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2022

Guide to the Cheryl A. Wall Collection of Margaret Bonds and Florence Price Manuscript Scores

Margaret Bonds

Florence Price

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COLLEGE CHICAGO

CENTER FOR BLACK MUSIC RESEARCH COLLECTION

The Cheryl A. Wall Collection of Margaret Bonds and Florence Price Manuscript Scores

EXTENT

1 box, .41 cubic feet

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Cheryl A. Wall was a literary critic and English professor at Rutgers University who donated three manuscript scores to the CBMR – *Troubled Water* by Margaret Bonds with a handwritten autobiographical sketch by the composer on the back and two works by Florence Price, *Negro Fantasy* and *Concerto in One Movement* for three pianos. The Bonds score was given to Cheryl Wall by the composer and the two Price scores belonged to her aunt, Nannie Strayhorn Reid, a classical pianist and teacher in Chicago, Illinois.

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE:

Florence Price (1887 to 1953) was a classical composer, pianist, music teacher, and organist who composed more than 300 works. Born in Little Rock, Arkansas, she graduated the New England Conservatory of Music and lived in Chicago from 1927 until her death. She was the first African American woman to have a major orchestra play her work.

Margaret Bonds (1913 – 1972) was a composer, arranger, teacher, and pianist. Born in Chicago, Illinois, she studied piano with William Dawson and Florence Price and graduated from Northwestern University with a MM in piano and composition. She moved to New York City after graduation and attended Juilliard School of Music. Friends with Langston Hughes, she set many of his poems to her original music.

SCOPE & CONTENT/COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

Cheryl A. Wall was given the piece *Troubled Waters* by Margaret Bonds in 1965 as she was a piano student of the composer at the time. The Florence Price manuscripts belonged to Cheryl Wall's aunt, Nannie Strayhorn Reid, a pianist and teacher in Chicago for many years.

ARRANGEMENT

Arranged by composer last name and title.

RELATED MATERIALS - CBMR

For Margaret Bonds:

[The Helen Walker Hill Collection](#)

[The Irene Britton Smith Collection](#)

[The Wendell Wright Collection](#)

[The Evelyn Davidson White Collection](#)

For Florence Price:

[The Helen Walker Hill Collection](#)

[The Eileen Southern Collection](#)

[The Irene Britton Smith Collection](#)

[The R. Nathaniel Dett Club Records](#)

[The Evelyn Davidson White Collection](#)

[The Wendell Wright Collection](#)

RELATED MATERIALS – OTHER SOURCES

[Florence Beatrice Smith Price \(1888 –1953\)](#), University of Arkansas Special Collections

[Florence B. Price Music Manuscripts](#) , Library of Congress

[Margaret Bonds Papers](#), Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University.

[Margaret Bonds Papers](#), Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York Public Library

ACQUISITION SOURCE

Donated to CBMR in 1995 by Cheryl A. Wall.

SUBJECT HEADINGS

African American women composers, classical composers, 20th century classical pianists, autobiographical note

ACCESS STATEMENT

The collection is available for research use.

RIGHTS STATEMENT

United States copyright laws apply to the materials in this collection.

PREFERRED CITATION

The Cheryl A. Wall Collection of Bonds and Price manuscripts, Center for Black Music Research Collection, Columbia College Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

Bonds, Margaret *Troubled Water*, based on the spiritual Wade in the Water. Spiritual Suite III, Movement III. Undated. (facsimile). 7 pages with penciled corrections by the composer. On the back of the score dated January 31, 1965, a handwritten autobiographical sketch by the composer recalls her path toward incorporating spirituals into her work.

Price, Florence *Concerto in One Movement Arranged for Three Pianos*. Undated. (manuscript). 57 pages. Performance markings appear in pencil.

Price, Florence *Negro Fantasy* for piano. February 9-10, 1929. (manuscript). 10 pages.