



TO CLARA

Can you think of a
Laurel more suited to her than
A Song that
Resounds
And a tempo that soars;

Leaps that define
Your musical shape;
Lines that
Etch a new musical space?

Bring
Only your
Own voice;
Nothing else, no ingenious device, will
Entice the taste of Clara Lyle Boone.

Judith Shatin Allen

Arsis Press publishes serious contemporary music by women composers. The name *Arsis*, which in Italian means upbeat, is significant in expressing the continuing effort to bring positive attention to music composed by women. Clara Lyle Boone created *Arsis Press* in July 1974. We here celebrate the tenth anniversary of this courageous and far-sighted event. Composer Ruth Lomon has been instrumental in planning this celebration. Printmaker Beth Stinson has given generously of her time and expertise in creating this tribute. The International League of Women Composers salutes composer and publisher Clara Lyle Boone. — Hilary Tann Presslaff

When I first saw Clara Boone she had a book bag thrown over her shoulder and she looked like a free spirit with lots of daring-do, one who could take on the publishing world and conquer it for women composers. This she has done! Clara, I salute you with admiration and affection on this 10th anniversary of the founding of your company!

Harriet Bolz

Thank you, Clara and *Arsis Press*, for giving young, unpublished (or under-published) composers the encouragement of publication. BRAVO!!!

Juwyneth Walker

Clara Lyle Boone has done a great deal for me in my life as a composer. I reread the letters I received from her a few years back when I first submitted works for *Arsis Press* and during the time my piano sonata was in the process of publication. I was once again touched by her dedication to the woman composer and by her untiring support of my work. I have never met her, and yet she has spent a lot of her time and energy taking my scores to performers and promoting my compositions. Her encouraging words to me have always made me feel like I really did have something to offer. I recently have made a greater commitment to composition and music in my life, and it was very timely for me to reread Clara's letters now as it reaffirms my dedication to my work. I think Clara deserves a great deal of admiration for her devotion and support of women musicians and I personally owe her a great deal for the impact she has had on my life.

Jane Frasier

To Clara,
Happy 10th anniversary!
Long live Clara Lyle Boone and *Arsis Press*!

Very best wishes,

Nancy Van de Vate

Clara Lyle Boone has made a superb contribution to the women's music movement through the creation of *Arsis Press*. Quietly, humorously, patiently and stubbornly, Clara has proved wrong all of the early (and late) predictions of failure for a publishing company devoted to women's music. Her editions are as tasteful as her advocacy letters; her attention to detail as punctilious and pleasant as everything else in her life. Anecdotes? I wouldn't know where to begin!

The first ten years were only the beginning, Clara. We know the next ten will be even more extraordinary.

With warmest regards,

Emma Lou Diemer

Three cheers for Clara, and three cheers for *Arsis Press*. May we all be around to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary!

Winifred Hyson

Dear Clara Lyle Boone,

I hope this is in time to be included in what can only be an *outpouring* of appreciation and affection for you on your tenth publishing anniversary.

It may be for others, as for me, a surprisingly rare occurrence to have a trusted musician sit down with our scores and give in some detail generous-willed and insightful comments.

It was touching to me, and very much made its mark in a connection I feel towards you and your work—even though we have yet to meet and have exchanged only a few letters...

It has been an especial source of satisfaction and pleasure to be included among those published by *Arsis Press*!

Cordial good wishes,

Alexander Pearce

Ruth Simon

To Clara Lyle Boone,

In appreciation of your long years of loving effort to recognize, promote, and inspire women composers,

CONGRATULATIONS, and Many Thanks!

Susan E. Funk

The founding of *Arsis Press* was an historic moment for women composers. All too often our scores have languished on closet shelves, unpublished and unperformed. For those in the *Arsis* catalogue, there has been not only the joy of seeing one's music beautifully printed but the additional pleasure of working with a publisher who truly understands what one is about. Congratulations to Clara Lyle Boone on the tenth anniversary of *Arsis Press*! *Arsis Press* has made its mark and has made a difference.

Elizabeth Vexoe

Dear Clara,

I wonder if you will recall that our first exchange of letters was about a Requiem Mass which I had just composed, and which I sent to you with great hubris, considering that it had not been performed! Your letter of refusal was extraordinary in that instead of feeling rejected, I was aware of having contacted a person who was taking me seriously as a composer. Thus emboldened I sent you materials which you were able to accept. But I shall always remember the very positive note you sounded in your refusal, and the helpful information your letter contained. How much it meant to me at that time to be given serious consideration! This was a turning point for me.

Your work with *Arsis Press* has been a major factor in creating visibility and public awareness of women composers.

It is a joy just to stop and think of Clara when my days get out of control as they often do. Clara in her Bay Street house with her face shining with serenity—surely it would fill me too with some of her quiet peacefulness.

I happen to know that her life is not really peaceful at all. Work not done on time—in my case the graphics were three years late (I think it was 3). Clara was frustrated and disappointed; anyone else would have been desperate. But in her gentle way she went about repairing the damage, altering her catalogue, withdrawing from the publishers' annual competition.

I have seen Clara sweetly congratulate a singer who had left out the last page of her beautiful song. I have admired her selfless way of concentrating on others' music instead of her own. I am happy that her work is heard here increasingly and am uplifted by hearing it.

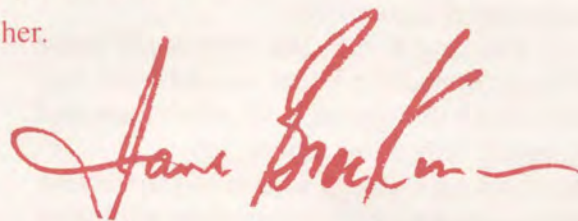
Bertha Terry Donahue

Clara was and is determined
to present works of women composing in a wide variety
of styles . . .

in professional quality publications
whose beauty rivals those huge publishing houses lavish
only on their most promising male composers.

For a decade's devotion and persistence
by a fine musician/composer,
women and women composers are not the only ones to benefit . . .

All who live and listen in our time are indebted to her.



My neighbor, friend, and publisher, Clara Boone has been a source of humor, support, and good advice for the seven years that I have lived on Capitol Hill. There are many anecdotes that I might tell, like the time, for instance, that Clara and I, on the impulse of the moment, went fund raising dressed, as Clara later put it, "like school girls" — in Capitol Hill *de rigueur* denim skirts, walking shoes, even emblematic bluestockings, not calculated to convince the several bank vice presidents to whom we went. We did not strike paydirt that day, but we did eventually get funds for the cause, the woman's concert at the Library of Congress.

Clara tells one anecdote about the early days of *Arsis Press*. While delivering scores of women to music stores for possible distribution, she encountered one clerk who told her, in a very loud and hostile voice, that she could not possibly be carrying such cargo since, in his words, "There are no women composers." Typical of her ingenuity, she not only managed to circumvent him and persuade the management of one of Washington's largest downtown music stores to distribute her scores, she also accomplished his conversion. Soon thereafter he was promoting *Arsis Press* scores.

It is Clara's appealing combination of forthright honesty and gentle tact that have accounted for much of the success of *Arsis Press*. In another age, I am sure that she would have made an excellent missionary in that she combines uniquely the crusader's zeal and the warm caring humanity that have made her such an excellent judge of the music she promotes.

While League members are well aware of Clara's contribution to women in music, those of us who live in Washington are also aware of her long record of community service. She is an active member of Capitol Hill Methodist Church, where she sings in the choir and occasionally plays for services. She has also been a reliable neighbor, a friend that the people on her block turn to for help and advice. She has lent her valuable business expertise to Jones' Trucking Service, a Capitol Hill neighbor, for years. Anyone who has walked through Capitol Hill with her is immediately made aware of her years as a teacher in the District of Columbia Public Schools by the numerous young people who extend their warm and admiring greetings.

As program coordinator of the Contemporary Music Forum, I should like also to mention that Clara Boone is a composer to whom audiences respond. In this age of academic excess, her *SONGS OF ESTRANGEMENT* drew enthusiastic, extended applause. They are songs of soul and sensitive communication.

Clara is an individual given over to a dream; that dream is *Arsis Press*. But more fundamentally she is given over to giving. She came forward at a time when we as women who write music needed her. Acting out of her concerned generosity, she was destined as a treasure for some important cause. In fact, she has already been just that for many important causes: the legislation for the National Endowment for the Arts, the civil rights movement, the women's movement, to name a few. In that she was bound to give of herself to yet another cause and to invest her energetic creativity in yet more fortunate individuals, we are privileged indeed that we are the ones who got her.

