

Dorothea Austin Collection

Collection Summary

Repository:	Adelphi University
Creator:	Dorothea Austin
Title:	Dorothea Austin Collection
Inclusive Dates:	1984-1989
Quantity:	2 linear feet (2 oversize boxes)
Abstract:	This collection contains sheet music of compositions by the late Dorothea Austin-Banner. The collection contains some of her autograph scores, full scores, and instrumental parts of scores as well as two pamphlets from performances either involving her music or direction. The included compositions are “Analogy for Viola, Cello, Piano”, “Fantasia for Piano and Orchestra”, “Metamorphosis for Piano and Cello”, “Passages for Flute, Viola, Piano”, “Reflections II”, and “Syndetos for Piano.”
Language:	Collection materials are in English

Biographical History

Dorothea (nee Blaukopf) Austin-Banner was born in 1921 in Vienna, Austria. As a young girl, she was forced to flee Europe because of the effects of World War II and was the only one of her family to survive. She became a concert pianist as a child and went on to study at the Royal College of Music and the Royal Academy of Music, London. While there she also studied performance with Tobias Matthay—one of the most famous instructors of the time. For the rest of her life she was haunted by the death of her family so much that her daughter, Jacqueline, would state that her later works focused “on themes of loss, rage, love and displacement.” (Obituary) She married Dr. Hermann Augapfel (later Harry Austin) who she immigrated to the United States with. They lived together with their family in Valley Stream, New York on Long Island until her husband’s death in 1974.

After a long hiatus, Professor Austin went back to school and got her degree in music composition from Queens College. While Professor Austin attended Queens College, she began to grow fond of 20th century musical concepts, including atonal and electronic composition. Her obituary states that “she was one of the first composers in the United States to use the Moog Synthesizer, and was invited for a year to Sydney, Australia to compose works on the Timbron, another early, but powerful, synthesizer.” (Obituary) Once graduated, she went on to teach music for more than 40 years at Queensborough Community College and helped expand the music department to include a variety of majors from performance to music technology. She retired in 2006 as one of the most beloved faculty in the Queensborough Community College system. Professor Austin’s second husband, Gerson Banner, predeceased her in 2004 and she passed away on June 25th, 2011 at her home in New Hyde Park, New York. She designated that her papers and scores be divided among several institutions, Queensborough Community College, CUNY and Adelphi University.

Scope and Content of the Collection

Pencil Copy Sheet Music, Original Sheet Music, Copy Sheet Music, "Onionskin" Sheet Music , 2 Musical Performance Programs, and 1 Photograph

Administrative Information

Provenance

Material was in the archives prior to 2014.

Preferred Citation

Preferred citation for this material is as follows:

Identification of specific items; Date (if known); Dorothea Austin Collection; Box and folder number; Adelphi University Archives and Special Collections, Garden City, NY.

Processing Information

The Dorothea Austin Collection was processed by Rebecca Gotterbarn in the fall of 2015.

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

The Dorothea Austin Collection is open to research. Photocopies of fragile materials are provided for researchers in lieu of the originals.

Use Restrictions

Single photocopies may be made for research purposes. Permission to publish materials from the collection must be requested from Adelphi University Archives and Special Collections. Researchers are responsible for copyright compliance.

Subject and Genre Headings

People:

Austin, Dorothea, 1922-2011

Corporations:

Queensborough Community College (N.Y.)
Royal College of Music (Great Britain)
Royal Academy of Music (London, England : 1822-)

Subjects:

Women composers--United States.
Sheet music

Places:

Queens (New York, N.Y.)
New Hyde Park (N.Y.)
London (England)
Vienna (Austria)

Occupations:

Arrangement of the Collection

Arranged in 3 series: 1. Scores (alphabetical by title), 2. Pamphlets (alphabetical by title), 3. Photographs (alphabetical by title)

Detailed Description of the Collection

Arrangement of the Collection

Arranged in 3 series: 1. Scores (alphabetical by title), 2. Pamphlets (alphabetical by title), 3. Photographs (alphabetical by title)

Description of the Collection

Series I: Scores

Sub-series A: Analogy for Viola, Cello, Piano

Box	Folder	Title
1	1	Analogy Autograph Score
	2	Analogy Full Score
	3	Analogy Instrumental Part

Sub-series B: Fantasia for Piano and Orchestra

Box	Folder	Title
1	4	Fantasia Autograph Score
	5	Fantasia Full Score
	6	Fantasia Instrumental Part

Sub-series C: Metamorphosis for Piano and Cello

Box	Folder	Title
2	1	Metamorphosis Autograph Score
	2	Metamorphosis Full Score

Sub-series D: Passages for Flute, Viola, Piano

Box	Folder	Title
2	3	Passages Full Score
	4	Passages Instrumental Part

Sub-series E: Reflections II

Box	Folder	Title
2	5	Reflections II Full Score
	6	Reflections II Instrumental Part

Sub-series E: Syndetos for Piano

Box	Folder	Title
2	7	Syndetos Full Score

Series II: Pamphlets

Series Description: Two pamphlets from performances of Dorothea Austin's music and a performance from her time at Queensborough Community College.

Arrangement Note: Alphabetical by Title

Box	Folder	Title
2	8	Pamphlets

Series III: Photographs

Series Description: One headshot of Dorothea Austin in black and white.

Box	Folder	Title
2	9	Photographs