



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Joseph Schillinger Phonograph Record Collection

NMAH.AC.0162

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Joseph Schillinger Phonograph Record Collection
Date:	1940-1941, 1985 (bulk 1940-1941)
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0162
Creator:	Schillinger, Joseph, 1895-1943 (Creator)
Source:	National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Musical History (Collector)
Extent:	0.6 Cubic feet (2 boxes)
Language:	English .
Summary:	Joseph Schillinger (1895-1943), composer and musical theorist, worked extensively with the Rhythmicon. The Rhythmicon, constructed in 1931, is the earliest electronic rhythm machine. The collection consists of recordings of the Rhythmicon.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated to the National Museum of American History by Mrs. Joseph Schillinger (Frances) and transferred to the Archives Center from the Division of Musical Instruments (Division of Culture and the Arts) in June 1985.

Related Materials

Materials at Other Organizations

The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts New York, New York

Joseph Schillinger Papers, 1918-2000

The Joseph Schillinger Papers contain the composer/theorist's writings, composition lesson texts, student notebooks, scores, charts, personal papers, clippings and promotional material.

New York Public Library, Rodgers and Hammerstein Archives of Recorded Sound

Joseph Schillinger Collection of Sound Recordings, *L(Special) 89-16

Berkley School of Music Archives, Boston, Massachusetts

Processing Information

Collection processed by Wendy Shay, 2016.

Preferred Citation

Joseph Schillinger Phonograph Record Collection, 1940-1941, Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research. Digital reference copies available in the Smithsonian Institution Digital Asset Management System (DAMS). See RTC0162-RT0001.

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Biographical / Historical

Joseph Schillinger (1895-1943), composer and musical theorist, worked extensively with the Rhythmicon. The Rhythmicon, developed in 1931 by Leon Theremin at the request of composer Henry Cowell, is the earliest electronic rhythm machine.

Schillinger was born on August 31, 1895, in Kharkov, Ukraine. After beginning a successful musical career in the Soviet Union, he immigrated to the United States in 1928 and settled in New York City. He taught at New York University, the Teachers College of Columbia University and the New School for Social Research. A trained mathematician, Schillinger developed his own system of composition based on mathematics.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of nine transcription recordings of the Rhythmicon on 78 rpm phonographic records made by Joseph Schillinger in 1940 and 1941; two 1/4 inch master reel to reel tapes of disc recordings created by Radio Smithsonian in fall, 1985; and one research cassette tape of disc recordings created by Radio Smithsonian in fall, 1985.

A digital reference copy is available in the Smithsonian Institutions Digital Asset Management System (DAMS).

Arrangement

The collection is organized into two series.

Series 1: Original Discs, 1940-1941

Series 2: Miscellaneous, 1940-1941, 1985

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Musical instruments
Rhythmicon

Types of Materials:

78 rpm records
Audiotapes

Phonograph records

Names:

Cowell, Henry, 1897-1965
National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Musical History
Theremin, Leon

Container Listing

Series 1: Original Disc Recordings of the Rhythmicon

9 Sound discs

Restrictions: Original discs restricted. Use access copies only.

Box 1, Item AC0162-OD0001	Series I, No. I/Series II, No. II, 1940 March 17 1 Sound discs (lacquer) (Speed 78)
Box 1, Item AC0162-OD0002	Series III, No. III/Primes, No. IV, 1940 March 17 1 Sound discs (lacquer) (Speed 78)
Box 1, Item AC0162-OD0003	Odds, No. V/Pairs, No. VI, 1940 March 17 1 Sound discs (lacquer) (Speed 78)
Box 1, Item AC0162-OD0004	345-6810, No. VII/357-61014, No. VIII, 1940 March 17 1 Sound discs (lacquer) (Speed 78)
Box 1, Item AC0162-OD0005	1-16, No. IX/Series I Gradual, No. X, 1940 March 17 1 Sound discs (lacquer) (Speed 78)
Box 1, Item AC0162-OD0006	Series II Gradual, No. XI/Series III Gradual, No. XII, 1940 March 17 1 Sound discs (lacquer)
Box 1, Item AC0162-OD0007	Sample of Drum Rhythms, 1941 March 26 1 Sound discs (lacquer) (33 RPM) Notes: A Joseph Schillinger Studio Recording, Tr. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
Box 1, Item AC0162-OD0008	Rhythmicon Binary Synchronization, 1941 March 30 1 Sound discs (lacquer) (33 RPM) Notes: Set A/96: Tr. 1, 3÷2 Tr. 2, 4÷3 Tr. 3, 5÷2 Tr. 4, 5÷3 Tr. 5, 5÷4 Tr. 6, 6÷5 Set A/96A: Tr. 1, 7÷2 Tr. 2, 7÷3 Tr. 3, 7 ÷4 Tr. 4, 7÷5 Tr. 5, 7÷6

Tr. 6, 8÷3

Box 1, Item
AC0162-OD0009

Rhythmicon Binary Synchronization, 1941 March 30
1 Sound discs (lacquer) (33 RPM)

Notes:

Set A/97:

Tr. 1, 8÷5

Tr. 2, 8÷7

Tr. 3, 9÷2

Tr. 4, 9÷4

Tr. 5, 9÷5

Tr. 6, 9÷7

Tr. 7, 9÷8

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Series 2: Miscellaneous

Box 2	Copies of disc labels
Box 2, Tape AC0162- MTOD01-1;	Master tapes, 1985 2 Sound tape reels (1/4") Notes: Recordings of the Rhythmicon made by Radio Smithsonian.
Box 2, Tape AC0162-MTOD01-2	
Box 2, Tape RTC0162.1	Rhythmicon audio , 1985 1 Cassette tape (Total Running Time: 31;35)
Box 2, Video RV162.1-2	Rhythmicon footage 2 Videocassettes (VHS)

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