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MS – 208: The Jim Henderson Papers, Class of 1971

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MS – 208: The Jim Henderson Papers, Class of 1971

Description

This collection contains documents, photographs, and other material, mostly relating to Jim Henderson's career at Gettysburg College. There are various writings, and a scrapbook with images covering Henderson's life from just before to just after his time in Gettysburg. A significant subset of material concerns Henderson's commencement address, and the subsequent controversy. The bulk of the material is in the form of handwritten scores and program notes created for various musical performances between 1966 and 1973. Most of these are rock or jazz arrangements of religious themes, and most premiered at Gettysburg College.

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Keywords

Buckley, William F., Jr., 1925-2008, Church music, United States, Lutheran Church, Commencement exercises, Music, Religious aspects, Christianity, Student movements

Disciplines

Christianity | Music | Religion | United States History

**Guide to
MS – 208: The Jim Henderson Papers, Class of 1971**



(Special Collections/Musselman Library)

**Devin McKinney
March 2017**

MS – 208: The Jim Henderson Papers, Class of 1971

(2 boxes, 1 cubic foot)

*Processed by Devin McKinney
March 2017*

Inclusive dates: Early 1960s-2017

Bulk dates: 1969-71

Location: Collections Room, Musselman Library

Provenance

Gift of James G. Henderson '71, March 31, 2016, and March 6, 2017.

Biographical-historical note

A native of Ho-Ho-Kus, New Jersey, Jim Henderson (nicknamed “Hendo”) entered Gettysburg College as a freshman in the fall of 1967. During his four years, he participated in intramural sports; student government; Chapel Council; the first Communities of Risk (COR) encounter group; and numerous other student organizations. He was an active member of the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity, wrote and arranged a number of musical “masses” performed in conjunction with Christ Chapel worship services, and was a spearhead of the April 1969 Moratorium, a two-day, campus-wide program of educational workshops and policy discussions.

Henderson spent his junior year abroad, at the University of Bristol in England, and returned to graduate with a degree in religion. Voted class speaker for his commencement ceremony, he came onstage bearing two saxophones and proceeded to play them, in unison, as part of his address. Conservative commentator William F. Buckley, that year’s invited guest speaker, wrote a syndicated column about his experience, making disparaging remarks about contemporary students in general and mentioning Henderson (though not by name) in particular.

After post-graduate work at Union Theological Seminary in New York, Jim Henderson went on to earn a master’s degree at Columbia University and a doctorate at Duke University. During his long and varied career as an educator, he has also written music for film soundtracks and church services, and performed in support of the Temptations, the Coasters, the Pointer Sisters, and other acts.

Scope and content note

This collection contains documents, photographs, and other material, mostly relating to Jim Henderson’s career at Gettysburg College. There are various writings, and a scrapbook with images covering Henderson’s life from just before to just after his time in Gettysburg. A significant subset of material concerns Henderson’s commencement

address, and the subsequent controversy. The bulk of the material is in the form of handwritten scores and program notes created for various musical performances between 1966 and 1973. Most of these are rock or jazz arrangements of religious themes, and most premiered at Gettysburg College.

Box & Folder List

BOX 1

Folder 1-1 – Miscellaneous educational papers, 1969-71

- Letter from William C. Leach, Principal, Ridgewood (NJ) High School, July 16, 1969
- Phi Gamma Delta, member photos, 1969 (copy)
- “The Challenge of Undergraduate Teaching,” Dr. Norman Richardson, *Junto*, October 16, 1970
- “Notes on Apparel,” Jim Henderson, class paper, April 1971
- Official transcript, Jim Henderson, June 9, 1971 (copy)

Folder 1-2 – Commencement, June 4, 1971

- Letter from C.A. Hanson, President, Gettysburg College, April 28, 1971
- “Senior Will Speak Sunday,” *Gettysburg Times*, June 3, 1971 (copy)
- *Your Commencement Weekend* (senior booklet), June 4-6, 1971
- Alumni Weekend itinerary, June 4-6, 1971
- Commencement program, June 6, 1971 (2 copies)
- “On Ecstasy and Higher Education,” typed original with handwritten changes
- “On Ecstasy and Higher Education,” version released by Office of Public Information
- Phi Beta Kappa diploma, June 6, 1971 (copy)
- Bachelor of Arts diploma, June 6, 1971 (copy)
- Letter from Ralph E. Peterson, Pastor, St. Peter’s Church, New York, NY, June 14, 1971
- *The Gettysburg Bulletin*, Summer 1971
- “Commencement Talk,” William F. Buckley, *National Review*, August 10, 1971 (copy)
- *The Gettysburg Bulletin*, Fall 1971 (without cover)
- “Walden/Buckley Papers Revealed!” *The Gettysburgian*, September 17, 1971 (copy)
- Letter from George B. Leonard, Esalen Institute, January 6, 1972
- “Jim Henderson 2-Sax Graduation 1971,” recorded February 27, 2017 (CD)

Folder 1-3 – Musical performances, 1968-73

- Brandenburg Jazz Ensemble (1968-69)
- Second Jazz Mass (c. 1969)

- *Creation – Recapitulation* (Early 1970)
- Gospel Rock Mass (October 4, 1970)
- Gospel Rock Service (January 17, 1971)
- *Epiphanies* (1970-71)
- *Lord's Prayer* (1970-71)
- *Psalm 23 / Agnes Dei* (April 28, 1971)
- *Hapax Legomena* (May 14, 1973)

BOX 2

Folder 2-1 – First Jazz Mass (c. 1966-69)

Scrapbook

Subjects

Buckley, William F., Jr., 1925-2008
Church music — United States
Church music — Lutheran Church
Commencement exercises
Music — Religious aspects — Christianity
Student movements — United States

For more information

2.0.10: Papers of the Office of the President (Office of Carl Arnold Hanson 1961-1977) - 6-1, 15-11, 15-12

Buckley, William F. "Halfway between Servility and Hostility," in *Let Us Talk of Many Things: The Collected Speeches* (New York: Basic Books, 2000). (Available via MUSCAT.)