

GUIDE
TO THE
CHARLES L. BESTOR
COLLECTION

Housed in the American Music Research Center
University of Colorado
Music Library

Compiled by:
Josie Fania, Volunteer
Cassandra M. Volpe, Archivist
October, 2006

BIOGRAPHY OF CHARLES L. BESTOR

Charles Lemon Bestor was born in New York City on December 21, 1924. He's the son of Arthur Eugene Bestor and Jeanette Louise Lemon. He married Ann Newbold Elder on November 1, 1952. Their children are: Charles Elder, Geoffrey Grant, Phillip Russell, Leslie Ann, Wendy Lynn and Jennifer Lee.

Dr. Bestor received his musical training under Paul Hindemith at Yale University, and Vincent Persichetti and Peter Mennin at Julliard School of Music. He also studied at Swarthmore College and the Universities of Illinois and Colorado. Independently he studied electronic music with composer Vladimir Ussachevsky.

His early works primarily consisted of the 12 tone technique (dodecophonic) with a grounding in Hindemith's counterpoint technique. His later works employed electronic media, and he integrated jazz, tonally based harmonic, melodic and rhythmic elements into formal structures of traditional concert music.

Dr. Bestor was the winner of the 1999 Bourges International Electro-Acoustic Music Competition (France), the Musica Nova International Competition of the Czech Republic, and the Omaha Symphony's International Orchestral Competition. He has also received numerous other awards in orchestral and composer competitions.

His works have been commissioned by the Utah and Salem Symphonies and the Five-College Symphony Orchestras, and numerous festivals, fraternities and individual performers. Dr. Bestor has also collaborated with visual artists, fine arts centers and museums in the production of installations and exhibits, held at the Illinois State Museum, the Chicago International Art Museum, the Virginia Museum and the College Music Society, and others.

Dr. Bestor served as faculty and administrator at Julliard School of Music for a decade and subsequently as Dean of the College of Music at Willamette University and as Head of the Music Departments of the Universities of Massachusetts, Utah, and Alabama. He has also taught at the University of Colorado and served as the Director of the Electronic and Computer Music Studios of the University of Massachusetts.

Dr. Bestor was a fellow of the National Educational Association of Composers, the MacDowell Colony, Yaddo, the Ragdale Foundation, the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, and the Tyrone Guthrie Center, Ireland.

CHARLES L. BESTOR COLLECTION GUIDE

Music Manuscripts

Box 1

- Env 1 Lyrics: Of times and their places, five songs
 Awake once more in Spring
 It is a fine evening, a New York Pastorale
 Nights, in my small voice I call you
 My Summer love too late, a Madrigal to Autumn
 I'll come no more to that enchanted place
- Env 2 Stations of the night, three blues for S
- Env 3 Concerto grosso for percussion and orchestra
- Env 4 Sonata for piano

Audio Materials

Box 2

Cassettes

- Tape 1 Charles Bestor
Soliloquies for oboe and interactive electronics (Side A)
- Tape 2 Charles Bestor
Stations of the night (Three blues for S for solo piano) (Side A)
- Tape 3 Charles Bestor
Of times and places (Side A)
- Tape 4 Charles Bestor
Sonata for cello and piano
(Sort of love songs, five studies in a somewhat jazz style
for piano) (Side A)
- Charles Bestor
Overture to a romantic comedy for orchestra
Three portraits for wind octet (Side B)

Reel-to-reel

- Tape 5 Charles Bestor
A wind in the willows (Trudy Wischemann, flute)
- Tape 6 Charles Bestor
Improvisation #1

Box 2 (cont.)

Record Albums 33 1/3

- Record 1 (Beethoven, Bowen, Mueller, Bestor)
Charles Bestor (Lyric variations for oboe with viola and tape)
Ludwig van Beethoven
York Bowen
Florian Mueller
Autographed by Charles Bestor, April 1982
- Record 2 (Music of Charles Bestor)
Sonata for cello and piano
Sort of love songs (August, 1987)
(Four studies in a somewhat jazz style)
Suite for winds and trumpet
(From the incidental music for the play "J.B.")
Suite for alto saxophone and percussion