Wright, Wendell G.

Collection, 1957-1997 (bulk 1977-1994), consisting chiefly of audio and video recordings of the Lois J. Wright Memorial Concert Series, as well as papers, concert programs and correspondence related to the series. There is also a collection of scores, including several compositions and arrangements by Gerald Burks Wilson.

18 boxes
Donated by Dorothy Wright, August 2000.

SCOPE NOTE:

Wendell G. Wright, born August 18, 1921, was an East Baltimore native who attended Douglass High School. He had desired to attend the Peabody Conservatory after graduation but was denied admission because he was an African American. He instead took private singing lessons in Baltimore and sang with choirs along the East Coast. He became the first African American to join Baltimore's Handel Choir and performed at the White House at one of President Richard M. Nixon's prayer breakfasts.

Wright devoted his life and resources to helping young singers and musicians. He started the Young Artists Series at St. Katherine's Episcopal Church in the spring of 1977. This soon evolved into the Lois J. Wright Memorial Concert Series, named for Wright's first wife, who passed away that year. The Concert Series encouraged and supported performances by minority classical musicians. Wright's efforts also resulted in the creation of the Community Outreach Committee at the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, where he was appointed chairman of the Inclusion Committee, which brought more African Americans into the orchestra. Additionally, he created "Live, Gifted and Black," an annual concert where African-American artists performed the work of African-American composers with the BSO. Wright died on May 24, 2000, at the age of 78. His second wife Dorothy, to whom he was married in 1978, donated the collection after his death.

The Wendell G. Wright Collection consists primarily of materials relating to the Lois J. Wright Memorial Concert Series. The collection includes nearly 300 reel-to-reel audio tapes of musical performances, most of which are recordings of Concert Series performances. Also relating to the Concert Series are a number of audio cassettes and video cassettes of musical performances. Papers relating to the Concert Series, which include concert programs and correspondence, have been arranged chronologically by concert season. While the Concert Series appears to have continued from 1977 until at least 1997, the collection contains no papers relating to the years 1980 through 1984. The collection also lacks audio and video recordings of the Concert Series beyond the 1993-1994 concert season.

The Wendell G. Wright Collection also includes several published musical scores by black composers, and these consist largely of spiritual arrangements. An interesting component of the collection is a group of twenty scores (both manuscripts and copies of manuscripts) by the African-American composer Gerald Burks Wilson. A few fragments and unidentified pieces by Wilson are also included. Other materials relating to Wilson, including copyright registration certificates for his compositions, follow in the series.
REEL-TO-REEL AUDIO TAPES

All entries refer to 7 inch reel-to-reel tapes unless otherwise noted.
← = 5 inch reel-to-reel tape
= Tape not filed; information taken from unattached label

Lois J. Wright Memorial Concert Series audio tapes
Box 1:
Spring 1977 Season


1977-1978 Season

November 20, 1977. Margaret Carol Lindsay, soprano; Julius Tilghman, accompanist. Part 1.
[November 20, 1977] Margaret Carol Lindsay, soprano; [Julius Tilghman, accompanist] Part 2.

1978-1979 Season

Lois J. Wright Memorial Concert Series audio tapes

**Box 1 (continued):**

**1978-1979 Season, continued**


**1979-1980 Season**

- [September 30, 1979?] Jeanette Walters, soprano. [Part 1?]

**Box 2**

- February 17, 1980. Roosevelt Newson, pianist. [Part 1?]
- [February 17, 1980] Roosevelt Newson, pianist. [Part 2?]

**1980-1981 Season**

1980-1981 Season, continued

[?] Yvette Matthews, contralto.

1981-1982 Season


1982-1983 Season

Lois J. Wright Memorial Concert Series audio tapes

Box 3

1982-1983 Season, continued


1983-84 Season


Box 3 (continued)


1984-85 Season


Box 4


Summer 1985 Music Festival


Box 4 (continued)

[?] Joint Recital. Mellasanah I. Morris, violin; Troy Stuart, cello.

1985-86 Season


Box 4 (continued)


Summer 1986 Music Festival


Box 5

[?] [?] [Part] 1 Complete.
**1986-87 Season**


**Box 5 (continued)**


**1987-88 Season**


**1990-91 Season**


**Box 5 (continued)**


1991-92 Season


Box 6


1992-93 Season


Box 6 (continued)


1993-94 Season


**Undated**

[?] Yvette Matthews, mezzo soprano.

**Box 6 (continued)**

**Tapes unrelated to the Lois J. Wright Memorial Concert Series**


December 24, 1957. Christmas Broadcast on WITH. Gerald Burks Wilson, director of music; Veronica Tyler, soprano soloist.


May 1967. Selections from concerts by Etude Octet.


May 19, 1968. Concert, Unity Methodist Church.


April 25, 1974. Song Recital. Daisy Jackson [soprano]; Oresta Cybriwsky, accompanist.

April 25, 1974. Song Recital. Daisy Jackson [soprano]; Oresta Cybriwsky, accompanist.
Box 7


Box 7 (continued)


[September 1977?] Rehearsal tape, Delores Jones (night session).

1977. John Young, pianist. [Part 1]

1977. John Young, pianist. [Part 2]


Box 8


September 17, 1992. Organ Dedication Services. Jocelyn Taylor, soprano; Yvette Matthews, mezzo soprano; Milagros Matos-Williams, soprano; Albert Wagner, organist; Dr. Maurice Murphy, director. [Part] 1.

Box 8 (continued)

September 17, 1992. Organ Dedication Services. Jocelyn Taylor, soprano; Yvette Matthews, mezzo soprano; Milagros Matos-Williams, soprano; Albert Wagner, organist; Dr. Maurice Murphy, director. [Part] 3.


[?] Baltimore Singers at Trinity AME Church.

[?] The Chancel Choir of Douglas Memorial Community Church.

[?] Choral music.
[?] Comegys. [Part] 2.
[?] Concert: St. Phillips Lutheran Church.
[?] The Etude Octette: rehearsal.
[?] The Etude Octette at rehearsal.
[?] Etude Octette at Roinonia.
[?] [Etude] Octette at Sollers Point High School.
[?] Alma Garrick: Peabody.

← [?] An Interview with Reid Heisler: WBJC On Concert Series.
[?] Henrietta Morgan, soprano.
[?] Recital. Daisy Jackson.
[?] Recital at Grace Memorial.
[?] Selections by the Etude Concert from concerts and rehearsals. Recorded by Mr. William Griggsby.

**Box 8 (continued)**

[?] Sonny Stitt, varitone; Ellis Larkus, piano; Ramsey Lewis, upright; Frank Sinatra

[?] Anita K. Taylor. 1, 34 [on spine]
[?] Anita K. Taylor. 201 [on spine]
[?] Anita K. Taylor. 1013, 29 [on spine]
[?] Anita K. Taylor. 1038 [on spine]
[?] Anita K. Taylor. 2001, 7 [on spine]
[?] Howard Wright, tenor. Part 1.
[?] Howard Wright, tenor. Part 2.

**Tapes without documentation**

**Box 9**

[23 tapes with boxes]

**Box 10**

[23 tapes without boxes]
[18 boxes without tapes]
[4 reels without tapes]
AUDIO CASSETTES

Box 11

June 1979.


Box 11 (continued)


November 18, 1988. Corine [Anderson?].


May 21, 1989.

June 19, 1989. Marcus Eley, clarinet; Reginald Walters, piano.


February 18, 1991. Diane Monroe, [?].


Box 12

April 21, 1991. Yvette Vanterpool, soprano; David Holkeboer, accompanist.

April 21, 1991. Yvette Vanterpool, soprano; [David Holkeboer, accompanist].

September 15, 1991. Jerris Cates, soprano; Dorothy Lofton Jones, mezzo soprano; Sylvester Graves, tenor; Antonio Green, Baritone; Charles Richardson, accompanist (piano).


March 24, 1992. Corine [Anderson?].


April 12, 1994. David Lockington, conductor; Miryam Yardumian, [?].

**Box 12 (continued)**


[?] Peter W.D. Bramble, Christine Hall, J. Spencer.

[?] Peter W.D. Bramble, Christine Hall, J. Spencer.

[?] Peter W.D. Bramble, Christine Hall, J. Spencer.

[?] Uzee Brown, Jr.

[?] Pamela Burns, soprano.

[?] Chesapeake Brass Quintet.

[?] Joy Michelle Cline, piano; Amadi Hummings, viola.

**Box 13**

[?] James Cooper III, cello; Margi Keefe, piano.

[?] Ollie Watts Davis, soprano.

[?] Mattiwilda Dobbs, coloratura soprano.

[?] Georgine Duncan, soprano.

[?] Richard Fields, piano.

[?] Richard Fields, piano.

[?] Richard Fields, piano.

[?] Fisk Jubilee Singers.

[?] Michelle Fizer.

[?] Mareda Gaither-Graves, soprano.

**Box 13 (continued)**

[?] Lisa R. HammAck.

[?] Mareda Gaither-Graves, soprano; Mellasenah Morris, piano.

[?] Luvada Harrison, soprano; Ben Holt, baritone; Yvette Matthews, mezzo soprano.

[?] Margaret Harris, piano.
[?] Charlotte Holliman; Gwendolyn Bradley.
[?] Ben Holt, baritone; Joel A. Martin, piano.
[?] Raymond Jackson, piano.
[?] Dylan Jensen, violin.
[?] Delores Jones, soprano.
[?] Martin David Jones, piano.

**Box 14**

[?] Robert Jordan, piano.
[?] Fredricka King, piano.
[?] Joseph Littles-Senito, piano.
[?] Joel A. Martin, piano.
[?] Joel A. Martin, piano.
[?] Joel A. Martin, piano.
[?] Diane Monroe, violin.
[?] Belinda Whitney-Barratt, violin; Toni-Marie Montgomery, piano.
[?] Henrietta Morgan.
[?] Mellasenah Morris, piano.
[?] Mellasenah I. Morris, violin.

**Box 14 (continued)**

[?] Jerrold Pope, baritone.
[?] Jerrold Pope, baritone.
[?] William Shores, baritone.
[?] Troy Stuart, cello; Rachel Jordan, violin.
[?] Louise Toppin, soprano.
[?] Aleksandra Utrecht, piano.
[?] Jethro Woodson, bassoonist.

[?] Discussion & Examples of Quartet Singing.
[?] Handel’s Messiah.

**VIDEO CASSETTES**

**Box 15**


**Box 15 (continued)**


1993. St Katherine’s Adult Choir.


[?] Lois J. Wright. Memorial Concert #14.

[?] Lois J. Wright. Memorial Concert #14.

[?] Lois J. Wright. Memorial Concert #14.

[?] St Katherine’s Church. Samuel Cook, tenor.

[?] St. Katherine’s Church. Kevin Short, bass.


**PAPERS**

**Box 16**

Lois J. Wright Memorial Concert Series, 1978-79.

Lois J. Wright Memorial Concert Series, Summer 1985.

Lois J. Wright Memorial Concert Series, Summer 1986.

Lois J. Wright Memorial Concert Series, 1986-87.
Lois J. Wright Memorial Concert Series, 1987-88.
Lois J. Wright Memorial Concert Series, 1988-89.
Lois J. Wright Memorial Concert Series, 1989-90.
Lois J. Wright Memorial Concert Series, 1990-91.
Lois J. Wright Memorial Concert Series, 1992-93.

**Box 16 (continued)**

Lois J. Wright Memorial Concert Series, 1993-94.
Lois J. Wright Memorial Concert Series, 1994-95.
Lois J. Wright Memorial Concert Series, 1995-96.
Lois J. Wright Memorial Concert Series, 1996-97.

Musicians.

Miscellaneous.

**SCORES**

**Box 17**


Burleigh, H.T. *Hear de Lambs a-cryin’*. [S.l.]: G. Ricordi, c1927. 7 p.; 28 cm. Photocopy. For medium voice and piano.


Burleigh, H.T. *Ride On, King Jesus!* 5 leaves; 28 cm. Photocopy of manuscript. For medium voice and piano.

Burleigh, H.T. *Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child*. New York: Franco Columbo, c1918. 4 p.; 31 cm. For high voice and piano.

Burleigh, H.T. *Steal Away*. [New York]: G. Ricordi, c1921. 5 p.; 31 cm. For high voice and piano.


**Box 17 (continued)**

Dett, R. Nathaniel. *Now Rest Beneath Night’s Shadows*. J. Fischer, c1938. 8 p.; 27 cm. For SATB and piano.


Johnson, Hall. *City Called Heaven*. New York: Robbins Music Corporation, c1930. 6 p.; 31 cm. For medium voice and piano.

Johnson, Hall. *Roll, Jerd’n, Roll!: Spiritual*. New York: G. Schirmer, c1948. 7 p.; 31 cm. For medium or high voice and piano.

Moore, Undine Smith. *I Believe This Is Jesus*. Minneapolis, Minn.: Augsburg Publishing House, c1977. 8 p.; 26 cm. For SATB.

Price, Florence B. *Songs to the Dark Virgin*. [New York]: G. Schirmer, c1941. 5 p.; 28 cm. Words by Langston Hughes. For low voice and piano.


White, Clarence Cameron. *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me: Negro Spiritual*. New York: Carl Fischer, c1940. 5 p.; 31 cm. For medium voice and piano.

**GERALD BURKS WILSON MATERIALS**

**Scores**

**Box 18**

*At Christmas*. 1 leaf; 28 cm. Photocopy of manuscript. For medium voice and piano.

*Balm in Gilead*. 1 leaf; 22 x 28 cm. Mimeograph of manuscript. For SATB with soloist.

*Children of the Heavenly Father*. 3 p.; 31 cm. Photocopy of manuscript. For high voice and piano.
Choral Prelude. 1 leaf ; 31 cm. Manuscript. For SATB.

Fare-well, My Love. 5 p. ; 32 cm. Manuscript. For SATB.

Foggy Summer. 4 leaves ; 22 x 30 cm. Photocopy of manuscript. For SATB.

How Far Is It to Bethlehem. 3 leaves ; 31 cm. Photocopy of manuscript. For medium voice and piano.

I Saw My Love. 2 leaves ; 32 cm. Photocopy of manuscript. For SATB and piano.

In Bright Mansions Above. 6 p. ; 26 cm. Photocopy of manuscript. For medium voice and piano.

Love In Springtime. 2 leaves ; 32 cm. Photocopy of manuscript. For SATB and piano.

Mary-Anne. 1 leaf ; 21 x 26 cm. Manuscript. For SATB.

My Louise. 4 p. ; 31 cm. Manuscript. For medium voice, piano, and unidentified parts.

O Love of Mine: A Chorus for Male Voices. 3 p. ; 32 cm. Photocopy of manuscript. For TTBB and piano.

A Prayer for the Enlargement of God's Kingdom. 1 leaf ; 33 cm. Photocopy of manuscript. For SATB.

That Would Be Paradise.

3 p. ; 30 cm. Manuscript. For low voice and piano.
7 p. ; 31 cm. Manuscript. For tenor voice, TTBB, and piano.

Box 18 (continued)

Will You My Love.

2 p. ; 26 cm. Photocopy of manuscript. For SATB.
4 p. ; 26 cm. Manuscript. For SATB and piano.

Will You Say Dear.

4 p. ; 32 cm. 2 copies in folder. Manuscript. For medium voice and piano.
4 p. ; 32 cm. Manuscript. For SATB.

Other materials relating to Gerald Burks Wilson

Concert Series program (1947-48). 23 cm.

18 copyright registration certificates (November 7, 1975).

Miscellaneous music (8 fragments and unidentified pieces).