The Julia Perry Collection of one manuscript box was received through Darius Thieme, then Chairman of the Music Faculty, in 1978. An additional sheet music was donated by Dominque - Rene de Lerma in 1980. The latter comprises "Simple Symphony" and "Soul Symphony" (first two movements).

The collection has correspondence (1974 - 1980) with Martin Bookspan (ASCAP), Dominque Rene de Lerma and Samuel Floyd; and original sheet music.
Julia Amanda Perry

(1924 - 1979)

Julia Amanda Perry, composer, was born March 25, 1924 in Lexington, Kentucky. When she was ten years old, her family moved to Akron, Ohio, where she remained until her death, April 24, 1979.

Ms. Perry studied music at Akron University, and the Westminster Choir College, Princeton, New Jersey, where she received a Bachelor of Music (1947) in voice, and a Master of Music (1948) in composition. She did further study at the Juilliard School of Music (1950) and the Berkshire Music Center in Lenox, Massachusetts. For eight years, she studied composition abroad, while also touring as a lecturer on American music for the United States Information Service.

Ms. Perry was awarded two Guggenheim Fellowships in 1954 and 1956, a Boulanger Grand Prix, and an award from the National Institute of Arts and letters in 1965.

"She was regarded as one of the most talented female composers of her generation in the United States." In 1973, she was paralyzed on her right side by strokes, but continued composing by teaching herself to use her left hand. Some of the compositions in this collection illustrate her difficulty in writing.

Source: Southern, Eileen, Biographical Dictionary of Afro-American and African Musicians (Greenwood Press, 1982)
Box 1

f. 1--Correspondence--1974-1980
2--Sheet Music--"Bicentennial Reflections"
3--Sheet Music--"Module for Orchestra"
4--Sheet Music--"Prelude for Piano"
5--Sheet Music--"Triptych"
6--Sheet Music--"Hymn to Pan"
7--Sheet Music--"Simple Symphony" (Second Movement)
8--Sheet Music--"Soul Symphony" (First Two Movements)