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HAZEL HARRISON COLLECTION  
Collection 139-1 to 139-8

Prepared by:  
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September 1986

## Scope Note

Hazel Lucile Harrison (b. 1883-d. 1969) was one of the earliest black concert pianists to embark upon a major career and to achieve distinction. The Hazel Harrison Collection documents that career which began in 1904 with her performance with the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra and ended only a few years before her death at the age of 85. The bulk of the collection spans the years from the early 1900s to the late 1950s. It is contained in eight boxes, measuring approximately four linear feet.

The initial deposit of papers was donated by Ms. Harrison in 1966 and received at the Center in 1969. These items consisted primarily of personal correspondence, photographs, concert programs, music manuscripts and albums, and single compositions. In 1981-82, additional materials were donated by Mrs. Constance Hobson, Professor of Music at Howard University, a former student and friend of Ms. Harrison and co-author of her biography.

These materials included the music collection of Ms. Harrison in her possession, as well as three practice recordings of Hazel Harrison playing the E Minor Concerto by Chopin. In 1986, after publication of the biography, Professor Hobson and co-author, Jean E. Cazort, donated to the collection those research materials compiled for and utilized in the preparation of their book, *Born to Play: The Life and Career of Hazel Harrison*, including additional photos, photocopies and typescripts of newsclippings (1903-1963), and interviews made with selected friends, students and colleagues of Hazel Harrison.

### Scope Note continued

Of particular interest in the Music Collection Series are the compositions which have been personalized by Ms. Harrison's interpretive markings boldly scrawled in pencil throughout the pages. Today they serve as documentation of the manner in which she executed each piece with regard to phrasing and expression, tempo and tone. Other noteworthy items in this series are the original manuscript scores of Nicolas Slonimsky's, *Silhouettes Iberiennes*, n.d.; William L. Dawson's *Ansioso*, Op. 1, no.3, 1933; and Carl Diton's *Rhapsody in E Major*, 1912.

## Biographical Sketch

Hazel Harrison

- 1883 May 12      Born in LaPorte, Indiana; only child of Hiram and Olive Jane (Woods) Harrison.
- ca. 1887      Began piano lessons at age five. By age 13 had become paid pianist for dancing parties.
- ca. 1895      Became music pupil of Victor Heinze, Distinguished German musician, commuting to Chicago to continue lessons with him.
- 1902      Graduated local high school. Became teacher of music to children of leading LaPorte families. Continued to prepare for career as Concert pianist.
- 1904 October 22      Performed as soloist with the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, at the Berlin Singakademie. Her performance received critical acclaim.
- 1911      Returned to Europe with Victor Heinze for concert tour and study with Heinze and Hugo van Dalen in Berlin. She was introduced to world-renowned pianist Ferruccio Busoni, who accepted her as his student.
- 1914      Returned to U.S. at the outbreak of World War I. Continued concert appearances.
- 1918 September 1      Married to Walter Bainter Anderson. Marriage ended in divorce in 1929.
- 1920-1926      Performed in recital tours through-out the U.S.
- 1926      Returned to Germany to study for brief period with Egon Petri.
- 1930      Makes Town Hall debut.
- 1931 November      Joined faculty of the School of Music at Tuskegee Institute, newly-organized by her friend, William L. Dawson, composer and choir director.

## Biographical Sketch continued

Hazel Harrison

- 1932            Performed with the Minneapolis Symphony under Eugene Ormandy in concert at Tuskegee Institute.
- 1936            Became head of piano faculty at Howard University.
- 1947-50        Toured the U.S. and Canada. Included a performance with the Hollywood Bowl Symphony under Izler Solomon in August 1949 during National Association of Negro Musicians convention.
- 1955            Retired from Howard University.
- 1958-1963     Served on Music Faculty, Alabama State College, Montgomery, Alabama.
- 1965            Relocated to LaGrange, Georgia, finally returning to Washington, D.C. in 1967.
- 1969 April 28   Died after a brief illness. Buried in Washington, D.C.

### Sources:

Cazort, Jean E. and Hobson, Constance T. *Born to Play: The Life and Career of Hazel Harrison*. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1983.

Love, Josephine Harreld, "Hazel Lucille Harrison", in *Notable American Women: The Modern Period*, edited by Barbara Sicherman, et, al., Cambridge, Massachusetts and London, England: The Belknap Press of Harvard University, 1980.

## Series Description

**Series A**  
Box 139-1

### **Family Papers**

This consists of photocopies of two entries in the Chicago City Directory listing the addresses of Ms. Harrison's mother, Olive Wood Harrison, and her first husband, Walter B. Anderson.

**Series B**  
Box 139-1

### **Personal Papers**

Included in this series are biographical information; birth certificates, passport application; obituaries and memorial tributes; listing of recent names and addresses of some of Ms. Harrison's former music students; lesson plans and other teaching aids; and a photocopy of her 1903 high school yearbook.

**Series C**  
Box 139-1

### **Correspondence**

Primarily correspondence from friends and former students.

**Series D**  
Box 139-2

### **Writings About Harrison**

This series contains 3 excerpts dealing specifically with Hazel Harrison, taken from larger works on black musicians; two essays by Ralph Ellison in which he relates his experiences with Ms. Harrison, and photocopies and typescripts of newspaper clippings documenting the life and career of Hazel Harrison.

**Series E**  
Box 139-2

### **Concert Programs**

This series consists of programs of Hazel Harrison in concert, arranged chronologically (See also, Series E - Photographs for photos of additional programs); programs of student piano recitals at Tuskegee Institute and Alabama State College; concert programs of former students, arranged alphabetically; assorted programs of various musicians appearing primarily at Carnegie Hall and Town hall, arranged alphabetically; and two programs of concerts sponsored by the National Association of Negro Musicians, 1949 and 1964.

**Series F**  
Box 139-2  
to Box 139-3

### **Photographs**

This series consists of photos of Hazel Harrison and her mentors, colleagues and students.

**Series G**  
Box 139-3

### **Memorabilia**

The memorabilia includes newspaper clippings and other printed materials pertaining to friends, particularly William L. Dawson, and former students.

- Series H                    Interview Tapes and Transcripts
- Box 139-3                There are 18 transcripts of interviews  
to 139-4                in this series, conducted by the co-  
                                 authors of the Harrison biography  
                                 with selected friends, colleagues,  
                                 and students of Hazel Harrison. The  
                                 cassette tapes are available for 8  
                                 of the interviews. There are two  
                                 tapes which have not been transcribed.  
                                 Tapes are restricted.
- Series I                    Oversize Items.
- Box 139-5                Includes a certificate of membership  
                                 in the International Library of Music  
                                 Service for Professional Music Teachers,  
                                 July 7, 1961; and a 10 x 14 mock-up  
                                 with photo of Ms. Harrison for concert  
                                 advertising purposes.
- Series J                    Recordings of Hazel Harrison - RESTRICTED
- Box 139-5                This series consists of three record-  
                                 ings of Hazel Harrison playing the E  
                                 Minor Concerto by Chopin, 1949.  
                                 These are practice records -- solo  
                                 piano without orchestration.
- Series K                    Music Collection
- Box 139-6                The music collection consists of  
to 139-8                original manuscripts, including  
                                 "Silhouettes Iberiennes" by Nicolas  
                                 Slominsky; autographed copies of  
                                 single compositions; and music albums  
                                 and single compositions personalized  
                                 by Ms. Harrison's interpretive markings  
                                 and marginalia, particularly with  
                                 reference to phrasing, tempo and tone.  
                                 Included is a listing of the Hazel  
                                 Harrison Collection of Piano Scores.  
                                 A few of the scores are fragile and  
                                 have been xeroxed. Please use the  
                                 xerox copy. The originals are located  
                                 in Box 139-5.



## Container List

### A Family Papers

Box	Folder
139-1	1 1923 Chicago City Directory entry listing Olive Harrison, mother of Hazel, photocopy.
	2 1923 Chicago City Directory listing, Walter B. Anderson, first husband of Hazel, photocopy.

### B Personal Papers

- 3 Autobiographical sketch, handwritten (photocopy)
- 4 Birth Certificate and addendum, copy
- 5 Passport application (photocopy)
- 6 Biographical sketches
- 7 Obituary and Memorial tributes
- 8 Tributes from former students for Hazel Harrison's Birthday Centennial Program
- 9 Outline of course for Piano Department and Lesson Plans
- 10 Howard University Bulletin, School of Music, 1952-53, 1954-55.
- 11 Course descriptions, Department of Music, Alabama State College, Montgomery, Alabama, 1958.
- 12 Listings of current names and addresses of some former students of Ms. Harrison
- 13 Music Instructional Aids
- 14 Music Instructional Aids - Note Finder
- 15 Daily schedule, Montgomery, Alabama
- 16 Financial receipts
- 17 1903 High School yearbook, LaPorte, Indiana (photocopy)

### C Correspondence

- 18 A-E

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C Correspondence (cont'd)

Box	Folder
139-1	20 Partial names
	21 Telegram - Harrod to Allman informing of Ms. Harrison's death (photocopy)
	22 Greeting Cards
	23 Post Cards
	24 Envelopes

D Writings About Hazel Harrison

139-2	1 Excerpts from larger works on black musicians
	2 Commencement Address, by Ralph Ellison, Curtis Institute of Music, 1975
	3 "The Little Nan at Chehaw Station: The American Artist and his Audience," by Ralph Ellison
	4 Clippings (photocopies, typescripts) on Life and Career of Hazel Harrison, 1895-1918
	5 Clippings (photocopies, typescripts) on Life and Career of Hazel Harrison, 1920-1938
	6 Clippings (photocopies, typescripts) on Life and Career of Hazel Harrison, 1940-1963
	7 Clippings (photocopies, typescripts) on Life and Career of Hazel Harrison, n.d.
	8 Newsclippings, "Excerpts from Press Comments", n.d.
	9 Press Releases

E Concert Programs

10 Hazel Harrison in Concert, 1927-1936
11 Hazel Harrison in Concert, 1937-1959
12 Students of Hazel Harrison in recital, Laporte, Indiana
13 Students of Hazel Harrison in recital,

- Tuskegee institute 1934
- 14 Students of Hazel Harrison in recital,  
Montgomery, Alabama
  - 15 Former students of Hazel Harrison in  
concert, A-L

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E Concert Programs (cont'd)

Box	Folder
139-2	16 Former students of Hazel Harrison in concert, M-Z
	17 Collected by Hazel Harrison, A-H
	18 Collected by Hazel Harrison, I-Z
	19 National Association of Negro Musicians, 1949, 1964.
F Photographs	
139-3	20 Early years of Hazel Harrison
	21 Middle Years of Hazel Harrison
	22 Painting entitled, "Hazel Harrison in Concert". by Harleston
	23 Hazel Harrison and Mother, ca. 1915
	1 Hazel Harrison and Friends
	2 House and automobile of Ms. Harrison, Chicago
	3 Hazel Harrison with School of Music Faculty, Howard University, 1952
	4 Hazel Harrison and students, Howard University
	5 Music Conservatory, Howard University
	6 Hazel Harrison with students, Montgomery, Alabama
	7 Students of Hazel Harrison, Montgomery, Alabama
	8 Ferruccio Busoni, mentor and friend of Ms. Harrison
	9 Percy Grainger pianist/composer, mentor of Ms. Harrison
10 Friends of Hazel Harrison	
11 Joseph Joachim, violinist/composer, Berlin	
12 Concert Programs, Tuskegee Institute	
13 Unidentified	

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G Memorabilia

Box	Folder
139-3	14 William L. Dawson materials re Negro Folk Symphony
	15 Newsclippings re former students
	16 Programs re former students

H Interview Transcripts and Tapes

Transcripts

- 17 Reva White Allman (tape available)
- 18 Robert Earle Anderson
- 19 Florence Andrew (tape available)
- 20 Dr. Bryson
- 21 Mrs. Osborne Chambliss (tape available)
- 22 Elizabeth Foster (tape available)
- 23 Paul Gray
- 24 Frederick and Mildred Greenwood Hall (tape available)
- 25 Rev. Alfonso Harrod
- 26 Frances White Hughes
- 27 Hermine Johnigan (tape available)
- 28 W.P. Mitchell (tape available)
- 29 Geraldine Nesbitt
- 30 Minnie Scott
- 31 Ralph Simpson (tape available)
- 32 Mrs. Ralph Simpson
- 33 Althea Thomas
- 34 Benjamin F. Ward

Tapes Restricted

139-4	1 Reva Allman
	2 Florence Andrew
	3 Edward Boatner
	4 Mrs. Osborne Chambliss
	5 Elizabeth Foster
	6 Frederick and Mildred Hall
	7 Hermine Johnigan
	8 Laura McCray

- 9 W.P. Mitchell
- 10 Ralph Simpson

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## I Oversize Items

Box	Folder
139-5	1 Certificates of Membership International Library of Music Service for Professional Music Teachers (see Series B, Box 139-1, Personal Papers, for photocopy)
	2 10 x 14 mock-up with photo for concert advertising purposes (see Series B, Box 139-1, Personal Papers, for photocopy)

## J Recordings of Hazel Harrison

- 3 Three practice recordings of Hazel  
Harrison playing the E Minor  
Concerto by Chopin. RESTRICTED

## K Music Collection

- 1 Listing of the Hazel Harrison  
Collection of Piano Scores
- 2 Bach-Busoni, Chaconne fur Violine  
Allein
- 3 Bach-Busoni, Zwei Orgaltoccaten von  
Joh. Seb. Bach, no.1 Toccata in  
C Dur
- 4 Beethoven, Fantasy in G Minor, Op. 77
- 5 Beethoven-Liszt, Busslied
- 6 Bortkiewicz, Serge, Dix Etudes pour  
Piano
- 7 Bortkiewicz, Twelve Etudes Nouvelles
- 8 Brahms, Concert for the Pianoforte
- 9 Busoni F., Giga, Bolero e Variazione  
(studie nach Mozart)
- 10 Busoni, Paganini-Liszt, Fremolo,  
Etude no.1
- 11 Chopin, Frederic, Etudes (Godowsky)
- 12 Chopin, Fantoisie, Op.49



- 13 Chopin, Preludes
  - 14 Chopin, Preludes and Rhondes
  - 15 Chopin, Quatrieme Ballade, Op.52  
(Mikuli)
  - 16 Chopin, Quatrieme Ballade (Joseffy)
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K Music Collection (cont'd)

Box	Folder
139-7	1 Chopin, Selected Studies for Piano-forte (Godowsky)
	2 Cleve, Halfdan, Five Pianoforte Pieces, Op.7
	3 Debussy, Claude, L'isle Jayeuse
	4 Grainger, Percy, Colonial Song
	5 Liszt, Franz, Adelaide Op.46
	6 Liszt, Annees de Pelerinaze, Deuxieme Annee
	7 Liszt, Annees de Pelerinaze
	8 Liszt, Mephisto-Walzer (Busoni)
	9 Liszt, Rhapsodies Longroises, no. 8, Capriccio
	10 Liszt, Sonate
139-8	1 Paganini-Liszt, Six Grand Etudes
	2 Pesse, Maurice, Dans la Paix du Soir
	3 Rachmaninoff, Lilaas Op.21, no.5
	4 Scriabine, Alexander, Album (Eaglefield-Hull)
	5 Scriabine, Fantaisie, Op.28
	6 Scriabine, Sonata no.4, Op.30
	7 Slonimsky, Nicolas, Silhouettes Iberiennes (original mss score, autographed)
	8 Smetana, Franz, Am Seegestade, Op.17
	9 Tschaikowsky, Peter, Concerto no.1 in B Flat Minor (Joseffy)
	10 Weber, Carl Maria von, Perpetual Motion (Ganz)
	11 Wiehmayer, Theodor, School of Finger-Technic

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