

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN NEWS SERVICE
ANN ARBOR

DATE March 7, 1968

FACULTY BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

FULL NAME RALPH EUGENE BOSSART

PRESENT TITLE Professor of Music

PLACE, DATE OF BIRTH Erie, Penna. February 9, 1917

WHEN JOINED U-M FACULTY 1954 TITLE OR RANK Lecturer, Vocal Lit.

U-M Promotions (Year and Rank):

Assistant Professor of Vocal Literature and Accompanying 1957
Associate Professor of Vocal Literature and Accompanying 1959
Professor of Music 1964

OTHER ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE (Other university and dates):

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE:

Private coaching - artists from Metropolitan, LaScala and New York Opera Companies . Vocal Coaching 1952-54
Exclusive accompanist for Miss Gladys Swarthout 1950-52
Concert Tour--West Indies, South America and Europe Accompanist 1949-51
Exclusive Accompanist -- Christopher Lynch 1946-50
Accompanist and soloist - "Voice of Firestone" NBC Firestone Hour 1946-52
Philadelphia Opera Company Assistant Conductor 1940-42

EDUCATION (Degrees, Dates, Schools):

Curtis Institute of Music Philadelphia, Pa. 1936-42 BM
Julliard School of Music New York 1935-36

Private Instruction with Artists:

Miss Nadia Reisenberg New York (Piano) 1946-53
Mr. Gerald Moore London, England (Accompanying) Summer 1949

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVITIES:

Page 2 (Name) Eugene Bossart

PROFESSIONAL HONORS RECEIVED:

Curtis Award (Note: Schooling at Curtis was on six year fellowship)
Curtis Institute of Music 1942

RESEARCH INTEREST AND ACTIVITIES:

None

MAJOR PUBLICATIONS:

None

MAJOR NON-PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:

None

MILITARY SERVICE:

Infantry S/Sgt. South Pacific 1942-46

FAMILY: (Name of spouse; name and year-of birth of each child)

None

From The University of Michigan News Service
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BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION: EUGENE BOSSART

Eugene Bossart, associate professor of accompanying and vocal literature at The University of Michigan, was born in Erie, Pennsylvania. He started his career as an accompanist when only 11 years old, playing for a male chorus in his home town. Upon graduation from high school he was accepted as a scholarship student in accompanying at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. During six years at Curtis, he became associated with the lieder singer, Mme. Elizabeth Schuman, who aided in launching his career as a concert accompanist. Bossart also studied with Felix Salmond and Efrém Zimbelist, who schooled him in the field of chamber music. This led to a short tour with Leonard Rose, the cellist.

The Second World War temporarily halted Mr. Bossart's musical career. He served in the South Pacific with the armed forces for three and one-half years. Upon return to civilian life in 1946, he toured America, Canada, Europe, South America and the West Indies with such personalities as Mario Lanza, Charles Kullman, James Melton, Eleanor Steber. In 1949 he became exclusive accompanist for Miss Gladys Swarthout.

Paul Hume, Washington Critic, has written of Mr. Bossart's accompanying work "to say that the artist had the 'support' of Eugene Bossart at the piano is a feeble word in the case, since what Bossart does at the piano involves far more than a prodigious technique, which he has, and a high musical intelligence, which he exercises; it requires a meeting of musical minds and a complete understanding of and appreciation for what the other artist is doing. Bossart is one of the few accompanists who, given freedom with an artist, knows exactly what to do."
(more)

Mr. Frankenstein of San Francisco has written... "PIANIST SCORES ...there were many times throughout the concert at the Opera House last night that the painist got much more attention than the singer. He was a splendid accompanist throughout the program."

The Cincinnati Inquirer has noted "Before proceeding...it would be well to mention the presence of a Eugene Bossart who presided at the piano. Bossart's contributions to the program were important... he provided accompaniments which were marvels of subtle emphasis and support. At times he exhibited downright classical virtuosity...he made a decided hit!"

In 1954, Mr. Bossart became a member of the faculty of The University of Michigan as a professor in accompanying and vocal literature. During the past seven years he has performed and lectured on accompanying before college groups and musical circles.

He is still active as a concert accompanist. Each year he tours the U.S. with such artists as Dorothy Maynor, Theodor Uppman, Brian Sullivan, and more recently Robert Merrill.

This spring he will embark on a tour through Michigan and the Midwest performing two-piano literature with a colleague from the University. Bossart is a member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing and of Phi Mu Alpha.

In the spring of 1962 Bossart will perform the entire piano and violin sonatas of Beethoven on the U-M campus.

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