

Strong, Fred

Fred Strong Papers

1991-2020

Title Statement

Strong, Fred A Guide to the Fred Strong Papers DCR MG 16

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

DCR MG 16

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/309

Unit Date

1991-2020

Unit Date

Date acquired: 04/12/2021

Language

English

Creator

Strong, Fred (1952-)

Extent

0.4 Linear Feet

Extent

1 tall Hollinger document case boxes

Repository

ODU Diehn Composers Room Collection

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

Open to researchers without restrictions. Original compositions, audio visuals and booklets must be viewed in-person.

Conditions Governing Use

Before publishing quotations or excerpts from any materials, permission must be obtained from Special Collections and University Archives, and the holder of the copyright, if not Old Dominion University Libraries. Fred Strong has granted ODU faculty, staff, and students permission to perform his compositions royalty free.

Source of Acquisition

Fred Strong

Method of Acquisition

Acc. 2021.004 was hand-delivered to Special Collections and University Archives from the donor on 4/12/2021.

Processing Information

The collection was processed by LaraAnn Canner from April through July 2021.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Box [insert number], Folder [insert number and title], Fred Strong Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Biographical / Historical

Fred Strong was born in Shreveport, Louisiana but spent much of his early life in Norfolk, Virginia (1960 - 1979), where he graduated from Norview High School in 1970. After high school, Strong went on to study musical composition for one year at Shenandoah Conservatory, in Winchester, Virginia, after which he completed his studies at Old Dominion University (ODU).

Having learned the basics of music and piano from his mother, he began writing songs at an early age and sang in choral groups throughout all levels of schooling. While in high school, encouraged and mentored by his choir director, Claire McDermott, he became student director and began to write music of a more serious nature, several works of which were performed by Norview's concert choir, madrigals, and band. His love for writing music motivated him to seek a degree in composition. In addition to his time at ODU, Strong has studied with former Norfolk State University professor and composer Adolphus Hailstork, and taken classes in film scoring and arranging at L.A. Valley College in Los Angeles, California. For many years, Strong enjoyed a career in published music, working in New York City for the music publisher Carl Fischer and owning sheet music retail outlets in Norfolk, Virginia and Portland, Oregon.

Strong's works have been performed across the United States, including Norfolk, Chesapeake, and Williamsburg, Virginia, Los Angeles, New York City, Providence, Rhode Island, and Washington DC, where his choral piece, *The Well*, was premiered on the steps of the United States Capitol Building. Until 2020, Strong lived in Portland, Oregon where he developed an annual, secular Winter Solstice celebration called *Darktolight* for which he wrote several works. For *Darktolight 2012*, he wrote a musical, *BANG!*, which celebrates life and evolution originating in the Big Bang. *BANG!* garnered national attention and is the world's first Freethought musical.

Strong currently resides in Williamsburg, Virginia with his wife, Sandra Brown.

Note written by Fred Strong

Content Description

This collection is primarily comprised of Fred Strong's musical compositions for piano and vocal scores, focusing on humanist, secular, and natural themes. Included in the collection is one of the composers most famous pieces - *BANG! The Musical*, a composition for soprano, alto, tenor, and bass. As described by the composer, "*BANG!* takes the audience on a trip through time and space from the big bang to present-day Earth, with a humanist message about our choices and responsibilities. The music ranges from doo-wop to hip-hop and folk to jazz."

Keywords

Hampton Roads (Va. : Region)

Music--United States--20th century

Music--United States--21st century

Vocal Music--20th century
Vocal Music--21st century
Music
Piano Music--20th century
Piano Music--21st century

Arrangement

The collection has been organized into two series: Series I: Original Compositions; and Series II: Musical.

Description of Subordinate Components

Series I: Original Compositions

Unit ID Series I

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/80362

Unit Date 1991-2020

Scope and Contents

This series consists of original works composed by Frank Strong.

Sub-Series A: Piano Score

Unit ID Sub-Series A

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/80363

Unit Date 1998-2020

Scope and Contents

This sub-series includes original piano scores by Strong.

Box 1

Unit ID Box 1

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/80364

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Folder 1: Sonatine: Jocose in Three Movements

Unit ID Folder 1

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/80365

Unit Date 1998

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 1, Sonatine: Jocose in Three Movements, 1998, Fred Strong Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Folder 2: Supernatural Suite

Unit ID Folder 2

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/80366

Unit Date 2020

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 2, Supernatural Suite, 2020, Fred Strong Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Sub-Series B: Vocal Score**Unit ID** Sub-Series B**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/80367**Unit Date** 1991-2012**Scope and Contents**

This sub-series contains original vocal scores by Strong.

Box 1**Unit ID** Box 1**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/80368**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Folder 3: Diva Ditty: Two Sopranos and Piano****Unit ID** Folder 3**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/80369**Unit Date** 2003**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 3 (folder)**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 3, Diva Ditty: Two Sopranos and Piano, 2003, Fred Strong Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Folder 4: Follow the Light: A Madrigal for Winter Solstice, SATB Choir Acapella**Unit ID** Folder 4**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/80370**Unit Date** 2012**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 4 (folder)**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 4, Follow the Light: A Madrigal for Winter Solstice, SATB Choir Acapella, 2012, Fred Strong Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Folder 5: "Love and Pity" SATB Chorus Acapella**Unit ID** Folder 5**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/80371**Unit Date** 1992**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 5 (folder)**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 5, "Love and Pity" SATB Chorus Acapella, 1992, Fred Strong Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Folder 6: Panoranimals SATB Chorus Acapella**Unit ID** Folder 6**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/80372**Unit Date** 1991**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 6 (folder)**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 6, Panoranimals SATB Chorus Acapella, 1991, Fred Strong Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Folder 7: Rumors (A Tangled Tango) Two Sopranos and Piano**Unit ID** Folder 7**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/80373**Unit Date** 2005**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 7 (folder)**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 7, Rumors (A Tangled Tango) Two Sopranos and Piano, 2005, Fred Strong Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Folder 8: "T(w)o Housman" SATB Chorus with Soprano Soloist Acapella**Unit ID** Folder 8**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/80374**Unit Date** 1992**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 8 (folder)**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 8, "T(w)o Housman" SATB Chorus with Soprano Soloist Acapella, 1992, Fred Strong Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Folder 9: The Well SATB Choir and Piano**Unit ID** Folder 9**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/80375**Unit Date** 2010**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 9 (folder)**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 9, The Well SATB Choir and Piano, 2010, Fred Strong Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Series II: Bang! The Musical**Unit ID** Series II**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/80376**Unit Date** 2012-2013**Scope and Contents**

This series contains material related to Bang! The Musical, composed by Strong. Bang! The Musical is a composition for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. As described by the composer, "BANG! takes the audience on a trip through time and space from the big bang to present-day Earth, with a humanist message about our choices and responsibilities. The music ranges from doo-woop to hip-hop and folk to jazz."

Sub-Series A: Audio Visual**Unit ID** Sub-Series A**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/80377**Unit Date** 2013**Scope and Contents**

This sub-series consists of a DVD of Bang! The Musical.

Box 1**Unit ID** Box 1**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/80378**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

Folder 10: Bang! The Musical DVD**Unit ID** Folder 10**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/80379**Unit Date** 2013**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 10 (folder)**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 10, Bang! The Musical DVD, 2013, Fred Strong Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Sub-Series B: Books**Unit ID** Sub-Series B**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/80380**Unit Date** 2012**Scope and Contents**

This sub-series contains a booklet and musical score for Bang! The Musical.

Box 1**Unit ID** Box 1**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/80381**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Folder 11: Bang! The Musical Lyric Booklet****Unit ID** Folder 11**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/80382**Unit Date** 2012**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 11 (folder)**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 11, Bang! The Musical Lyric Booklet, 2012, Fred Strong Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

Bang! The Musical Complete Vocal Score Music & Lyrics for All 16 Numbers, Plus Skit Scripts**Unit ID** Item 1**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/80383**Unit Date** 2012**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Preferred Citation**

Bang! The Musical Complete Vocal Score Music & Lyrics for All 16 Numbers, Plus Skit Scripts, 2012, Box 1, Fred Strong Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.