DAVID GEPPERT COMPOSITIONS COLLECTION

RUTH T. WATANABE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS SIBLEY MUSIC LIBRARY EASTMAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

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DESCRIPTION OF COLLECTION

Shelf location: C3B 16,5-8

Physical extent: 12 linear feet

Biographical Sketch



Photograph from The Score, 1967.

David Geppert (Chicago, 19 March 1921 – La Veta, CO, 14 May 2017) graduated from the Music School of Northwestern University in 1942. In 1946, after serving in the Signal Corps in the South Pacific during World War II, he took up his first academic position in the Music Department of Kansas State College in Manhattan, Kansas.

In 1951, he and his family moved to Rochester, New York, where he earned a PhD in Theory and Composition in 1958 under Howard Hanson at the Eastman School of Music. He was a faculty member and then professor in the Theory Department at Eastman from 1955 to 1970, during which time he also served as musical director of the First Unitarian Church of Rochester. He took an early retirement, moving with his wife Bonnie in 1970 to La Veta, Colorado, west of Walsenburg under the Spanish Peaks.

An active composer throughout his life, David Geppert composed over one hundred works, including a symphony, two string quartets, chamber music, choral pieces, song cycles, multiple works for children (beginning and intermediate piano and cello), and three large-scale compositions for voice and piano.

Provenance

The collection represents materials relating to the compositions of David Geppert, received by the Sibley Music Library from the composer's estate in June, 2018.

Scope and Content

The collection comprises all known extant compositions of David Geppert, written between 1929 and 2016. It includes the composer's sketches and original drafts for most works, as well as explanatory notes that illuminate the relationship between several major works and the composer's broader aesthetic and philosophical concerns. Geppert's compositions were actively performed in the 1940s and 1950s in academic venues and then frequently in the music programs of the First Unitarian Church in the 1960s. Interest in them was revived in 2010s, but no compositions appeared from commercial publishers. This collection is therefore all the more valuable for its breadth and inclusiveness; it affords an important overview of Geppert as an active 20th-century composer.

Restrictions and Use

There are no restrictions placed on the use of this collection save those imposed by the U. S. Copyright Law and its revisions.

Associations

The Ruth T. Watanabe Special Collections department holds collections of compositions of several other twentieth-century American composers, primarily those who were faculty members and alumni of the Eastman School of Music.

NOTE. The gratitude of the Ruth T. Watanabe Special Collections department of the Sibley Music Library is hereby extended to Boris Wolfson and Caryl Emerson for their careful preparation of this finding aid.

DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

Manuscript scores, drafts, positive off-prints, and typeset (printed) scores have been inventoried in five series: orchestral music; instrumental ensembles; music for the piano; vocal music; and arrangements. Sketches identified with a particular work have been inventoried with that work. Works within each series are generally arranged chronologically. An opus number follows every composition. Series six contains notebooks with sketches, drafts and comments for more than a single work, as well as ephemera: programs from concerts and performances, choir records (repertoire, personnel and budget) from the Rochester, NY, First Unitarian Church, and miscellaneous sketches, drafts and charts.

The music manuscripts are housed in storage containers appropriate to their respective dimensions. Due to the varying dimensions of the materials, there are some discrepancies between the sequence of scores within each series and the numeric box order. The six series are held in fourteen boxes, as follows:

Box 1	Series I folder 3 [extra oversize]
Box 2	Series I folder 4
Box 3	Series II folders 1-14
Box 4	Series II folders 16-20, 22-23, 25
Box 5	Series II folders 26-28, 30-31, 35
Box 6	Series II folders 36-42
Box 7	Series III folders 1-19
Box 8	Series III folders 20-30, 32-38
Box 9	Series IV folders 2-3, 5-8, 10-14, 17-18, 22-23, 29-30
Box 10	Series IV folders 31-34
Box 11	Series V folders 4-6, Series VI folders 1-6
Box 12	Series VI folders 7-12
Box 13	Series I folders 1-2; Series II folders 15, 21, 24, 29, 32-34 [oversize]
Box 14	Series III folder 31; Series IV folders 1, 4, 9, 15-16, 18-21, 24-28; Series V folders 1-3 [oversize]

INVENTORY

SERIES I: ORCHESTRAL WORKS

Fa	lder	Op.			Box
1	Suite I. Prelude II. Courante III. Air IV. Waltz V. Gavotte VI. Gigue	13	1937 rev. 1939	Complete score, ink Parts, full set, ink: positives (partial) 2fl 2ob 2cl[B] bn 2hrn[F] 2tpt 2tbn 2vn va vc bs	13
2	Pastoral	45	1941, Feb. rev. 1947	Complete score, pencil; revised Parts, full set, ink; positives, partial 2fl 2ob 2cl[B] 2bn 2hrn[F] 2tpt[A] 2vn va vc bs	13
3	Symphony No.1 [A] I. Allegro con brio II. Andante con moto III. Scherzo IV. Finale	77	1958	Complete score, ink: bound and positives	1
4	Symphony No.1 [B]	77	1958	Parts, ink, full set: bound and positives. 3 fl(/picc) 2ob/eh 2cl[B] 2bn 4hrn[F] 3tpt[B] 3tbn tba timp tri cym[sp] gng 2vn va vc bs	2

SERIES II: INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLES

Fold	der	Op.			Box
1	Nocturne No.1 for piano trio in C	5	1934	Score, pencil	3
2	Nocturne No.2 for piano trio in D	7	1935	Score, pencil	3
3	Violin Sonata No.1 in C minor	9	1936	Score + part, pencil	3
4	Cantabile for string quartet or piano	10	1936	Score, pencil	3
5	Serenade / Quartette / Andante for string quartet in G	14	1937 rev. 1947	Score, pencil, with corrections Parts, ink, full set	3
6	Sarabande and Humoresque for violin and piano	17	1938	Score + part, ink	3
7	Three Humoresques for string or wind quartet	18	1938	Score, ink Parts, ink, full set string & wind	3
8	Allegretto, Scherzo and Adagio for string quartet	19	1938-39	Score, ink	3
9	Canzonetta and Fugue for string quartet	20	1939	Score and parts, ink	3
11	Etude for two violins	21	1939	Score, pencil	3
11	Piano Trio I. Espressivo, moderato II. Grazioso, allegretto III. Agitato, appassionato	22	1939 rev. 2015	Score (1939), ink, pencil Score (2015), typeset Corrections Correspondence	3

Fold	der	Op.			Box
12	Fantasy for violin and piano	26	1939, Oct.	Score, pencil, unfinished	3
13	Music for Violin and Piano No.1 in A	28	n/d (1930s?)	Score, ink; pencil Violin part, ink	3
14	Cello Sonata in C I. Con brio e agitato II. Semplice	32	1940	Score, pencil Cello part, ink	3
15	String Quartet No.1 in A I. Dolce, grazioso II. Largo, appassionato III. Molto allegro, con brio	39	1940-41	Score, ink; pencil Parts, ink, 2 full sets	13
16	Nocturne for oboe and piano in B	43	1941 rev. 1947	Score, ink, 2 versions, notes Part, ink, 2 versions, notes	4
17	Scherzo for woodwind quintet: [fl ob cl[B] hn[F] bn]	44	1941; rev. 1948, 1964	Score, ink; pencil Parts, pencil, full set (1941)	4
18	Song without Words for cello and piano in B	46	1941, Feb.	Score, pencil; Part, ink	4
19	Music for oboe, violin, viola and cello	48	1941, Mar	Score, draft, pencil Parts, complete, ink: full set	4
20	Serenade to Matty Fegers fl[C] ob[C] 2cl[B] 2vn va vc db	49	1941, Mar.	Score, ink; pencil alternate arr: ob vn va vc	4
21	Serenade for two violins and piano	50	1941, Apr. rev. 1946, 1990	Parts (1946), ink Score and parts (1990), pencil	13
22	Violin Sonata No.2 in G	51	1941, May	Dedication: "To my brother" Draft, pencil	4
23	Music for Violin and Piano No.2	54	1941, Jun	Score, ink; draft, ink and pencil	4
24	Music for String Quartet	55	1941, Jul	Score, pencil; Parts, ink, full set	13
25	Prelude (Song without Words) for cello and piano	59	1941, Aug.	Score, pencil	4
26	String Quartet No.2 in C I. Serenly II. With passion III. Like a benediction	63	1942 rev. 1950, 2015	Score (1950), ink, bound Score (2015), typeset Parts (2015), typeset, full set Drafts (1950), pencil	5
27	Nocturne for violin and viola	66	1944, Nov.	Score, ink	5
28	Allegretto, Nocturne and Humoresque (cl[B] tpt pf // fl cl[B] ob[A]/eh pf)	71	1949, Apr.	Arr A: Score; parts: cl [B] tpt Arr B: score; parts: full set	5
29	Clarinet Sonata in D# I. Rhapsody (1949) II. Interlude (2000) III. Scherzo (1996)	72	1949- 1996-2000 rev. 2002	Score, ink; part, ink Revisions, 2001, 2002 Correspondence	13
30	Rondo (ob/eh/bn pf)	73	1950	Score only, pencil	5
31	Serenade / Intermezzo / Pastorale in G ob/vn pf	74	1951	Score, pencil Draft, pencil	5
32	Four Pieces for woodwind quartet and piano	76	1953	Score, pencil; parts, ink, pencil	13

Fold	der	Op.			Box
33	Introit for brass quartet (2tpt[B] hrn [F] tbn/bn)	93	1964, Apr.	Score, pencil, with marks Parts, pencil, full set	13
34	Easter Music for dancers and ensemble (nar fch fl/cl 2tpt[B] hn[F] tbn/bn pf) I. Miracles (Walt Whitman) II. Spring (Rev. Robert West) III. Joy (Rev. Robert West)	95	1966, Apr. rev. 1969 revisited 1977	Score, ink and pencil; lyrics Parts: fl/cl, fl only, soprano & alto vocalise (III), tpt (III); addition from 1969	13
35	Ring Music (bn/rec[F] pf) "for Margaret and Dietmar"	97	1969, Dec. rev. 1983, Apr.	Piano-only score (1969) Recorder-piano ver. (1969/83) Bassoon-piano ver. (1983)	5
36	Viola sonata I. <i>Allegro</i> II. <i>Adagio</i> III. Theme and variations	98	1976, revisited 2008	Score, pencil, copy Viola part, ink, copies Correspondence Notebooks (Sep. & Dec. 1976)	6
37	Four Pieces for Cello and Piano	100	1978-2007 rev. 2016	Score, ink, copies, typeset Parts, ink, copies, typeset	6
38	Ingo's Open String Suite [vc pf] I. Ingo's First Piece II. Ingo Has the Main Melody III. Ingo's Night-Song IV. Ingo Starts a New Day	102	1991, rev. 1992, Sep.	Score, ink, copies Cello part, ink, copies Score, pencil	6
39	Spring Music for four cellos	106	1992, Jan.	Draft, pencil, unfinished	6
40	La Veta Pep Song [sax[B]/rec/vn pf]	109	1992, Dec.	Score, ink, pencil (draft) Part, violin/recorder, ink	6
41	Three for Stevie for cello and piano I. Stevie's Can(n)on II. Song III. Refrain	110	1993, Jan rev. 1993, Feb.	Score, ink, copies Correspondence	6
42	Rothausmusik for cello and piano four hands	116	2005	Score, pencil, drafts Parts, pencil, full set	6

SERIES III: WORKS FOR THE PIANO

Fol	der	Op.			Box
1	Prelude in C minor	1	1929 rev. 1993	Score, pencil (1929) Scores / drafts, pencil (1993)	7
2	Nocturne in D	2	1931	Score, pencil	7
3	Five Preludes	3	1932, Nov.	Score, pencil	7
4	Reverie in A	4	1934	Score, pencil	7
5	Barcarolle No.1 in A	6	1935	Score, pencil	7
6	Andante and Scherzo	8	1936	Score, pencil	7
7	Scherzo in D	11	1936	Score, pencil, 2 p.	7
8	Four Pieces for Piano I. Etude (1936) II. Scherzo (Grotesque, 1937) III. Nocturne (1939) IV. Polonaise (1939)	12	1936-1939	Score, pencil and ink	7
9	Vocalise / Song without Words in G	15a	1938, 1989	Arr of op. 15; score, pencil	7
10	Barcarolle No.2 in B minor	16	1938	Score, pencil.	7
11	Intermezzo No.1 "in the spirit of Brahms"	23	1939, Feb.	Score, pencil Drafts, pencil	7
12	Caprice and Scherzo	24	1939, Sep. rev. 1940	Score in ink. Score (draft) in pencil	7
13	Etude	25	1939, Oct.	Score, pencil	7
14	Four Early Pieces	27	1939-43; 1982-2006	Score, ink, bound Revisions, pencil	7
15	Song without Words No.1 in D	31	1940	Score, ink, pencil	7
16	Song without Words No.2 in iAb	37	1940, Sept	Score, pencil (unfinished)	7
17	Intermezzo No.2 in D (Song without Words)	40	1941; rev. 1943, 1946, 1982	Scores, pencil	7
18	Nocturne for piano four hands	41	1941 rev. 1982	Scores (1982), ink, bound Correspondence	7
19	Intermezzo No.3 in B	47	1941, Mar	Score, pencil	7
20	Song without Words No.3 in Ab	53	1941, Jun	Score, ink; draft, pencil	8
21	Intermezzo No.4 in F# minor	56	1941, Aug. rev. 1982	Score, pencil (drafts) 1941 Score, pencil, revision, 1982	8
22	Intermezzo No.5 in Ab	57	1941, Aug.	Score, pencil	8
23	Intermezzo No.6 in B	58	1941, Aug.	Score, pencil; unfinished	8
24	Song without Words No.4 in Ab	60	1941, Sep.	Score, pencil	8
25	Lullabies in B	61	1941, Nov.	Score, pencil	8

ron	uei	Op.			ВОЛ
26	Intermezzo No.7 in F# minor	62	1941, Dec.	Score, pencil; unfinished	8
27	Intermezzo No.8 in C	64	1943, Mar.	Score, pencil; draft, pencil	8
28	Three Inventions	67	1947	Score with changes, pencil; ink; positive; bound.	8
29	Sonata in C (2 movements)	69	1948-49	Scores in pencil	8
30	March for two pianos	75	1953	Score in pencil	8
31	Five Pieces: I. Tarantella (Scherzo) II. Rhapsody III. Pastoral IV. Barcarolle V. Finale: <i>Allegro</i>	78	1961 rev. 1988	Positives of Scherzo Pencil scores of the others	14
32	For Carrie	103	1991 rev. 2003	Score, ink, 1991 Score, ink, with corrections Score, typeset (1991 version) Correspondence	8
33	Stevie's March	105	1992, Jan.	Score, ink, copies, with markings	8
34	Four for Nicholas: I. Mom and Dad II. March of the Goonies III. Sister Sophia IV. Bumper Cars	112	2010-13	Score, pencil Notes Score, typeset and bound	8
35	Five Commotions: I. Sequential March II. Chromatic Fox-trot III. Magenta Blues IV. Simple Tune(s) V. Reely Irish? (It's a Jig)	113	2011-13	Scores of individual pieces, pencil Score, typeset, 2013 Correspondence Corrections	8
36	I Miss You	118	2012, Jun	Score, pencil and typeset	8
37	Benya's Morning Walk	119	2013	Score: pencil, typeset; drafts, pencil	8
38	Connor's Tune	120	2013	Score, ink, copy; typeset	8
<u>SEF</u>	RIES IV: VOCAL WORKS				
Fol	der	Op.			Box
1	"My Love Is Now Returned" for voice and piano	15	1938	Score, pencil	14
2	"If Thou Art Sleeping" for voice and piano Text by Gil Vicente	29	1940	Score, pencil; correspondence	9
3	"Ave Maria" for voice (soprano) and piano	30	1940	Score, pencil	9
4	"My Forever and Ever Girl" for voice and piano; text by Bonnie Geppert	33	nd (late 1940s?)	Score, pencil: only piano part completed (no vocal line)	14

Op.

Box

Folder

Fold	der	Op.			Box
5	"Tides" for voice (soprano) and piano Text by Sara Teasdale	34	1940, Feb.	Score, pencil	9
6	"Joy" for voice and piano Text by Sara Teasdale	35	1940, May	Score, pencil	9
7	"Had I a Cave" for voice and piano Text by Robert Burns	36	1940, May	Score, pencil	9
8	Poem ("It is not grief nor pain") for voice and piano, text by Michael Field	38	1940, Nov.	Score, pencil	9
9	"In Flight" for voice (soprano) and piano Text by Rosalie May Cody	42	1941	Ded: "To Bonnie Pfanstiehl" Score, ink	14
10	Birthday Song for voice and piano	52	1941, May	Score, pencil	9
11	Two Lullabies for voice and piano	65	1944 rev. 2006	Score 1944, ink, pencil Score 2006, with interlude	9
12	Three Songs for voice (tenor) and piano	68	1948, April	Score, pencil	9
13	Two Songs for voice (tenor) and piano	70	1948-49	Score, pencil	9
14	"From the Murmur: a Response for Dismissal" for chorus [SATB]; text by Aristophanes	79	1961	Score 1961, ink Score 2008-12, typeset	9
15	"We Are the Living:" Recitative and Chorus chorus [SATB] pf/org/orch [ob tpt[B] hrn bn tbn vn va (vc)]; text by John Holmes	80	1961-62	Score, ink and positives; with revisions from 1962; drafts Parts, ink + pos, full set + organ	14
16	"Tumultuous Shore": A Choral Prelude and Song (aka Introduction and Chorus) [ch[SATB/SA] pf]; text by Arthur Ficke	81	1962	Score, ink Positives, ink	14
17	Four Sonnets from "Tumultuous Shore" for voice (contralto) and piano): I. I like this little birchwood (X) II. Though not a hill be holy (XLIX) III. For I have dreamed a dream (LII) IV. Mists on the mountain (LIII) Text by Arthur Davison Ficke	82	1962 rev. 2014	Score 1962, ink Score 2014, typeset, bound	9
18	"Come Into the Circle" for chorus [SATB]; text by Israel Zangwill	83	1962, March	Score, pencil; ink (mimeograph)	14
19	"O Mystic Purpose" for chorus [SATB] and piano; text by Frances Angevine Keef ("Hymn for our dedicatory service at our new church building, 12/62")	84	1962, July	Score, vocal + piano, pencil, with red-pencil notes (undated) Score, vocal, ink, copies Lyrics, typed	14
20	"How Beautiful Is the Morning" for voice (soprano) and piano; text by Rollo Russell	85	1962, Oct.	Score, ink, positives, print out Draft, pencil	14
21	Resolution for voice (soprano) and piano	86	1963	Score and vocal score, pencil	14
22	Choral Responses for chorus [SATB] and piano; text by William Neuman	87	1963, Jan.	Score, pencil	9
23	Response for Dismissal ("Remembering the excellence") for chorus [SATB]	88	1963, Oct.	Score, ink, copies	9

Fol	lder	Op.			Box
24	"Christmas Reconstructed" for voice and piano; text by David Geppert	89	1963, Nov.	Score, ink, pencil, notes Lyrics, typed; Practice score	14
25	"Look to This Day" for baritone, chorus [SATB], and piano; text by Kalidasi (Anthem for the installation service of Rev. Robert West, February 1964, First Unitarian Church, Rochester)	90	1964, Jan.	Parts, piano and SATB, pencil Score, SATB + baritone, ink	14
26	An Easter Canticle for voice and piano Text by Charles Hanson Towne	92	1964, March	Score, pencil, with marks	14
27	"On Marriage" [nar (va 2vc)/pf]; text by Kahlil Gibran; ded.: "for Trisha and Art" (1965); "for Carrie and Gabe" (2010)	94	1965; rev. 2009-10	Scores 1965, pencil Score and parts, 2010, ink Correspondence	14
28	Christmas Response for SATB chorus a cappella	96	1967, Dec.	Score, ink Score, ink copies	14
29	"Shine! Shine! "(Wedding Song) for high voice and piano; text by Walt Whitman; ded.: "for Steven and Judy"	99	1976, June	Score, pencil, piano and voice Postlude score, ink Scores, ink, piano and voice	9
30	"Grampa's Lament" for voice and piano Text by David Geppert	101	1990, Oct.	Score, pencil	9
31	"Take Five": a Song Cycle, text by David Geppert, for soprano, piano, and narrator I. Exhortation II. Gratitude III. Sensorium IV. Evil V. Goodpasture	115	1998, Dec. rev. 1999, 2001	Score, ink, copy Score, pencil Lyrics	10
32	"Threesome for a Life" for voice and piano I. An Ultimate Wish II. Cosmic Twins III. Mother Text by David Geppert	114	2013-15	Scores, complete, partial, pencil Corrections, correspondence	10
33	"Reconcile" for voice and piano Text by David Geppert	121	2015	Drafts, pencil	10
34	"Beneficence" for voice and piano Text by David Geppert	122	2016	Drafts, pencil; texts for "Equivalence"; "Finale" (unfin.)	10
<u>SEI</u>	RIES V: ARRANGEMENTS				
Fol	lder	Op.			Box
1	"Happy Birthday" for string quartet	117	nd (1940s?)	Parts, ink, full set	11
2	A Medley of Hymns from "Hymns of the Spirit" (1937) No. 33, 246, 291, 353, 192, for brass quartet: 2tpt[B] hrn[F] tb/bn	91	1964, Jan.	Score, ink Score, pencil Parts, ink, full set	11
3	"Five By Five: Five Songs for Five Cellos" I. "Old Dan Tucker"	104	1992	Score, ink Parts, ink, copied, full set	14

Fo	lder	Op.				Box	
	II. "The Erie Canal" III. "Blow the Man Down" IV. "Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair" V. "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory"						
4	"Halloween Song" by Carol Wasson, arranged for cello and piano	107	1992, Oct.	Score, ink Draft, pencil		11	
5	5 Four Tunes (sax[H] pf) 108 1992, Nov. Score, ink, with copies I. "Onward, Christian Soldiers" II. Etude in F III. "Grandfather's Clock" IV. Famous March Theme						
6	Take Me Out to the Ballgame" by Jack Norworth, Albert von Tilzer (arr: 2vc pf) Score and parts, ink Score, ink, copy					11	
SERIES VI: NOTES AND EPHEMERA							
Sub	series A: Notes (1953-2013)						
Fo	lder					Box	
1	Belwyn spiral manuscript book, 9" x 12", 64 pp.	., with o	drafts, composit	ion ideas, charts	1953-1954	11	
2	Belwyn spiral manuscript book, 9" x 12", 64 pp.				1954-1956	11	
3	Belwyn spiral manuscript book, 9" x 12", 64 pp.	., with o	drafts, composit	ion ideas, charts	1957-1958	11	
4	Belwyn spiral manuscript book, 9" x 12", 64 pp.				1966	11	
5	Sightation spiral manuscript book, 9" x 12", 64]	pp., wit	th drafts, compo	sition ideas	1998-2011	11	
6	Sightation spiral manuscript book, 9" x 12", 64]	-	-		2002-2013	11	
7	Sightation spiral manuscript book, 9" x 12", 64 j				2008-2010	12	
8	Sightation spiral manuscript book, 9" x 12", 64	_	_		2009	12	
9	Alfred's Spiral manuscript book, 9" x 12", 64 pp	o., with	drafts, compos	ition ideas	2012-2013	12	
Suh	series B: Ephemera (1953-2013)						
	lder					Box	
10	Programs of concerts and recitals: Kenilworth, IL: Evanston, IL (Northwestern University Manhattan, KS (Kansas State College) List of works composed since 1958; Autobiography		1930, 1933 1938, 1940-19 1945-1951 1965 1941	941, 1942		12	
11	Choirbook: First Unitarian Church of Rocheste NY: repertoire, personnel, budget	r,	1950-1969			12	
12	Composition drafts, lyrics, pedagogical and analytical charts		1969-2016			12	