

LYDA BAGRIANSKY GEIST AND EDWIN GEIST COLLECTION, 1919-2013
2013.503.2

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW
Washington, DC 20024-2126
Tel. (202) 479-9717
e-mail: reference@ushmm.org

Descriptive summary

Title: Lyda Bagriansky Geist and Edwin Geist collection

Dates: 1919-2013

Accession number: 2013.503.2

Creator: Zerner, Rosian Bagriansky

Extent: 5 boxes, 2 oversize folders (3 linear feet)

Repository: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW,
Washington, DC 20024-2126

Abstract: Manuscript musical scores, biographical documents, newspaper articles, photographs, correspondence, concert programs, and audio recordings and video recordings of performances of the work of composer Edwin Geist. The collection largely consists of original and copied manuscript musical scores of Geist's work, as well as recordings and documents from performances of Geist's works between 1973 and 2012. The material in this collection was assembled by Rosian Bagriansky Zerner, the niece of Edwin Geist, and her father, Paul Bagriansky, whose sister was married to Geist.

Languages: German, English, Lithuania, Russian

Administrative Information

Access: Collection is open for use, but is stored offsite. Please contact the Reference Desk more than seven days prior to visit in order to request access.

Reproduction and use: Collection is available for use. Material may be protected by copyright. Please contact reference staff for further information.

Preferred citation: (Identification of item), Lyda Bagriansky Geist and Edwin Geist collection (2013.503.2), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Gift of Rosian Zerner, 2013

Custodial history: These materials were collected by Rosian Zerner, and included material given to her by her father, or acquired by her during her participation in events to commemorate Geist between 2000 and 2013. However, the musical scores of Geist's works came from two different sources: the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin and the Lietuvos Teatro, Muzikos ir Kino Muziejus (Lithuanian Theatre, Music, and Cinema Museum) in Vilnius. Originals that were on deposit at the former institution were transferred to Zerner in early 2014, and she in turn donated them to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Originals held by the latter institution were collected by the conductor Juozas Domarkas and later placed at that institution, and remain there, with copies provided to Zerner.

Existence and location of originals: Although most of the material in this collection is original, the copied musical scores listed in section II.b. of the inventory ("Copies: Lithuania") are held by the
Lietuvos Teatro, Muzikos ir Kino Muziejus,
Vilnius g. 41
LT-01119 Vilnius, Lithuania
Tel.: (8 5) 2622406
Web: <http://www.ltmkm.lt/>
E-mail: ltmkm@takas.lt

Related archival materials: The Lyda Bagriansky Geist and Edwin Geist collection is a component of the Rosian Zerner collection (2013.503), which also contains the Bagriansky family papers (2013.503.1), which contains material from Geist's brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Paul and Gerta Bagriansky, and his niece, Rosian Bagriansky Zerner. A copy of Geist's book about Lithuanian folk music, *Antikes und Modernes im Litauischen Volksmusik*, can be found in the USHMM Library.

Accruals: Accruals may have been received since this collection was first processed, see archives catalog at collections.ushmm.org for further information.

Processing history: Brad Bauer, September-November 2014

Biographical note

Edwin Ernst Moritz Geist (1902-1942) was a German composer, originally from Berlin, who moved to Kaunas, Lithuania after he was expelled by the Nazis from the Reichsmusikkammer (Reich Music Chamber) in 1937. After arriving in Lithuania, Geist married the pianist Lyda Bagriansky, in 1938, and experienced his most productive period as a composer during the next several years, creating the opera "Die Heimkehr des Dionysos" (1934-1939), "Kleine Deutsche Totenmesse" (1940), and "Kosmischer Frühling" (1941). Geist also became interested in the study of Lithuanian folk music, and in 1940 published *Antikes und Modernes im Litauischen Volksmusik* (Kaunas: Pribacis, 1940). After the German invasion of Lithuania in 1941, Geist and his wife Lyda were imprisoned at the Ninth Fort in Kaunas, where Geist was held until he was released through the intervention of friends in March 1942. Geist sought to obtain the release of Lyda, but he was rearrested several months later and was shot on 10 December 1942. After learning of his death, Lyda took her own life as well. Geist's music was rediscovered in Lithuania in the 1970s, and "Die Heimkehr des Dionysos" had its premiere in Vilnius in 2002. His works have been performed in Germany, Lithuania, and the United States in the years since.

Scope and content of collection

The collection consists largely of material about Geist that was collected by his brother-in-law, Paul Bagriansky, in the 1970s, and his niece, Rosian Bagriansky Zerner, in the 1990s and 2000s, as well as musical scores of Geist's works. Included are copies of biographical documents about Geist, including articles about Geist that had appeared in publications in the Soviet Union in the 1970s, and which Paul Bagriansky translated, as well as materials compiled by Geist's biographer, Reinhard Kaiser, in the 2000s. Also included are concert programs, fliers, and photographs related to the performance of Geist's works in Lithuania, Germany, and the United States between 2002 and 2012. The one original document from Geist—in addition to the musical scores—is a postcard that he sent in August 1941 to his aunt, Else Bormann, who at the time was staying in Marquartstein, Bavaria. Geist alludes to his work as a composer, which has taken over all other writing at this time, and notes that Lyda was working on "Lietukis" now that the two had finished their summer vacation.

The largest component of this collection is the selection of musical scores of Geist's work, which originated from two sources. Earlier compositions had been held until recently by the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin (Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz), and were returned to Rosian Zerner in 2013, who then donated them to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. The remaining scores are copies of those that had been obtained by Lithuanian composer Juozas Domarkas, and which he donated to the Lithuanian Museum of Theatre, Music and Cinema (Lietuvos Teatro, Muzikos ir Kino Muziejus) in Vilnius. The scores are arranged according to provenance, with the original scores from Berlin arranged separately from the copies of material held in Lithuania. A third series of scores, duplicates from the previous two sets of scores, were likely copied for performances between 2002-2008, and also contain some transcriptions of the scores completed in that latter year. The scores from Berlin and Lithuania are largely arranged in chronological order by year of composition, with the scores from Berlin also containing the identification numbers used by the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin.

In addition to the scores, the collection contains sound recordings and DVD recordings of performances of Geist's work, from the first performance conducted by Juozas Domarkas in Vilnius in 1973, to performances of his work in the United States between 2008 and 2013. Also included are recordings of radio interviews in Germany with Geist's biographer, Reinhard Kaiser.

System of arrangement

The collection is arranged in three series: I. Biographical and Performances, II. Scores, and III. Sound recordings and moving image materials. The second series (Scores) is further divided into three subseries: A. Manuscript (Berlin), B. Copies (Lithuania), and C. Performances, 2002-2008.

Indexing terms

Personal names

Geist, Edwin, 1902-1942.

Topical headings

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Lithuania--Kaunas.

Jewish composers--Lithuania.

Jewish composers--Germany.

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Lithuania--Kaunas.

Songs, German.

Songs, Lithuanian.

Geographical headings
Kaunas (Lithuania)

CONTAINER LIST

I. BIOGRAPHICAL AND PERFORMANCES

- | | | |
|---|----|--|
| 1 | 1 | Archival documents about Geist (copies and correspondence with archives), 2000 |
| | | Articles about Geist |
| 1 | 2 | The Unfinished Song [translation from Russian by Paul Bagriansky of an article about Edwin Geist that originally appeared in <i>Pravda</i> in 1976] |
| 1 | 3 | I Live in You [translation from Russian by Paul Bagriansky of an article about Edwin Geist that appeared in <i>Komsomolskaia Pravda</i>, 1978] |
| 1 | 4 | Biographical material about Geist |
| 1 | 5 | Books about Geist by Reinhard Kaiser, reviews and publicity, 2002-2004 |
| 1 | 6 | Diary: "Tagebuch für Lyda," photocopy of manuscript, 1942 |
| 1 | 7 | Donation of photographs by Paul Bagriansky to 9th Fort Museum, Kaunas, 1994 |
| | | Performances |
| | | Vilnius: Premiere of "Die Heimkehr von Dionysos," 2002 |
| 1 | 8 | News clippings about Geist |
| 1 | 9 | Photographs |
| 1 | 10 | Programs and tickets |
| 1 | 11 | Boston: Italian National Holocaust Remembrance Day, January 2008 |
| 1 | 12 | Boston: Goethe Institut and Brandeis University, October 2008 |
| 1 | 13 | Boston: Irving Fine Society Singers and Ensemble, 2008-2009 |
| 1 | 14 | Other: Berkeley, CA; Seattle; Frankfurt am Main, 2009-2012 |
| 1 | 15 | Play about Geist: "Slislu muziku" ("I Can Hear Music)," by Jokūbas Skliutauskas and Mikolas Jackevičius, 1979-1988. Partial Russian text, with English translation of full text. |
| 1 | 16 | Photographs of Edwin Geist and Lyda Bagriansky Geist, circa 1938-1841 |
| 1 | 17 | Postcard sent by Geist to his aunt, Else Bormann, August 1940 |

II. SCORES

A. Manuscript (Berlin)

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|----|---|--|
| 2 | 1 | Faustmusik, Entwürfe, 1919: Handwritten short score, 12 sheets (55 MS 128) |
| OS | 1 | Gesänge nach Goethes Faust für Chor und Orchester, 1928-1929: Handwritten Score, 8 sheets (55 MS 129): Ich heisse der Mangel, Die Nacht scheint tiefer, Neige, neige du Ohnegleiche. |
| OS | 2 | Gesänge nach Goethes Faust, "Die Nacht scheint tiefer," für Chor und Orchester, circa 1929: Handwritten score, 11 pages (55 MS 130) |
| 2 | 2 | Lieder, für Gesang und Klavier, 1940: Manuscript, 8 sheets. "Als es vor Jahr," "Seeballade," "Dynamik des Frühlings" (55 MS 131) |
| 2 | 3 | Lieder, für Gesang und Klavier, 1939: Manuscript, 5 sheets. "Schwerer Abend," "Gebet," "Wurzel trägt Stamm" (55 MS 132) |
| 2 | 4 | Die Heimkehr des Dionysos, 2 Gesängstücke aus dem ersten Akt, 1934: "Gebet Der Apolloneia," "Teiresias' Ode an Dionysos" (55 MS 133) |
| 2 | 5 | Die Heimkehr des Dionysos, 1938: Handwritten piano score, 73 sheets (55 MS 134) |

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| 2 | 6 | Die Heimkehr des Dionysos, 1939: "Tanzpantomime," arranged for piano, Manuscript, 6 sheets (55 MS 135) |
| 2 | 7 | Die Heimkehr des Dionysos, undated: "Ode des Teiresias," handwritten piano Score, 5 sheets (55 MS 136) |
| 2 | 8-9 | Die Heimkehr des Dionysos, circa 1940: "Tanzpantomime," 37 handwritten vocal and instrumental parts, 2 folders (55 MS 137) |

B. Copies (Lithuania)

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| 3 | 1 | Adagio für Streichquartett, undated |
| 3 | 2 | Tagesanbruch, 1928 |
| 3 | 3 | Ferdinand Meyer, April 1933: "Chor der Toten," "Schusterlied" |
| 3 | 4 | Der seltsame Abend, May 1933 |
| 3 | 5 | Vier Orchesterlieder, January 1936, May-June 1940: "Ich finde dich in allen diesen Dingen" (words: Rainer Maria Rilke), "Schwerer Abend" (words: B. Rutkūnas), "Seeballade" (words: B. Rutkūnas), "Frühlingsdynamik" (words: Benediktas Rutkūnas) |
| 3 | 6 | Apollonisch-dionysische Tanzpantomime, 1939 |
| 3 | 7 | Kleine deutsche Totenmesse (Requiem), für Orchester, Sopran- und Tenorsolo, Knabenstimmen und gemischten Chor, September 1940 |
| 3 | 8 | Kleine deutsche Totenmesse (Requiem), Piano excerpts, September 1940 |
| 3 | 9 | Antaeos overture, sketches, November 1940 |
| 3 | 10 | Antaeos, eine Konzert und Ouverture, April-May 1941 |
| 3 | 11 | [Aus Litauen?], Introduction and finale, June 1941 |
| 3 | 12 | Kosmischer Frühling, aus "Das Tanzlegendchen," "Bearbeitung für Klavier allein," February 1942 |
| 3 | 13 | Kosmischer Frühling, "aus 'Das Tanzlegendchen,' für Violine, Violoncello, und Klavier als Trio bearbeitet," July 1942 |
| 3 | 14 | Fragments, unidentified |

C. Copies (for use in performance, Lithuania and United States, 2002-2008)

Scores (photocopied, smaller format)

Die Heimkehr des Dionysos.

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| 4 | 1 | Duplicate of opera, piano, vocal score; separated by piece. 55 MS 133 |
| 4 | 2 | Full piano score, master. |
| 4 | 3 | Libretto |
| 4 | 4 | Ode des Teiresias. 55 MS 136 |
| 4 | 5 | Tanzpantomime, orchestra parts. 55 MS 137 |
| 4 | 6 | Tanzpantomime, piano transcription. 55 MS 135 |
| 4 | 7 | Drei Lieder. Full score plus transcription of "Abbild." |
| 4 | 8 | Ich finde dich in allen diesen Dingen. Copy plus transcription. |
| 4 | 9 | Thebaner Chor. Transcription |
| 4 | 10 | Kosmischer Frühling. Photocopies. |
| 4 | 11 | Das Tanzlegendchen. Notes and themes. |
| 4 | 12 | Three Lithuanian songs. Piano score, English translation of text. |

4	13	Faustmusik. Handwritten short score, transcription. 55 MS 128
4	14	Gebet. Opera vocal, versions paired with "Arioso" and "Ode to Teiresias."
4	15	Gesänge nach Goethes Faust, für Chor und Orchester. 55 MS 129.
4	16	Gesänge nach Goethes Faust, für Chor und Orchester. "Die Nacht scheint tiefer." 55 MS 130
4	17	Der seltsame Abend.

III. Sound recordings and moving image materials (Not Digitized)

5	x	"Edwin Geist: Werke." Concert in Vilnius, 24 February 1973. Symphony Orchestra of the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic, conducted by Juozas Domarkas. Copy made from a tape recording presented by Domarkas to the East German Minister of Culture during a Domarkas concert tour in March 1973, and preserved at the Deutsches Musikarchiv, Berlin. Contains "Vier Lieder für Sopran und Orchester," "Kleine deutsche Totenmesse," and "Apollonisch-dionysische Tanzpantomime." CD
5	x	"Dies Kind soll leben." Audio book version, Reinhard Kaiser (Frankfurt: Schöffling & Co., 2000). Produced by hr 2 Kultur, Hessische Rundfunk, 2000. 2 CDs.
5	x	"Edwin Geist, 2002." Unpublished DVD documentary, 31 minutes.
5	x	"Edwin Geist. Eine Recherche von Reinhard Kaiser." Hessischer Rundfunk, 2. Programm, 7 July 2002. 55 minutes, with speakers Christiane Eisler, Bernt Hahn, Sylvia Held, Hildburg Schmid, Moritz Stoepe, and Aart Veder. Contains excerpts of Geist's music performed at a concert in Vilnius in 1973. Audiocassette.
5	x	"Unerhörte Rettung: Die Suche nach Edwin Geist." Book presentation at the foyer of the broadcast studio of Hessische Rundfunk. Recorded on 26 February 2004, broadcast on 11 April 2004. Moderator: Heiner Boehncke, with Reinhard Kaiser, Margarete Holzman, and others. Includes premiere of two works written by Geist in Zürich in 1928, "Tagesanbruch" and "Durch die Nacht," as well as a piece recorded but not broadcast, "Abbild." Audiocassette.
5	x	"Edwin Geist, 1902-1942. Kammermusik und Lieder." (Potsdam: Deutsches Kulturforum östliches Europa, n.d.). Booklet with CD of performance in Klaipeda, Lithuania, 19 and 20 July 2006, of five works by Geist: "Der seltsame Abend," "Ich finde dich in allen diesen Dingen," "Drei Lieder," "Kosmischer Frühling," and "Drei litauische Lieder."
5	x	"The Music of Edwin Geist." Performed by Irving Fine Society Singers, Conducted by Alexander Brown. Live recording of concert at Slosberg Recital Hall, Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts, 26 October 2008. CD
5	x	"Edwin Geist." Arno Nadel, hr 2 Kultur, Hessischer Rundfunk. 18 April 2010. CD
5	x	"Geben Sie meine Frau frei!" Reinhard Kaiser, hr 2 Kultur, Hessischer Rundfunk, 22 January 2012. CD
5	x	"Edwin Geist: Jewish Music and Poetry Project." Nanette Mc Guinness, soprano; Dale Tsang-Hall, piano. "Drei litauische Lieder," performed at Old First Church, San Francisco, CA, 5 April 2013, and Foothill Presbyterian

- Church, San Jose, CA, 19 May 2013. CD.
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| 5 | x | Unidentified DVD with two inscriptions on sleeve: "E. Geistas. Dioniso Sugrizimas," and "Teatro natu kniga opera, 265 pages." |
| 5 | x | Unidentified DVD with label "Goethe" on it. |