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Guide to the Robert Leigh Morris Collection

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CENTER FOR BLACK MUSIC RESEARCH COLLECTION

The Robert Leigh Morris Collection, 1941-2010

EXTENT

2 boxes, 1.71 cubic feet

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Robert Leigh Morris (b. 1941) is an American composer and music instructor. The Robert Leigh Morris collection contains his personal music scores, from published works to drafts, and programs from his performances, as well as scores by other composers. Professional correspondences, documents, and some of Morris's writings are also included.

PROCESSING INFORMATION

Processed by Alex Suarez, Columbia College Chicago, Center for Black Music Research on May 16, 2023.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Robert Leigh Morris is an American composer born in Chicago, Illinois. He holds a bachelor's degree from DePaul University and graduate degrees from Indiana University Bloomington and the University of Iowa in Choral Conducting and Musical Education. He served as choral director at Hampton University, Virginia, Winston-Salem State University, North Carolina, and at Jackson State University in Mississippi, before becoming the Director of Choral Activities at Macalester College. In addition to his career in teaching, Morris is also a well-published composer and arranger.

Morris created the Leigh Morris Coral in the Twin-Cities to educate audiences about African American classical and written choral music traditions. In 1994, 1995, and 1996, Morris also traveled to Cuba as an Agent of Social Change to lecture and perform music for a conference titled Culture and Social Transformation: The Cuban and the African American.

SCOPE & CONTENT/COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The Robert Leigh Morris collection spans from 1967 to 2007, showcasing his career and exhibits the impact of his career. In addition to the musical scores and performance documentation, the collection includes material relating to his tenure as a professor. The collection also contains correspondence.

ARRANGEMENT

This collection is arranged in five series, some containing subseries:

- I. Music
 1. By Robert Leigh Morris
 2. By other artists
- II. Documents
 1. Writings
 2. Personal Documents

- III. Correspondence
- IV. Programs
- V. Professional Groups and Activities
 - 1. Leigh Morris Chorale
 - 2. Cuba

Series I: Music, 1941-2010

This series contains musical scores that have been published as well as drafts of select songs, composed by Morris and other artists. It is organized in alphabetical order.

Series II: Documents, 1990-1984

This series contains personal documents, writings, and editorial work by Morris.

Series III: Correspondence, 1967-1994

This series contains correspondence between Morris and individuals and organizations.

Series IV: Programs, 1969-2005

This series contains programs from performances and conferences.

Series V: Groups and Activities 1990-2007

This series contains information about the Leigh Morris Chorale as well as documents from his work in Cuba.

RELATED MATERIALS

CBMR

[Evelyn Davidson White Collection](#)

[Alice Rosalee Marshall Collection](#)

ACQUISITION SOURCE

Received from Robert Leigh Morris in multiple accessions from 1992 through 2011.

SUBJECT HEADINGS

Morris, Robert Leigh; Composer; Music Composer; Leigh Morris Chorale; Music professor; Music instructor; Music education; Cuba; Publishing

ACCESS STATEMENT

This collection is open and available for research use.

RIGHTS STATEMENT

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

PREFERRED CITATION

The Robert Leigh Morris Collection, Center for Black Music Research, Columbia College Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.

THE ROBERT LEIGH MORRIS COLLECTION INVENTORY

SERIES I: Music, 1941-2010, undated

This series contains musical scores that have been published as well as drafts of select songs, composed by Morris and other artists. It is organized in alphabetical order.

Subseries 1: Music by Robert Leigh Morris

Box	Folder		
1	1	<i>Alleluia!</i>	2007
	2	<i>All Over This World</i>	2004
	3	<i>Bound for Mt. Zion</i>	2005
	4	<i>Children, Go Where I Send Thee</i>	1999
	5	<i>Eze'kel Saw the Wheel</i>	undated
	6	<i>Fix Me, Jesus</i>	1998
	7	<i>Glory to the Newborn King</i>	1989
	8	<i>God Has a Way</i>	2005
	9	<i>Hallelujah! I'm Goin' to Praise His Name!</i>	2007
	10	<i>Hold On</i>	2002
	11	<i>I Believe This is Jesus</i>	1997
	12	<i>I Believe This is Jesus</i>	undated
	13	<i>I Believe This is Jesus - drafts</i>	undated
	14	<i>I'll Reach to Heaven By 'n' By</i>	undated
	15	<i>Is A Light Shinin' in the Heavens</i>	1998
	16	<i>Is A Light Shinin' in the Heavens - drafts</i>	1996
	17	<i>I Thank You, Jesus</i>	1989
	18	<i>Jesus Brought Me All The Way</i>	2006
	19	<i>Jesus is Real to Me</i>	1963
	20	<i>Just Jesus</i>	2010
	21	<i>Lead Me, Guide Me</i>	1995
	22	<i>Lead Me, Guide Me</i>	1995
	23	<i>Let Jesus Fix It For You</i>	undated
	24	<i>Look To This Day</i>	undated
	25	<i>Moved By the Gospel</i>	2003
	26	<i>My Lord's Writin' All the Time</i>	2001
	27	<i>Now We Take This Body</i>	1998
	28	<i>Now We Take This Body - drafts</i>	1998
	29	<i>Now We Take This Body - drafts</i>	1998
	30	<i>Now We Take This Body - drafts</i>	undated
	31	<i>O Sacrum Convinium</i>	2006
	32	<i>Psalm 23 - drafts</i>	undated
	33	<i>Psalm 23</i>	undated
	34	<i>Psalm 23</i>	2004
	35	<i>Rock a My Soul</i>	1996
	36	<i>Satan, We're Gonna Tear Your Kingdom Down</i>	2002
	37	<i>Send It On Down</i>	1997
	38	<i>Sentiments: Sorrow is the Only Faithful One</i>	1996
	39	<i>Sinner, Don't Let This Harvest Pass!</i>	undated
	40	<i>Something Within</i>	2005
	41	<i>The King of Love My Shepherd Is</i>	2006
	42	<i>The Sacred Fire</i>	2008
	43	<i>The Joy I Have</i>	2009

44	<i>Ties That Bind</i> - drafts	undated
45	<i>Ties That Bind</i> - drafts	undated
46	<i>Ties That Bind Part II</i> - drafts	undated
47	<i>Ties That Bind Part II</i> - drafts	undated
48	<i>Ties That Bind Part II</i> - drafts	undated
49	<i>Ties That Bind Part III</i> - drafts	undated
50	<i>Trinity: 3 Choral Meditations</i>	1941
51	<i>We've Heard Word, Prayer, And Song</i>	2005
52	<i>We Are the Children</i>	2006

Subseries 2: Music by other artists

Box	Folder		
2	1	Bonds, Margaret - <i>The Ballad of the Brown King</i>	undated
	2	Duncan, John - <i>Six Bible Choruses</i>	undated
	3	Duncan, John - <i>The Resurrection</i>	undated
	4	Still, William Grant - <i>Plain Chant For America</i>	1941
	5	Still, William Grant - <i>Bayou Legend - Act III</i>	undated

SERIES II: Documents, 1984-1991, undated

This series contains personal documents, writings, and editorial work by Morris.

Subseries 1: Writings

This subseries consists of writings by Morris, including his graduate essay for the University of Iowa and his work as an editor for the Mississippi Music Educator.

Box	Folder		
1	53	Essay (1 - 100)	1984
	54	Essay (101 - 197)	1984
	55	Mississippi Music Educator	1990-1991

Subseries 2: Personal Documents

This series includes personal documents.

Box	Folder		
1	56	Various Documents	undated

SERIES III: Correspondence, 1967-1994

This series contains correspondence between Morris and individuals and organizations.

Box	Folder		
1	57	Correspondence	1967-1994

SERIES IV: Programs, 1969-2005

This series contains programs from performances and conferences.

Box	Folder		
1	58	Programs	1969-1979
	59	Programs	1980-1989
	60	Programs	1990-1992
	61	Programs	1993-1995
	62	Programs	1996-2005

SERIES V: Groups and Activities 1990-2007

This series contains information about the Leigh Morris Chorale as well as documents from a Cuba conference.

Subseries 1: Leigh Morris Chorale

This subseries consists of articles and pamphlets about the Leigh Morris Chorale, which was created by Robert Leigh Morris.

Box Folder

1 63 Leigh Morris Chorale

1994-2007

Subseries 2: Cuba

This subseries contains documents related to Morris's trips to Cuba as an Agent of Social Change.

Box Folder

1 64 Cuba

1990-1996