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Frank L. Battisti Papers

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Read collection overview

Frank Battisti began his teaching career as an instrumental teacher in the Ithaca (New York) Public Schools in 1953. He became Director of Bands at Ithaca High School in 1955 and remained there until 1967. Battisti was conductor of the Symphonic Wind Ensemble and a faculty member at Baldwin-Wallace College Conservatory of Music from 1967-1969. In 1969, he was invited to join the New England Conservatory in Boston to start the wind ensemble. Under his 30 years of leadership the ensemble became recognized as one of the premiere ensembles of its kind in the United States and throughout the world. While at the Conservatory Battisti commissioned works from distinguished national and international composers such as Robert Ceely, John Harbison, Robin Holloway, Witold Lutoslawski, William Thomas McKinley, Michael Colgrass, Daniel Pinkham, Gunther Schuller, Robert Selig, and Sir Michael Tippett. When he retired from the Conservatory in 1999, Battisti was named Conductor Emeritus of the NEC Wind Ensemble. Throughout his career he guest conducted numerous university and college, military, professional, and high school bands and wind ensembles, and served as a visiting teacher/clinician throughout the United States and internationally. Battisti held numerous national offices in various wind band/ensemble associations including President of the U.S. College Band directors National Association (CBDNA). He contributed articles on wind band/ensemble literature, conducting and music education to professional journals and magazines and is considered one of the foremost authorities on wind music literature. Battisti was also Principal Guest Conductor of the Longy School of Music Chamber Winds from 2000-2008 and founder and Music Director of the Tanglewood Institute's Young Artists Wind Ensemble from 2000-2004. Officially retired, Battisti maintains a very active guest conducting, teaching and writing career. He lives in Leverett, Massachusetts with Charlotte, his wife of over 59 years.

The Frank L. Battisti papers provides a comprehensive overview of his long and distinguished career as a teacher, director of bands, and conductor including his associations with the Ithaca High School Band, the New England Conservatory Wind Ensemble, and Young Artists Wind Ensemble (YAWE) at Tanglewood. Considered a foremost authority on wind music literature, his many publications—articles and books—are also featured in the collection.

Background on Frank L. Battisti

Frank Battisti is Conductor Emeritus of the New England Conservatory Wind Ensemble. He began his teaching career in the Ithaca (NY) Public Schools in 1953 and was Director of Bands at Ithaca High School from 1955 - 67. Under his direction the band became one of the finest and most unique ensembles in the nation. It's innovative commissioning project generated 24 works composed by distinguished American

composers. Battisti's Ithaca High School Concert Band is included on the Sousa Foundation's Historic Roll of Honor of High School Concert Bands, 1920 -1980.

Battisti taught at the New England Conservatory from 1969 - 1999. Under his leadership the NEC Wind Ensemble established itself as being one of the premiere ensembles of its kind in the world. Throughout his career Battisti commissioned and premiered works by many of the world's leading composers including John Harbison, Witold Lutoslawski, Vincent Persichetti, Michael Colgrass, Daniel Pinkham, Gunther Schuller, Robert Ward, Ivan Tcheripnin, Sir Michael Tippett, Warren Benson, Leslie Bassett and Alec Wilder.

Battisti has guest conducted university, military, professional and school bands/ wind ensembles in the United States, England, Europe, Middle East, Africa, Scandinavia, Australia, China, Taiwan, Canada, South America, South Korea, Iceland and the U.S.S.R. He founded the World Association of Wind Bands and Ensembles (WASBE), the Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble, New England College Band Association and the Tanglewood Institute Young Artists Wind Ensemble; served as an editor for music publishing companies and has written hundreds of articles on wind ensemble/band literature, conducting and music education. He has also authored/co-authored five books (The 20th Century American Wind Band/Ensemble, The Winds of Change, On Becoming a Conductor: Lessons and Meditations on the Art of Conducting, Score Study for the Wind Band Conductor and Lead and Inspire).

Included among the many awards Battisti has received are an Honorary Doctorate of Music degrees from Ithaca College and Rhode Island College, New England Conservatory's Krasner Excellence in Teaching Award, Massachusetts Music Educators' Lowell Mason Award, National Band Association AWAPA Award and Midwest Clinic Medal of Honor.

Scope of collection

The Frank L. Battisti papers provides a comprehensive overview of his long and distinguished career as a teacher, director of bands, and conductor including his associations with the Ithaca High School Band, the New England Conservatory Wind Ensemble, and Young Artists Wind Ensemble (YAWE) at Tanglewood. Considered a foremost authority on wind music literature, his many publications—articles and books—are also featured in the collection.

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Books by Frank L. Battisti; DVDs of Frank L. Battisti; Book about Frank L. Battisti
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Books: Guide to Score Study for the Wind Band Conductor by Frank L. Battisti and Robert Garofalo (Meredith Music Publications, 1990); The 20th Century American Wind Band/Ensemble - History, Development and Literature by Frank L. Battisti (Meredith Music Publications, 1995); The Winds of Change - The Evolution of the Contemporary American Wind Band/Ensemble and its Conductor by Frank L. Battisti (Meredith Music Publications, 2002); Lead and Inspire - A Guide to Expressive Conducting by Robert Garofalo and Frank L. Battisti (Whirlwind Music Publications, 2005); On Becoming a Conductor: Lessons and Mediations on the Art

of Conducting by Frank L. Battisti (Meredith Music Publications, 2007); The Best We Can Be: The Story of the Ithaca High School Band, 1955-67 by Frank L. Battisti and R. Bruce Musgrave (Meredith Music Publications, 2010); Winds of Change II – The New Millennium: A Chronicle of the Continuing Evolution of the Contemporary American Wind Band/ Ensemble by Frank L. Battisti (Meredith Music Publications, 2012); Sourcebook for Wind Band and Instrumental Music by Frank L. Battisti, William Berz; The Conductor's Challenge: Finding Expressive Meaning in the Score by Frank L. Battisti (Meredith Music Publications, 2016); The NEW Winds of Change by Frank L. Battisti: The Evolution of the Contemporary American Wind Band/Ensemble and Its Music (Meredith Music Publications, 2018).

DVD of Battisti: Three Icons: Frank Battisti, Robert Reynolds, Donald Hunsberger (World Projects - GIA); Frank Battisti: The Inspiring, Skilled and Purposeful Conductor-Teacher (Master Conductors – GIA)

Book about Battisti: 1. In Search of Meaning: Frank L. Battisti by Mitchell Lutch (Meredith Music Publications, 2019)

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Factors Contributing to the Commissioning of American Band Works Since 1945 by William D. Nicholls (University of Miami, Miami, FL, 1980) ; Wind Ensembles in Six American Collegiate Institutions by Ronald Wayne Johnson (University of Illinois, Urbana, IL, 1986); The Ithaca (NY) High School Band from 1955 -1967 Directed by Frank L. Battisti by Brian Harry Norcross (The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC, 1991); Triumph: A Paraphrase in Music form The Mask of Time by Patrick Allen Reynolds (Cincinnati College Conservatory, Cincinnati, OH, 1997); Mixed-Wind Chamber Ensembles Repertoire: A Status Study of Selected Institutions of Higher Learning by John L. Baker (Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL, 1997); Six Highly Successful Band Conductors and the Development of their Band Programs by Christopher Hayes (University of Missouri-Columbia, Columbia, MO, 1998); A Case Study of the Ridgewood Concert Band , A New Jersey Community Band Dedicated to Life-Long Learning by Carl C. Wilhjelms, Jr. (Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, NY, 1998); The Communication of Musical Feeling and It's Implications for Preparing Future Conductors by Frederick E. Harris, Jr. (University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, 1999) ; An

American Song by Alan Fletcher by Mark Emerson Hopkins (New England Conservatory, Boston, MA, 1999); Three City Blocks by John Harbison by Robert J. Spittal (Cincinnati College Conservatory, Cincinnati, OH, 2000); An Analysis of John Harbison's Three City Blocks by Alan D. Wagner (Florida State University, FL, 1994); Nutrition for Musicians: A Conceptual Paradigm for Rehearsing Instrumental Music; A Theoretical, Psychological, and Emotional Prospective On Music Making by Shelley May Jagow (Graduate College of Union Institute and University, Cincinnati, OH, 2004); A Stylistic Analysis of the Wind Music of Michael Colgrass, with particular emphasis on Winds of Nagual: A Discussion of it's Relationship to the Writings of Carlos Castaneda and a Practical Guide for It's Effective Performance by Tiffany J. Engle (Michigan State University, Lansing, MI, 2005); Frank L. Battisti: Insegnamenti e Meditazioni di un Direttore-Educatore by Paolo Grosso (Conservatorio de Musica "S. Giacomantonio-Cosenza, 2007-2008); High School Band Repertoire 1980-1985 by Brain H. Norcross (New England Conservatory), 1986; An Interpretive Analysis of Arctic Dreams by Michael Colgrass by Frederick Hanna (New England Conservatory, 1997); The Communication of Musical Feeling and its Implications for Preparing Future Conductors by Frederick Edward Harris, Jr. (University of Minnesota, 1999).

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the Ithaca High School Concert Band: scores commissioned and used in the premiere performances of these works

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various dates

Box 2

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Administrative information

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