

Paul Price Collection, ca. 1947-1983



Percussive Arts Society
110 West Washington Street, Suite A
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Summary

Title: Paul Price Collection

Dates: ca. 1947-1983

Extent: 7 manuscript boxes, 1 flat manuscript box

Language: Most materials in the collection are in English.

Repository: Percussive Arts Society, 110 West Washington Street, Suite A, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Administrative Information

Accession(s): 1999.11; 2007.16

Donor(s) and date(s) of acquisition: Thomas Siwe (1999); abandoned donation (2007)

Processed by: Alysha Zemanek, July 2020

Access and Restrictions: This material is open to the public without restrictions with the exception of the scrapbooks. Due to the fragile nature of the materials, the scrapbooks are restricted to staff use only. For research inquiries regarding these items, contact the Percussive Arts Society.

Rights statements: The reproduction and publication of copyrighted materials is regulated by the copyright laws of the United States (U.S. Code, Title 17).

Preferred Citation: Paul Price Collection, ca. 1947-1983. Percussive Arts Society Archive, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Notes/other:

Biographical/Historical Sketch:

Paul William Price was a percussionist, composer, conductor, publisher of percussion music, and music educator. Price was born on May 15, 1921 in Fitchburg, Massachusetts. He attended the New England Conservatory of Music and earned his diploma in 1942. Afterwards, he spent four years in the U.S. Army. From 1946 to 1949 Price was the first percussionist and xylophone soloist in Frank Simon's Band. During this period he attended the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, where he studied under George Carey and Fred Noak. He earned his Bachelor of Music degree in 1948 and his Master of Music degree in 1949.

From 1949 to 1956 Price taught percussion at University of Illinois, where he established the first accredited college percussion ensemble course in 1956. In 1955, Price moved East. He performed, conducted, and published music while teaching at Boston University, Ithaca College, and Newark State College. From 1957 to 1986 he held a teaching position at Manhattan School of Music.

Percussive Arts Society: Paul Price Collection Finding Aid, rev. 2020.

Price wrote percussion compositions and authored two textbooks on percussion methodology: “Beginning Snare Drum Method” and “Techniques for Playing Triangle, Tambourine, and Castagnettes.” A lecturer, reviewer, and author of journal articles, in the mid-1960s Price began independently publishing percussion music under his two companies, Music for Percussion and Paul Price Publications.

In 1975 he was inducted to the Percussive Arts Society’s Hall of Fame. Two years later Price received a citation from the National Association of American Composers and Conductors for “outstanding contribution to American music.” Price’s work influenced both the literature and performance practices of percussion ensembles. He died on July 10, 1986.

Bibliography:

Percussive Arts Society. “Hall of Fame: Paul Price.” Accessed April 7, 2020.

<https://www.pas.org/about/hall-of-fame/paul-price>

University of Illinois Archives. “Paul Price Percussion Music and Papers, 1961-1982.” Accessed April 7, 2020. <https://archon.library.illinois.edu/?p=collections/controlcard&id=10657>

Scope and Content:

The Paul Price Collection consists of items related to the career of Paul Price. The collection is arranged alphabetically, and then chronologically. Included are materials on Price's pedagogy, publicity and tour materials for the American Youth Symphony Orchestra and the Manhattan Percussion Ensemble, news clippings and articles, performance programs, and correspondence. The collection also contains a card catalog of percussion music and eight scrapbooks documenting Price's career from 1947 to 1981. Items in the scrapbooks include materials on performances, programs, news clippings, letters, flyers, announcements, and European tourism pamphlets. The scrapbooks are stored separately from the other manuscript and visual materials and are restricted to staff use only.

Container Listing:

BOX	FOLDER
1	American Youth Symphony Orchestra publicity, 1967-1972
1	“An Approach to Teaching Snare Drum” pedagogy materials, 1957; 1971-1972
1	Assorted Manhattan Percussion Ensemble programs, ca. 1960-1981
1	Carnegie Hall magazines, 1972; 1976
1	Correspondence, 1967-1968
1	Czech Music Fund percussion music bibliography, undated
1	“Dictionary of Percussion Terms” by Morris Lang and Larry Spivack, 1977
1	Log book of Manhattan Percussion Ensemble European tour, 1968
1	Manhattan Percussion Ensemble biographies, 1968
1	Manhattan Percussion Ensemble Oslo tour materials, 1966-1968
1	Manhattan Percussion Ensemble photographs, ca. 1968
1	Manhattan Percussion Ensemble publicity, 1964-1968
1	Manhattan Percussion Ensemble tour planning materials, 1966-1968
1	Michael Colgrass to Price with included copy of “Music Magazine,” October 1983
2	New England Conservatory Alumni Directory, 1982
2	News clippings, ca. 1959-1973

8	Percussion music card catalog, undated
2	Price "Music Journal" article, December 1964
2	Reviews of Manhattan Percussion Ensemble European tour, 1968
3	[Restricted] Scrapbook (1 of 2), 1947-1956
3	[Restricted] Scrapbook (2 of 2), 1947-1956
3	[Restricted] Scrapbook (1 of 2), 1957-1960
4	[Restricted] Scrapbook (2 of 2), 1957-1960
4	[Restricted] Scrapbook (1 of 2), 1961-1963
4	[Restricted] Scrapbook (2 of 2), 1961-1963
5	[Restricted] Scrapbook (1 of 2), 1964-1967
5	[Restricted] Scrapbook (2 of 2), 1964-1967
5	[Restricted] Scrapbook (1 of 4), 1968
5	[Restricted] Scrapbook (2 of 4), 1968
6	[Restricted] Scrapbook (3 of 4), 1968
6	[Restricted] Scrapbook (4 of 4), 1968
6	[Restricted] Scrapbook, 1969-1973
7	[Restricted] Scrapbook, 1974-1978
7	[Restricted] Scrapbook, 1979-1981

2	Small notebook marked 'Paul Price,' possible from days as a student, undated
2	Unidentified negatives, undated
2	Unidentified notes for column, undated