

UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES  
HENRY MADDEN LIBRARY  
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

JACK FORTNER

PAPERS, 1963-2002  
2.5 linear feet

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

ACCESS: The papers are open for research.

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

PROCESSED BY: Heather Crowder, 2003.

## **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 1976. 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 1,200<sup>th</sup> 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 2.5 linear feet and date from 1963 to 2002. The collection is arranged in three series: Correspondence, Compositions, and Sketches.

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

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

**Correspondence**

Letters about *Symphonies*, 1992 and undated  
Notes (handwritten), undated

**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

**Sketches**

*Burleske*, 1964-1966 and undated  
*CHART*, 1976 and undated  
*Chiaroscuro*, 1996-1997 and undated

Box 2

Concert pieces (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 7]  
*De plus en plus*, undated  
*Dickinson Songs*, 1976, 1982 and undated

Box 3

*Études for Two Cellists*, 1995-1996 and undated  
*Festive piece for Alexander Calder*, undated  
*Flow chart 1*, 1974  
*Für Eloisa*, 1993 and undated  
*Il Combattimento*, 1997-2002 and undated

Box 4

*June dawns*, undated  
Miscellaneous, undated (2 folders)

**Box no. Description**

Box 5

**Sketches (cont.)**

*Pas de Quarte*, 1987-1988 and undated

*Quadri*, undated

*Quartet* (1 folder)

Sketch for movement, 1966-1968

Miscellaneous, undated

*6 for Brass*, undated

*Sonnets* (1 folder)

*Sonnets I*, 1991-1992 and undated

*Sonnets II*, 1993-1994

*Sonnets III*, 1994 and undated

*Sonnets IV*, 1994

Miscellaneous, 1991-1994 and undated

Box 6

*S pr ING*, 1965 and undated

*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

Box 7

*Oversize:*

Sketches

Concert pieces

Miscellaneous, 1985-1992 and undated

*Symphonies*, undated