



Smithsonian
National Museum of American History
Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the William Russo Transcription
and Arrangement of Duke Ellington's First
Concert of Sacred Music, ca. 1967-68

NMAH.AC.0406

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	William Russo Transcription and Arrangement of Duke Ellington's First Concert of Sacred Music
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0406
Date:	circa 1967-1968
Extent:	0.5 Cubic feet (1 box)
Creator:	Ellington, Duke, 1899-1974 Russo, William, 1928-2003
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The materials were donated to the Archives Center by Prof. Russo during a January, 1991 conference of the International Association of Jazz Educators held in Washington, D.C.

Processing Information

This collection was processed by Deborra Richardson, archivist.

Preferred Citation

William Russo Transcription and Arrangement of Duke Ellington's First Concert of Sacred Music, 1967-1968, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

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Biographical / Historical

William Russo was the Director of the Contemporary American Music Program at Columbia College, Chicago. Active in music from 1947 until his death in 2003, he toured Europe as the leader of a quintet; lived in London, where he conducted the London Jazz Orchestra and worked with the BBC; and lived and

taught in New York and Chicago. Russo was noted in the fifties as a composer of experimental music for Stan Kenton's orchestra and Third Stream Music for the Russo orchestra. He has been a trombonist, composer, arranger, and conductor.

Scope and Contents

William Russo Transcription and Arrangement of Duke Ellington's First Concert of Sacred Music consists of the full conductor score, orchestral parts, and choral parts to "In the Beginning God," "Tell Me It's the Truth," "Come Sunday," "The Lord's Prayer," "Will You Be There?" "Ain't But the One," and "David Danced." The transcription and arrangement were created by Professor Russo, who spent some time working with Ellington on the project during the late sixties or early seventies.

Arrangement

Collection is arranged into one series.

General

Russo stated that Duke Ellington loaned him the music in 1967-1968.

Related/Analytical Title

In the Beginning God

Tell Me It's the Truth

The Lord's Prayer

Ain't But the One

First Sacred Concert

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Choral music
Choruses, Sacred (Mixed voices) with instrumental ensemble
Church music
Conductors -- 20th century
Musicians -- 20th century

Types of Materials:

Manuscripts -- Music -- 20th century
Parts (musical)
Scores
Transcriptions

Names:

Columbia College (Chicago). Contemporary American Music Program

Container Listing

Series 1: First Concert of Sacred Music: A Transcription

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| Box 1, Folder 1 | Full conductor score for the first sacred concert: includes "In the Beginning God," "Tell Me It's the Truth," "Come Sunday," "The Lord's Prayer," "Will You Be There?" "Ain't But The One," "David Danced;" |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | Instrumental parts for "Come Sunday," "The Lord's Prayer," "Will You Be There?" and "David Danced;" |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | Choral parts to "In the Beginning God," "Tell Me It's the Truth," "Come Sunday," "The "Lord's Prayer," "Will You Be There?" "Ain't But The One," "David Danced." Instrumental parts to "In the Beginning God," and "Tell Me It's the Truth." A photocopy of an original Ellington short sketch score |

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