

Bryan Rulon Collection

N-644, N-645, N

Hamilton East Public Library

Crossroads Discovery Center

1 Library Plaza

Noblesville, IN 46060

By Jessica Layman, Genealogy and Local History Librarian, and Hayes Lupin, Crossroads Discovery Center Assistant

Collection Overview

Title: Bryan Rulon Collection

Collection ID: N-644, N-645, N

Creator: Alice Rulon (b.1932)

Extent: 84 1/8 linear inches

Arrangement: The collection is arranged in one series: I. Bryan Rulon Collection

Date Acquired: October 17, 2022

Languages: English [eng], Polish [pol], German [ger]

Scope and Contents of the Materials

The Bryan Rulon Collection contains materials once owned by musician and composer, C. Bryan Rulon. Materials are dated between the 1970s to 2010s. The collection includes:

- music sheets, music books,
- letters, newspaper clippings,
- photos,
- posters, flyers, programs, postcards, advertisements, schedules
- resumes, grants
- photocopies
- artwork photocopies, prints,

The collection was named the "Bryan Rulon Collection" to facilitate discoverability. Collection materials are of interest to researchers likely to know of C. Bryan Rulon or those interested in researching musicians and composers from Hamilton County, Ind.

Collection Historical Note

Charles Bryan Rulon was born on May 23, 1954, in Noblesville, Ind. to Alice M. (Simmermon) Rulon and Gene Rulon, and grew up in Arcadia, Ind. with his family members. Rulon's grandmother inspired him to play piano, and later his neighbor, Penny Caccina, taught Rulon how to play. While his parents were not involved in the music world, Rulon stated they "were very good about taking me to piano lessons and dropping me off at concerts by the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra" (Moore 2017). In 1965, he attended Walnut Grove High School for the fifth grade and picked up the trombone. During his high school years, he performed in school concerts, marching bands, and with the brass quintet. Rulon graduated from Hamilton Heights High School in 1972.

In 1976, Rulon started attending Indiana University in Bloomington, Ind. for a Bachelor of Music (BM). He studied compositions with teachers and composers Bernhard Heiden, Frederick A. Fox, and John Eaton. Rulon continued to practice the piano with his teacher, Bronja Foster. Rulon first encountered synthesizers in college and stated, "They were making sounds that I heard in my head all my life." (Moore 2017). After gaining his bachelors, Rulon continued to attend Indiana University for his Masters in Music (MM) in Bloomington, Ind. During that time, he taught as an Associate Instructor for the Center for Electronic and Computer Music at Indiana University and became the Director of the Electronic Music Ensemble from 1977 to 1980.

In May 1980, Rulon received an invitation from the Polish Government to perform his composition, "Entropy", in Warsaw, Poland for the ISCM concert series. Rulon created his master's thesis, "Ritual for the Industrial Tribes", for Indiana University sometime in January 1981. His thesis contained many mixed media elements which included; music, performance art, images, and video. He graduated with his Masters in Music (MM) in both Composition and Electronic Music in 1981.

In 1981, Rulon accompanied Layman Jackson Foster to New York City, where the two moved to 405 E 12th St in the East Village, Manhattan. The pair worked freelance jobs and collaborated on shared jobs; they worked on theatre projects for the Ensemble Studio Theater, New York University Theater, and Children's Dance Theatre between the years 1984 to 1985.

Layman Foster met Matt Sullivan at a party in 1982 and introduced Sullivan to Rulon due to their shared interest in music. Sullivan and Rulon created the band, First Avenue, with double bassist Bill Kannar joining a few years later. First Avenue, an improvisational live-electronic band, used acoustic and digital instruments in their performances. First Avenue performed often around lower Manhattan and invited guests to perform alongside them during the show (Layman Foster being a regular collaborator). Sometime between the 1980s and 1990s, John Schaefer played First Avenue's music on his show "New Sounds". Rulon released the running cassette tape, "Momentum I" sometime around Thanksgiving in 1983, which grew in popularity. Runners utilized the tape's multimetric design to find their pulse no matter their skill in running. Air India bought commercial rights to use the song in their commercials to advertise their airlines.

In 1991, Rulon began his graduate studies at Princeton University and received his PhD in composition in 1995, while also continuing his work with First Avenue. He taught music at the Thurnauer School of CRDC at HEPL N-644, N-645, N Bryan Rulon Collection

Music, New Jersey from 1989 to 1991, and taught at Princeton University from 1993 to 1994. Rulon also received the Guggenheim Fellowship in 1996 and co-created an opera, "[Still Life with Daniel]", with Orlando Ferrand.

During the HIV/AIDS crisis, First Avenue performed music in the Palladium nightclub in New York City to fundraise money for people affected by HIV/AIDS. When HIV/AIDS testing first rolled out in New York City, the band members used their relief to inspire their song, "Dream Again." In 1994, Layman Jackson Foster died due to complications caused by HIV/AIDS. Rulon, alongside Curtis Bahn, made the song "SelfRequiem" in Foster's memory. Rulon collaborated for the album, "And Trouble Came: Musical Response to Aids" where "SelfRequiem" is featured.

Rulon's physical health started to decline sometime between the 1990s and early 2000s. Matt Sullivan took Rulon to his hospital trips, and Rulon's mother, Alice Rulon, often traveled back and forth from Indiana to take care of her son. In 2006, Rulon made the decision to move back to Indiana due to open-heart surgery. In an interview conducted by Tom Moore in 2012, he described how he felt about the artistic scene in Indiana. "...I feel very alienated from the arts living here. It is a choice that I made in coming out here, but once I am here, why would one try to get anything happening when you fear it will not be appreciated." (Moore 2017). Rulon continued practicing and teaching the piano during his stay in Noblesville, Ind.

On April 13, 2015, C. Bryan Rulon passed away in his home in Noblesville, Ind. On October 17, 2022, his mother Alice Rulon donated his music compositions to the Crossroads Discovery Center at Hamilton East Public Library for historical preservation.

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Layman Jackson Foster was born in 1952 to Betty C. (Hall) Garland and Layman Jackson Foster, Sr in Speedway, Ind. Foster graduated from John Herron School of Art in Indianapolis, Ind. in 1974 and continued his education for his Bachelor of the Fine Arts (BFA) from Indiana University in Bloomington, Ind. in 1978. He collaborated with Rulon during their time in college by doing live collage and painting during Rulon's music performance of "Entropy" in Bloomington, Ind.

In 1981, Foster asked C. Bryan Rulon to accompany him to New York City. They moved to 405 E 12th St in the East Village, Manhattan. The pair worked freelance jobs and collaborated often on shared jobs; they worked on theatre projects for the Ensemble Studio Theater, New York University Theater, and Children's Dance Theatre between the years 1984 to 1985. Foster later met Matt Sullivan at a party and introduced him to C. Bryan Rulon. Rulon and Sullivan went on to create the band First Avenue.

Foster had his artistic debut during the 1983 Army Terminal Show in Brooklyn, NY. Newspapers described his artwork "...despite his obvious indebtedness to past masters, Mr. Foster's individuality comes across strongly..." (Harrison 1986). The galleries Jamie Szoke Gallery (NYC 1985), Greathouse Gallery (NYC 1984), P.S. 1 (Long Island City 1984) also displayed Foster's artwork after his initial debut. An anonymous donation occurred in 1985 of Layman's monotype print and plates, "Ida Busy Resting" to the MET Museum and still currently in the collection as of 2025.

Foster artworks touched on portraiture, still life scenes, and a few religious imagery scenes. He dabbled in mediums such as printmaking; monotypes or intaglio, and oil painting. Foster combines his subject matter with techniques that are in abstract artwork. In his paintings, he uses broad and bold lines to outline his subjects and uses a variety of vivid colors throughout to give it a more contrasting look. When making human figures, he focuses more on the geometric shapes of the figure and enlarges the head, hands, and feet. The background typically includes patterns of geometric shapes that make

the subject stand out. In his printmaking, while he approaches the subject in a similar fashion, the lines gain a more distinct sketchy texture. Foster collaborated often with First Avenue, assisting in making many of their flyers and creating artwork during their shows.

Foster contracted AIDS sometime during the 1990s and while still living in the East Village he went blind. In August 1994, Foster died due to complications from HIV/AIDS. C. Bryan Rulon, alongside Curtis Bahn, made the song "SelfRequiem" in Foster's memory. Rulon collaborated for the album, "And Trouble Came: Musical Response to Aids" where "SelfRequiem" is featured.

As of December 2025, many of Foster's artworks are in possession of Matt Sullivan, friend and former First Avenue oboist. Sullivan had discussed plans of converting parts of his Florida home to a gallery dedicated to his late husband, Ken Cro-Ken, and friends including Layman Foster and C. Bryan Rulon.

Sources

Materials in collection

Matt Sullivan, musician, interviewed by Hayes Lupin, December 10, 2025, interview 1, transcript and recording, Crossroads Discovery Center, Bryan Rulon Collection digital files.

Sullivan, Matt. Email to Hayes Lupin. 22 September 2025

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Talento, Romeo. "C. Bryan Rulon - The Living Composers Project." 31 Aug. 2024, www.composers21.com/compdocs/rulonc.htm.

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"And Trouble Came - Musical Responses to AIDS : Fidelio, Mark Lamos : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive." Internet Archive, 20 Nov. 2025, archive.org/details/cd_and-trouble-came-musical-responses-to-ai_various-artists-fidelio-mark-lamos-michael/page/n5/mode/1up.

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City: New York; State: New York; Year(s): 1993-1994. Ancestry.com. *U.S., Phone and Address Directories, 1993-2002* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2005.

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Harrison, Helen A. "ART; URBAN ANXIETIES REFLECTED IN PAINTINGS FROM EAST VILLAGE." N.Y. Times, 17 Aug. 1986, www.nytimes.com/1986/08/17/nyregion/art-urban-anxieties-reflected-in-paintings-from-east-village.html.

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Artsystems. "Aged Accounts Receivable = November 17, 2009". PDF, https://www.artsystems.com/products/reports/fin_ar.pdf

Biographical Note

Alice M. (Simmermon) Rulon (b. 1932) was born on August 23, 1932, in Wayne Township, Hamilton Co., Ind and married her husband, Gene A. Rulon, on March 4, 1951. Alice Rulon dedicated her time to painting and homemaking. When her son, Bryan Rulon, became ill she visited him often in New York to take care of him before his move back to Indiana in 2006. She curated and donated the materials on October 17th, 2022, to the Crossroads Discovery Center at Hamilton East Public Library.

Sources

Materials in collection

Matt Sullivan, musician, interviewed by Hayes Lupin, December 10, 2025, interview 1, transcript and recording, Crossroads Discovery Center, Bryan Rulon Collection digital files.

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Related Material

N/A

Separated Material

N/A

Subject/Index Terms

Arcadia, Hamilton Co., Ind.

Arcadia, Ind.

Artists

Calabrese, Rosaline

Composers

Bahn, Curtis

Electronic Music Ensemble

First Avenue

Foster, Layman

Foster, Layman Jackson

Music

Music, Alternative

Music, Chamber

Music, Classic

Music, Contemporary

Music, Electronic

Music, Experimental

Music, Improv

Musician

New York City

New York City, East Village

Noblesville, Hamilton Co., Ind.

Noblesville, Ind.

Opera

Painting, Oil

Postmodernism

Printmaking

School, Hamilton Heights

Rulon, Alice

Rulon, Bryan

Rulon, C. Bryan

Rulon, Charles Bryan

University, Indiana

University, Princeton

Warsaw, Poland

Forms of Material:

ads,

brochures,

clippings,

flyers,

letters,

music sheets,

notes,

pamphlets,

photocopies,

photos,

postcards,

posters,

prints,

program,

programme,

Administrative Information

Repository: Crossroads Discovery Center at Hamilton East Public Library

Alternate Extent Statement: 5 boxes; 84 1/8 linear inches

Access Restrictions:

CRDC at HEPL N-644, N-645, N Bryan Rulon Collection

Use Restrictions:

Acquisition Source: Alice Rulon

Acquisition Method: Donation

Preferred Citation: Bryan Rulon Collection at Hamilton East Public Library

Box and Folder Listing

Series I: Rulon Collection

Box I.

Item: Untitled

Folder 1: Multiple Obosis | For Matt Sullivan and Tom Stacy (1987)

Folder 2: Multiple Obosis | For Matt Sullivan and Tom Stacy (1987)

Item: Ritual for the Industrial Tribes

Folder 3: Res Facta | Part of the music sheets

Item: Res Facta

Item: Photograph of painting by Layman Foster

Item: Quantum Mechanics | Lesson I: Edstatic States (1988)

Folder 7: Untitled

Folder 8: Arpside Again Sketches

Folder 9: The Lame Duck Toccata Original (1983)

Folder 10: Generations

Folder 11: Quantum Mechanics | Lesson II Ecstatic States (1988)

Folder 12: The Hyena and the Stork | for Tara O'Conner and Greg Hesselink (2000-01)

Item: East Village Rhapsody

Folder 13: Two Dances for Oboe Qtt

Folder 14: Commissioned by Musicians Accord, Kathleen Nestor and Matt Sullivan

Folder 15: Oh, Rampant Punk

Folder 16: Oh, Rampant Punk

Folder 17: Trio for Tuba and Two Vibraphones

Folder 18: Extended ENTROPY (1989)

Folder 19: AntiSilence (2003-04) | For Woodwind Quintet and Computer Playback

Box II.

Folder 1: **Entropy Poster Original**

Folder 2: **Industrial Tribes Poster no words**

Folder 3: **Ritual for the Industrial Tribes Poster**

Folder 4: **Ritual for the Industrial Tribes Poster**

Item: **Music for the String Quartet and Synthesizer**

Item: **Momentum 1 | The Running Tape**

Folder 5: **Symphony #1 When Quiet Implodes (1984)**

Folder 6: **Generations**

Folder 7: **Generations**

Item: **Generations (1989) Music Book**

Item: **Timbrality (1976) Music Book**

Item: **Orchestral Suit from the Opera | Still Life with Daniel: the lonely mutant (1997)**

Item: **Symphony #1 | When Quiet Implodes (1984) Music Book**

Item: **Music for String Quartet and Synthesizer Music Book x2**

Item: **Quintet Too Plus One (1987) for amplified woodwind quintet and Yamaha DX5 Synthesizer Music Books x4**

Box III.

Folder 1: **Untitled Music Sheets**

Folder 2: **The Three Faces of Christmas (to Kevin Kiwak) (1974) Rulon**

Folder 3: **Series III (E9-1-5) 20 meas**

Folder 4: **Untitled Music Lyrics**

Folder 5: **Take Me Home (for Audience) (1976) Rulon**

Folder 6: **Dance Sections and Card Titles for Ritual for the Industrial Tribes 1981**

Folder 7: **Microcarpae Apifolae Writing (Untitled)**

Folder 8: **Field of Dreams | Rulon**

Folder 9: **Generations (1989) Rulon**

Folder 10: **Theme and Variation for ob, bsn + closn | Score 12pp. & opq "pc, ltwtsp, duo-out" - Rulon**

Folder 11: **Untitled Music + Writing**

Folder 12: **"Ecstatic Stats" Trumpet II (in C)**

Folder 13: **New Hero | pf solo | Score: 25 pp* opqiprlt wtsp duo-in**

Folder 14: **Gift** | for Ida and Friend | Score: 5pp | Rulon

Folder 15: **Momentum I** (1983) | Score: 5pp | Rulon

Item: **Royal Snow Music Solo pt** (1974) | Score: 15pp | duo-out Rulon

Folder 16: **2 Dances for Ob. Qtt** | Rulon Parts

Folder 17: **Love Songs of Molecules for Chamber Orchestra and Chorus**

Folder 18: **Sonatina 1974**

Folder 19: **Entropy**

Folder 20: **SelfRequiem** | to the memory of Layman Foster (1952-1994)

Folder 21: **SelfRequiem** | to the memory of Layman Foster (1952-1994)

Folder 22: **Small Animals Run Through my Heart**

Folder 23: **Small Animals Run Through my Heart**

Folder 24: **Small Animals Run Through my Heart**

Folder 25: **Quantum Mechanics Lesson One (Harp)**

Folder 26: **Quantum Mechanics Lesson One (Violin One)**

Folder 27: **Quantum Mechanics Lesson One (Cello)**

Folder 28: **Quantum Mechanics Lesson One (Bass Clarinet/Clarinet 3 in Bb)**

Folder 29: **Quantum Mechanics Lesson One (Tuba)**

Folder 30: **Quantum Mechanics Lesson One (Flute I)**

Folder 31: **Quantum Mechanics Lesson One: Edstatic States**

Folder 32: **Quintet Plus One (Miniature)**

Folder 33: **Quintet Plus One**

Folder 34: **Res Facta**

Folder 35: **Res Facta**

Folder 36: **A Fragile God**

Folder 37: **The Luddites' Disclaimer**

Folder 38: **Lame Duck Toccata**

Folder 39: **Still Life with Daniel: The Lonely Mutant**

Folder 40: **Divine Detours**

Folder 41: **Generations Booklets**

Folder 42: **Oenophillia**

Folder 43: **Eliade Aeterna**

Folder 44: **Division of Labor**

Folder 45: **MessMixExpress**

Folder 46: **MessMixExpress**

Folder 47: **Piano 2**

Box IV.

Item: Donation Form

Item: Item Catalogue

Folder 1: Beck: Denial of Death, Yalom: Existential Psychotherapy, Yalom: Gift of Therapy Photocopies

Folder 2: Warsaw, Poland Concert | 24/25 May 1980

Folder 3: Saarbrucken/Völklingen/Forbach, Saarland, Germany May 1999

Folder 4: JFK Center, Washington, D.C., April 1983

Folder 5: Programs and Misc. | Indiana University

Folder 6: Programs + Misc. | New York City

Folder 7: First Avenue

Folder 8: First Avenue

Folder 9: Photocopies

Folder 10: Newspaper Clippings

Folder 11: Posters

Folder 12: Photos and Art

Folder 13: Letters + Misc.

Folder 14: Letters + Misc.

Box V.

Item: "First Avenue" Cassette

Item: "C. Bryan Rulon | Anthology | Tape #2" Cassette

Item: "F.A. w/ Oliveros 2/23/89" Cassette

Item: "The New Millennium Ensemble | After the Orgy the music of C. Bryan Rulon" CD

Item: "AS 4ch Mix 4/04 | Audio" CD

Item: "Hocus-Opus | First Avenue" CD

Item: "Two Suns | Performed by First Avenue" CD

Item: "C. Bryan Rulon | AntiSilence | (2003-04) | For Woodwind Quintet and Computer Playback | Dedicated to the Quintet of the Americas | Commissioned by the Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust" Music Booklet (x2)

Item: "SelfRequiem | to the memory of Layman Jackson Foster (1952-1994) | C. Bryan Rulon | Curtis Bahn" Music Booklet (x6)