

A Guide to the
Croley, Arthur Roscoe Croley Collection, 1902-1979
Papers 1935-1974
Fisk University Archives

Processed by Aisha M. Johnson, Archivist (June 2012)

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Biographical Note: Arthur Roscoe Croley, professor emeritus of music and organist emeritus at Fisk University, embodied the description of the musician as one who “expresses the inexpressible.”

A native of Saginaw, Michigan, Professor Croley devoted over 30 years of his life to the teaching and the performing of music at Fisk and in Nashville.

As a student of the distinguished music instructors George W. Andrews of Oberlin College, Madame Nadia Boulanger and Joseph Bonnet, both of Paris, Professor Croley early in life exhibited his musical talent. In 1926 he took the bachelor degree in music from Oberlin and earned his Master’s from the Oberlin Conservatory by 1927. After two years as a teacher at his alma mater and following studies in Paris, he became the organist and director of the Paris American Church in Quai d’Orsai. He returned to Oberlin to teach in 1934 and joined the Fisk faculty in 1938.

From 1938 to retirement in 1969, music and Fisk were his loves. He devoted countless hours to four decades of Fisk music students. As chairman of the Fisk Concert Series, he broadened the entire Nashville community’s appreciation of Fisk and music through the presentation of countless national and international performers on the Fisk campus.

He was an active participant in the musical community of Nashville, teaching music at Scarritt and Peabody Colleges and serving as Dean and Program Chairman of the American Guild of Organists.

Throughout his career Professor Croley did more than maintain the musical tradition of excellence of Fisk. He worked diligently to enhance that tradition, not only for his students at Fisk but for the entire Nashville community. His life and career as a musician and teacher, and the careers of numerous musicians around the country, give ample evidence of the indelible mark Arthur Croley made on the musical community.

Scope and Content Note: The Arthur Roscoe Croley Collection consists of three archival boxes (1.5 linear feet). The collection is small containing correspondence, newspaper clippings, photographs, and printed materials. In addition, the collection contains an abundance of programs from various concerts including the Fisk University Concert Series. Sheet music written and used by Croley is also a major portion of this collection.

Croley, Arthur 1902 -1979
Papers 1938-1974

Inventory

Box 1

- f.
1. Correspondence, General -- 1952-1954, 1958-1960, 1965-1966
 2. Correspondence, General -- March – April 1969
 3. Correspondence, General -- May 1969, no date
 4. Newspaper Clippings -- 1949-1954, 1957-1962
 5. Newspaper Clippings -- 1963-1965
 6. Newspaper Clippings -- 1966-1969, no date
 7. Photographs -- Ellabelle Davis
 8. Photographs -- Leonard de Paur
 9. Photographs -- Natalie Hinderas
 10. Photographs -- Rafael Puyana
 11. Photographs -- Vronsky and Babin
 12. Photographs -- Camilla Williams
 13. Photographs -- Lawrence Winters
 14. Photographs -- Miscellaneous
 15. Printed Materials -- Concert Advertisements A-F
 16. Printed Materials -- Concert Advertisements L-N
 17. Printed Materials -- Concert Advertisements T-W

Box 2

- f.
1. Programs -- Arthur R. Croley Memorial Service, Fisk University 75th Anniversary
 2. Programs -- Fisk University Commencement 1962-1963, 1972
 3. Programs -- Fisk University Concert Series 1938, 1948-1954, 1958-1961, 1965, 1968
 4. Programs -- Fisk University Concert Series Publicity
 5. Programs -- Fisk University Convocation 1960, 1963-1968, 1974
 6. Programs -- Fisk University Festival of Music and Fine Arts 1935, 1940-1950
 7. Programs -- Fisk University Festival of Music and Fine Arts 1953-1959
 8. Programs -- Fisk University Festival of Music and Fine Arts 1960-1964, 1969-1972
 9. Programs -- Fisk University Inauguration 1968
 10. Programs -- Fisk University Quiet Hour 1948-1951, 1955
 11. Programs -- Fisk University Quiet Hour 1957-1958, 1966, no date
 12. Programs -- Fisk University Recitals 1949, 1950-1960, 1968-1970, 1973-1974
 13. Programs -- Fisk University Vespers 1942, 1957 1961
 14. Programs -- Fisk University Vespers 1962

15. Programs -- Miscellaneous
16. Programs -- Miscellaneous

Box 3

- f.
 1. Sheet Music, Miscellaneous -- A-E
 2. Sheet Music, Miscellaneous -- F
 3. Sheet Music, Miscellaneous -- G-M
 4. Sheet Music, Miscellaneous -- N-O
 5. Sheet Music, Miscellaneous -- P
 6. Sheet Music, Miscellaneous -- R-S
 7. Sheet Music, Miscellaneous -- T-W
 8. Sheet Music, Miscellaneous -- Unidentifiable
 9. Miscellaneous -- Agreements
 10. Miscellaneous -- Financial Records
 11. Miscellaneous -- Notes