jennie  
1 item  
1 autograph postcard signed | 1966 Aug 23 |
| b. 2, f. 61 | Trudeau, John  
1 item  
1 typed letter signed | 1978 Apr 3 |
| b. 2, f. 62 | Tuchman, Barbara  
1 item  
1 autograph postcard signed | 1976 Mar 16 |
| b. 4, f. 30 | van Cleave, Kit  
3 typed letters signed  
1 copy of poems from *Day of Love* | 1979 |
| b. 2, f. 63 | Varèse, Edgar  
1 item  
1 autograph letter signed in French | 1950 Nov 4 |
| b. 2, f. 64 | Waldrop, Gideon  
1 item  
1 typed letter signed | 1967 Jan 13 |
| b. 4, f. 31 | Walker, Mark  
1 item  
1 typed letter signed/program notes | 1980 |
| b. 2, f. 65 | Walton, William  
2 items  
2 autograph letters signed | 1963 |

See also Series II
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<td>b. 2, f. 66</td>
<td>Ware, John</td>
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<td>b. 2, f. 69</td>
<td>Yashiro, Akio</td>
<td>1960 Sep 1</td>
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<td>b. 2, f. 71</td>
<td>Burkat, Leonard</td>
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<td>1 Typescript of section of interview by Janet Baker-Carr of Burkat entitled “Leadership in the Arts: A Study on the Relocation of Authority”</td>
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**Series II. Music**

Also includes letters from Lukas Foss and William Walton concerning music in this series.

---

b. 3  
[**Die Natali**] Die Natali; chorale preludes for Christmas, op. 37, c1960.  
*score (2 p.) ; 47 cm.*  
*Barber, Samuel, 1910-1981*  
Holograph signed, in pencil.  
Incomplete copy.

---

b. 3  
[**Symphony, no. 6**] Sixth symphony. (c1955)  
*miniature score (88 p.) ; 26 cm.*  
*Diamond, David Leo, 1915-*  
Cover title.  
Duration: 23 min.  
Rehearsal notes in the composer’s hand (4 leaves. 22 x 14 cm.) for premiere (3/8/57) laid in.

---

b. 3  
[**Concerto, oboe**] Concerto for oboe and orchestra.  
*score (5 leaves: 44, 66, 67-68, 76, 77) ; 34 cm.*  
*Foss, Lukas, 1922-2009*  
Holograph in ink and pencil.  
Incomplete copy.

---

b. 3  
Autograph letters signed, 1951 Jan., no day, Rome, to Burkat.  
*4 p. ; 28 cm.*  
Relates to changes and corrections to be made in his oboe concerto for its premiere with Ralph Gomberg and the Boston Symphony Orchestra under Charles Munch. This letter was enclosed with the copy of the score listed above.

---

b. 3  
[**Concerto, violoncello**] Concerto for violoncello and orchestra.  
*score (2 leaves: 29-30 only) ; 44 cm.*  
*Walton, William, 1902-1983*  
Holograph in ink.  
Incomplete copy.

---

b. 3  
Autograph letters signed, 1956 Nov. 27, Forio d’Ischia, Italy, to Charles Munch.  
*2 p. ; 18 cm.*  
Relates to changes and corrections to be made in the 3rd movement of his ‘cello concerto. This letter was enclosed with a copy of the score listed above.
Series III. Photographs

Except for one photograph of Leonard Bernstein and his family in 1972, all of the photographs in this series were taken at a dinner party at Leonard Burkat’s home in Brookline, Massachusetts on November 13, 1959.

b. 3  Amirov, Fikret; Burgin, Richard; Copland, Aaron; Yarustovsky, Boris
      Call Number: 1

b. 3  Amirov, Fikret; Burkat, Susan; Volkonsky, Andrei
      Call Number: 2

b. 3  Amirov, Fikret; Copland, Aaron; Perry, Helen; Yarustovsky, Boris
      Call Number: 3

b. 3  Amirov, Fikret; Copland, Aaron; Yarustovsky, Boris
      Call Number: 4

b. 3  Burgin, Ruth Posselt; Burkat, Leonard; Kabalevsky, Dmitry; Piston, Walter; Shostakovich, Dmitry; Volkonsky, Andrei
      Call Number: 5

b. 3  Burgin, Ruth Posselt; Koussevitzky, Olga; Munch, Charles; Shostakovich, Dmitry
      Call Number: 6

b. 3  Burkat, Leonard; Kabalevsky, Dmitry; Khrennikov, Tikhon
      Call Number: 7

b. 3  Burkat, Marion; Henriot-Schweitzer, Nicole; Khrennikov, Tikhon
      Call Number: 8

b. 3  Burkat, Marion; Henriot-Schweitzer, Nicole; Khrennikov, Tikhon; Yarustovsky, Boris
      Call Number: 9

b. 3  Dankevich, Konstantin
      Call Number: 10

b. 3  Dankevich, Konstantin; Hirschmann, Henriette
      Call Number: 11-12

b. 3  Kabalevsky, Dmitry; Koussevitzky, Olga; Munch, Charles; Shostakovich, Dmitry
      Call Number: 13

b. 3  Kabalevsky, Dmitry; Piston, Walter
      Call Number: 14

b. 3  Kabalevsky, Dmitry; Shostakovich, Dmitry
      Call Number: 15

b. 3  Shostakovich, Dmitry
      Call Number: 16-18

b. 3  Shostakovich, Dmitry; Piston, Walter (?)
      Call Number: 19

b. 3  Bernstein, Leonard, and family (1972)
      Call Number: 20
Series IV. Original Register

b. 2, f. 72  
*Register to the Leonard Burkat Papers* (original typewritten version).
Includes autobiographical essay by Burkat (4 p.), advertisement for his program note service (2 p.), and Burkat’s comments (14 p.) on the letters he had received and their authors.
Selected Search Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library’s online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects
Composers -- Correspondence
Conductors (Music) -- Correspondence
Music -- United States -- 20th Century

Names
Adaskin, Murray, 1906-2002
Alexander, Josef
Allen, Betty, 1927-2009
Amram, David
Ansermet, Ernest, 1883-1969
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Baker, Michael, 1942-
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Bavicchi, John, 1922-2012
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Berlin, Irving, 1888-1989
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Josephs, Wilfred, 1927-1997
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