

# FRANCES COPTHORNE COLLECTION

SC2006/8/22 & SC2008/1/19

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

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Fall 2006

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November 2020

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## DESCRIPTION OF COLLECTION

Accession no.: SC2006/8/22; SC2008/1/19

Location: M2B 5,1

Physical extent: 1 linear feet

### **Biographical Sketch**



*Photographs from Frances Copthorne Collection, Box 2, Folder 14.*

Frances Copthorne (1894-1945) was a composer, vocalist, and pianist who was very active in the musical life of Chicago, Illinois, through the 1920s and early 1940s. While the details of her early musical training are unknown, it is documented that she received vocal training in her mid-twenties from the renowned soprano of the Chicago Metropolitan Opera Company, Amelita Galli-Curci. During the 1920s, she directed most of her energy into composing and performing her own compositions, scored primarily for voice and piano, with the soprano Norma Boswell. During this time, Frances Copthorne became an active member of the National League of American Pen Women, an organization comprised of women poets, authors, and composers. Among the poets of this organization, Francesca Falk Miller was a regular collaborator. Frances Copthorne set several of Mrs. Miller's poems to music; they also collaborated on two short comic operas. She began performing regularly on a weekly broadcast from a Chicago radio station in 1931. In 1934, she performed at the White House for Eleanor Roosevelt. She traveled to France in 1937 to study composition and counterpoint with Nadia Boulanger. Her performing career resumed upon returning to the United States in the early 1940s; however, during this time she began her battle with breast cancer. She died in 1945.

## **Provenance**

The Frances Copthorne Collection was donated to the Sibley Music Library in 2006 with the expressed permission of Louise Copthorne Kirtland, the sole surviving child and heiress of American composer and pianist Frances Copthorne. The collection was transferred to the Sibley Music Library through the efforts of her nephew, Copthorne Macdonald. Additional items were received from Copthorne Macdonald in December 2007.

## **Scope and Content**

This collection consists of musical manuscripts and documents pertaining to the career of the American composer Frances Copthorne. The collection contains a published score, a facsimile of a published score, original manuscripts, facsimiles of original manuscripts, librettos, poetry, documents including: scrapbook leaves, programs, newspaper articles, concert and theatre reviews, letters, invitations, pamphlets, photographs, a booklet about Mrs. Copthorne written by Copthorne Macdonald for his granddaughter, and ephemera. Additionally, there is a limited series of recordings of performances of works by Frances Copthorne.

## **Restrictions**

There are no restrictions on the use of this collection. Louise Copthorne Kirtland and Copthorne Macdonald have transferred all intellectual property rights to the Sibley Music Library.

## **Associations**

The Frances Copthorne Collection is one of several within the Sibley Music Library that highlight the achievements of women in music. Others include the Women Composers Collection, a collection of individual works by a large number of women composers, and the personal collection of Met Opera performer and Eastman School of Music faculty member Josephine Antoine. In addition, the Sibley Music Library holds the performing libraries of such distinguished performers as mezzo-soprano Jan De Gaetani and harpist Artiss De Volt.

## DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

### **Series 1: Scores and Manuscripts**

This series contains one published score of incidental music for a children's play, a facsimile of a published score, manuscripts and manuscript reproductions of works by Frances Copthorne. The works are arranged in alphabetical order. The majority of the music is scored for voice and piano.

### **Series 2: Librettos and Poetry**

This series contains two librettos written by Francesca Falk Miller, Mrs. Copthorne's friend and frequent creative collaborator, as well as poems that Copthorne may have considered setting to music. The titles are arranged in alphabetical order.

### **Series 3: Documents**

This series contains documents from the 1920s through 1939. The documents are collated by decade. Included are: concert programs featuring performances of Frances Copthorne's works, newspaper articles, letters, invitations and photographs. Some of these items are glued to scrapbook leaves. Of special interest are pamphlets for the Baltimore Mail Line steamship company acquired during Ms. Copthorne's ocean voyage to France, where she studied composition with Nadia Boulanger.

### **Series 4: Ephemera**

This series contains two of Mrs. Copthorne's name badges for events held by the National League of American Pen Women.

### **Series 5: Audiovisual Material**

This series contains two 7.5" reels, one with Copthorne at the piano; two CDs containing recordings of music by Frances Copthorne; and one data CD.

# INVENTORY

## **Series 1: Scores and Manuscripts**

### Box 1

- folder 1      Bob-O-Link.  
Incomplete pencil draft (3 staves). 1 page of music.
- folder 2      Brown Eyes. For voice.  
Ink score with pencil changes. 1 page of music.
- folder 3      Capella. For voice and piano.  
Lyric by Mildred Beatty. Pencil draft. 4 pages of music.
- folder 4      The Emperor's New Clothes. [Incidental Music for a Play for Children.]  
[Words by Charlotte Chorpenning.] Two working drafts. Pencil drafts of scores. 5  
pages of music.
- folder 5      The Emperor's New Clothes. Incidental Music for a Play for Children.  
Words by Charlotte Chorpenning. Published piano vocal score (New York:  
Samuel French, Inc. 1935). 5 pages of music.
- folder 6      Frances' Boat Song. [For piano?]  
Sketch. No words; dated 1927. 4 pages of music.
- folder 7      From Psalm 136.  
For voice and piano. Pencil MS. 2 pages of music.
- folder 8      Good Morning.  
Words possibly by Frances Copthorne. Ink sketch. 1 page of music.
- folder 9      Gossip. [For piano?]  
Sketch (2 staves). Score dated 1925. 4 pages of music.
- folder 10      He Travels Farthest. For voice and piano.  
Lyric by B. E. Wilcox. 2 drafts: fair copy of score (ink), pencil draft with lyrics in  
ink. Guitar fingering shown on pencil draft. 7 pages of music, total.
- folder 11      Hill-Top. [For piano?]  
Pencil sketch (2 staves). 4 pages of music.

- folder 12 His Coming/I Could Forgive. For voice and piano.  
6 items: 3 scores (1 ink, 2 pencil), 1 fair copy (pencil), 2 sketches (2 pencil). 19 pages of music, total. I Could Forgive ink score features signature of singer Norma Bosworth in the margin.
- folder 13 Impertinence. For voice.  
Lyricist not identified. Pencil draft (vocal line with some sketches for accompaniment). 3 pages of music.
- folder 14 I Must Be in Love with You. [For voice and piano?]  
Lyricist not identified. Pencil draft (3 staves). 3 pages of music.
- folder 15 Lady Night. For voice and piano.  
Words by Francesca Falk Miller. Music believed to have been composed by Frances Copthorne under the pseudonym "Louise Fritz." Fair copy of score (ink). 3 pages of music.
- folder 16 Lady Night. For voice and piano.  
Pencil draft. 3 pages of music.
- folder 17 Little Brown Eyes of the Dove. Version No. II (Ballad type). For voice and piano.  
Lyrics by Francesca Falk Miller. Fair copy of score (ink). 7 pages of music.
- folder 18 The Lost Waltz. For voice and piano.  
Ink MS score. Accompanied by a typescript of the lyrics by Francesca Miller. 1 page of music.
- folder 19 Mazurka. For piano.  
Fair copy of score (ink), with duplicate facsimile; pencil sketch. 12 pages of music, total.
- folder 16 *Meet the Professor*. [Selections from the opera (3 items).]  
Country-Wise: Solos for 6 girls. Piano part with vocal lines, no words. 4 pages of music.  
End of Act II: The operetta's concluding piece. 2 pages of music.  
A pencil working draft of an unidentified song. 3 pages of music.
- folder 17 Mischief Moon. For voice and piano.  
Words by Caroline Thomas. Ink MS score. 2 pages of music.
- folder 18 Mohammedan Love Song. For voice and piano.  
Words by Goodrich (first name unknown). Pencil MS score with text in ink. 4 pages of music.
- folder 19 My Girl. For voice and piano.  
Lyricist not identified. Working draft (pencil and ink). 4 pages of music.

- folder 20      My Wild Crabapple Tree. For voice.  
Words by H. Norman Copthorne. Pencil draft of voice part. 2 pages of music.
- folder 21      Night Shall be Filled with Music. For contralto.  
Sketch of vocal part (ink). 1 page of music.
- folder 22      Old Spanish Proverb (El Que a Hierro Mata). For voice and cello.  
Lyricist unknown. Cello parts with words (ink and pencil MS). 2 pages of music.  
Pencil draft of voice part. 4 pages of music.
- folder 23      On My Last Day. For voice, violin, cello and piano.  
Words by Francesca Falk Miller. Complete score, with duplicate facsimile, and  
drafts of score and parts. 31 pages of music, total.
- folder 24      Overture Outline.  
Incomplete pencil sketches (1 stave). 2 pages of music.
- folder 25      Paradise. For voice and piano.  
Lyrics by Beth Borton. Fair copy of score (ink). 4 pages of music. Features  
signature of singer Norma Bosworth in the margin.
- folder 26      Powdered Wig.  
Pencil sketch (2 staves). 3 pages of music.
- folder 27      Promenade.  
Pencil sketch (2 staves). 1 page of music.
- folder 28      Red Deer. For voice and piano.  
Words by Francesca Falk Miller. Water-damaged complete score. 2 pages of  
music. Pencil sketch. 2 pages of music.
- folder 29      Returning. For voice and piano.  
Lyric by Adaline H. Tateman. Fair copy of score (ink); dated April 1927. 2 pages  
of music. Pencil draft. 2 pages of music.
- folder 30      A Roman Holiday. For voice and piano.  
Words by Viva Karman (sp?). Pencil draft (vocal part with sketch of  
accompaniment). 2 pages of music.
- folder 31      A Romantic Rose. Light Comic Opera.  
Overture. Piano Score (ink). 6 pages of music.  
No 1. Dubs and Debs. Act I, opening chorus. Fair copy of score (ink). 3 pages of  
music.  
No. 2. Foot-Wear. Bass solo and dance. Fair copy of score (ink). 6 pages of  
music.



No. 3. Dear Little Lady. Two scores: Soprano solo; Soprano solo with company. Fair copies of scores (ink). 4 pages of music, total.

No. 4. Butterflies. Baritone solo. Fair copy of score (ink), with duplicate facsimile. 4 pages of music, total.

No. 5. Hills. Contralto solo. Fair copy of score (ink) and pencil sketch. 3 pages of music, total.

No. 6. In Grandma's Day. Contralto solo with chorus. Fair copy of score (ink). 2 pages of music.

No. 7. Love, The Plumber. Solos and duet for Soprano and Mezzo. Two scores (fair copies, ink). Each 2 pages of music.

No. 8. So You're Going to Europe. Finale, Act I. Company. Fair copy of score (ink). 3 pages of music. Partial draft (ink and pencil). 2 pages of music.

No. 11. Gypsy Moon. Quartette for Soprano, Mezzo, Tenor, Baritone. Fair copy of score (ink). 7 pages of music.

No. 13. I Love You. Duet for Tenor and Soprano. Fair copy of score (ink). 4 pages of music. Ink MS draft. 2 pages of music.

No. 14. Remember. Soprano Solo. Fair copy of score (ink). 4 pages of music.

No. 15. Yankee Land. Finale, All the company. Fair copy of score (ink). 6 pages of music.

Singin' in the Dark (number unknown). Trio for Tenor, Soprano, Contralto. Fair copy of score (ink). 4 pages of music.

- folder 32      Satin Slipper. Trio for violin, cello, and piano.  
Pencil draft of score. 5 pages of music.  
Violin part. 2 fair copies of part (1 ink, 1 pencil); on reverse of both: violin part to Serenade. 5 pages of music, total. Draft of part (ink and pencil). 2 pages of music.  
Cello part. Fair copy of part (ink). 1 page of music. Draft of part (ink); on reverse: untitled pencil sketch for voice. 2 pages of music.
- folder 33      The Sensitive Plant. For voice and piano.  
Lyric by Percy Shelly. Draft of score (pencil with voice part in ink). 3 pages of music. Incomplete fair copy of score (ink). 1 page of music.
- folder 34      Serenade for Violin, Cello, and Piano.  
Pencil draft of score (incomplete); dated February 1935. 2 pages of music.  
Violin and cello parts. Fair copies (ink). 4 pages of music, total.
- folder 35      Serenade. [For piano?]  
Pencil sketches. 2 pages of music.
- folder 36      The Squeaky Swing. For voice and piano.  
Words by Elsie Fowler. Fair copy of score (ink). 2 pages of music.
- folder 37      Sufficiency. For voice and piano.  
Lyrics by Francesca Falk Miller. Fair copy of score (ink). 3 pages of music.  
Partial pencil draft. 4 pages of music.

- folder 38      Sunshine of Georgia of Jane. For voice.  
Lyricist unknown. Sketch (ink with text in pencil). 1 page of music.
- folder 39      Starlight. For voice.  
Voice part. Fair copy in France's hand (ink with text in pencil). Name "Madeline"  
in upper right corner. 1 page of music.
- folder 40      Tattered Tree Ladies. For voice and violin with piano accompaniment.  
Words by Pauline Hansberger (sp?). Fair copy of score and separate violin part  
(ink MS). 4 pages of music, total.
- folder 41      Tattered Tree Ladies. For voice and violin with piano accompaniment.  
Draft of score (pencil); on reverse: "A Song" (pencil sketches, 2 staves). 4 pages  
of music.
- folder 42      This Time O' Year. For voice and piano.  
Lyricist not identified. Fair copy of score (ink). 3 pages of music.
- folder 43      The Waltz that was Lost in a Dream. For voice and piano.  
Lyric by Francesca Falk Miller. Fair copy of score (ink). 5 pages of music.
- folder 44      When Night Comes On. For voice and piano.  
Words by Elsie Fowler. Fair copy of score (ink). 2 pages of music. Facsimile of  
MS fair copy of score. 3 pages of music.
- folder 45      When Night Comes On. For voice and piano.  
Words by Elsie Fowler. Draft of score (pencil with voice part in ink). 2 pages of  
music.
- folder 46      Why Must We Part? For voice and piano.  
Lyrics by Coleman Ross. Fair copy of score (ink). 4 pages of music.
- folder 47      Your Name. For voice and piano.  
Lyricist unknown. Fair copy of score (ink). 3 pages of music.
- folder 48      You're Still in My Mind. For voice and piano.  
Lyricist unknown. Pencil draft of score. 3 pages of music.
- folder 49      Your Voice. Song for high voice and piano.  
Words by Francesca Miller. Repro of published score; inscribed by F. Copthorne.  
Chicago: H. T. Fitzsimons Company, 1931. 2 pages of music.
- folder 50      Miscellaneous working drafts and musical sketches.  
53 pages of music, total.

## **Series 2: Librettos and Poetry**

### **Box 2**

- folder 1 Script [libretto] for *The Emperor's New Clothes*. A Comedy in Three Acts to be played by or for Children.  
Words by Charlotte Chorpenning. Published copy. New York: Samuel French, Inc., 1959. 103 pages.
- folder 2 Libretto for *Meet the Professor*.  
Words by Francesca Miller. Typewritten script. 24 pages.
- folder 3 Libretto for *A Romantic Rose*.  
Words by Francesca Falk Miller. Typewritten script and cover sheet for the score are all that are extant. Cover sheet indicates that an overture and 15 musical numbers once existed. 32 pages.
- folder 4 "Velvet Shoes."  
MS repro of text by Eleanor Wylie. 1 page.  
*N.B. The estate indicates that this poem was set to music for voice and piano; however, a facsimile of the text is all that is extant.*
- folder 5 Miscellaneous poems.  
4 poems that Frances Copthorne may have considered setting to music.  
Contains: "Enchanted Isle." No author given. Pencil MS with sketch of a vocal melody. 1 page.  
"Incident" by Jessica West. Typescript. 1 page.  
"A Soft Little Song" by Francesca Miller. Typescript. 1 page.  
"Ye Snooty Dame" by R. M. Pressey. Clipping from *Chicago Tribune*, with annotations in pencil. 1 page.

## **Series 3: Documents**

- folder 6 Documents, 1920s.  
Contains: recital programs; concert reviews; newspaper articles. Nearly all items affixed to cardstock; appear to have been compiled as scrapbook. 8 leaves.
- folder 7 Documents, 1930.  
Contains: recital programs; concert reviews; newspaper articles. Nearly all items affixed to cardstock; appear to have been compiled as scrapbook. 7 leaves.
- folder 8 Documents, 1931.  
Contains: recital programs; concert reviews; newspaper articles (including duplicates); letters. Several items affixed to cardstock [as scrapbook pages?] and additional loose items. 10 leaves [scrapbook pages]; 12 loose items.

- folder 9 Documents, 1932.  
Contains (all loose documents): recital programs; newspaper articles. 12 items.
- folder 10 Documents, 1933.  
Contains (all loose documents): recital program; newspaper articles; invitation to a musicale hosted by the National League of American Pen Women. 5 items.
- folder 11 Documents, 1934.  
Contains (all loose documents): recital programs; N.L.A.P.W. convention program; newspaper articles; invitations. 9 items.
- folder 12 Documents, 1935- 39.  
Contains (all loose documents): newspaper articles and facsimiles; 2 Baltimore Mail Line pamphlets. 8 items.
- folder 13 *About Frances Copthorne.*  
Booklet compiled by Copthorne Macdonald. Contains biographical sketch and facsimiles of recital programs and newspaper articles. 13 pages.
- folder 14 Photographs.  
Six photographs: One 2 ½ x 3 ½ in. photo of Frances Copthorne in France, March 23, 1938. Reverse side is annotated in ink. -- A photo of F. Copthorne, apparently made/processed in her home town of Evanston, IL. -- A repro of a portrait of F. Copthorne, done in pastel colors. -- 3 scanned reproductions of photographs of Frances Copthorne at various ages.
- folder 15 Correspondence: Nadia Boulanger to Frances Copthorne.  
1 note (ink MS); postmarked December 15, 1937. 1 page.

**Series 4: Ephemera**

- folder 16 Two name badges from National League of American Pen Women events attended by Frances Copthorne in 1933 and 1934.

**Series 5: Audiovisual Material**

- reel 1 Let Us Walk in the Snow -- I Must Be in Love with You -- When Night Comes On. 7.5" audio reel.  
Francis Copthorne, pianist. Norma Bosworth, voice. Recorded circa 1960.
- reel 2 The Waltz that was Lost in a Dream --Your Voice. 7.5" audio reel.  
Mary Helmer, voice. Connie Knoll, piano. [Recorded] February 1964.

- CD 1 & 2 Performances of Frances Copthorne's Music. CD. 2 copies.  
Contents: Mischief Moon -- Lady Night -- When Night Comes On -- The Waltz  
That Was Lost in a Dream -- Your Voice -- Let Us Walk in the Snow -- I Must Be  
in Love with You -- When Night Comes On.
- CD 3 Frances Copthorne: material on the World Wide Web. Data CD.  
Contains material on Copthorne Macdonald's website at  
<http://www.copmacdonald.com/FrancesCopthorne/> as appeared in December  
2007.