The Duane A. Davidson Papers

MSS 17

Compiled by Adrienne Nesnow

1996-2007

120 High Street
PO Box 208240
New Haven, CT 06520
music.specialcollections@yale.edu
https://guides.library.yale.edu/MusicSpecialCollections

Last modified at 1:05 a.m. on Saturday, November 10th, 2018
## Table of Contents

- Collection Overview ................................................................. 3
- Requesting Instructions ................................................................ 3
- Administrative Information .......................................................... 3
  - Immediate Source of Acquisition ................................................. 3
  - Conditions Governing Access ...................................................... 3
  - Conditions Governing Use .......................................................... 4
  - Preferred Citation ....................................................................... 4
- Biographical / Historical .............................................................. 4
- Scope and Contents ....................................................................... 4
- Arrangement .................................................................................. 4
- Collection Contents ....................................................................... 5
  - Series I. Miscellaneous items ...................................................... 5
  - Series II. Musical works of Duane A. Davidson .............................. 6
- Selected Search Terms ................................................................... 12
Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Yale University Music Library
120 High Street
PO Box 208240
New Haven, CT 06520
musicspecialcollections@yale.edu
https://guides.library.yale.edu/MusicSpecialCollections

CALL NUMBER: MSS 17

CREATOR: Davidson, Duane A. (Duane Andrew), 1934-1964

TITLE: The Duane A. Davidson Papers

DATES: 1955–1977

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 4 linear feet (6 boxes)

LANGUAGE: Materials chiefly in English.

SUMMARY: Music, correspondence and other papers, and photographs by the American composer Duane A. Davidson (1934 or 1935-1964)

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/music.mss.0017

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/music.mss.0017.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The Duane A. Davidson Papers were established in the Music Library of Yale University in 1976 by Davidson’s parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harley Davidson (no relation to the motorcycle manufacturer).

Conditions Governing Access

The Papers are open to researchers by appointment. There are no restricted materials in the collection. Please contact the Special Collections staff to schedule an appointment.
Conditions Governing Use

The Duane A. Davidson Papers are the physical property of the Irving S. Gilmore Music Library of Yale University. Copyrights belong to the composers and authors, or their legal heirs and assigns.

Preferred Citation


Biographical / Historical

Duane A. Davidson was born in Rural Retreat, Virginia in 1934 or 1935. He earned a B.A. from Emory and Henry College in Virginia, and a master’s degree in music in 1960 from Yale, where he was a student of Quincy Porter. His further studies included lessons with Leon Kirchner at Tanglewood in 1960. Davidson received awards for several of his works. In 1953 he was named the outstanding young composer during Pan American week. Psalm 150 won for him the Block Award, and in June 1960 he gained first prize in the Queen Elizabeth International Contest of the Wind Music Society in London. His Jazz Implications won first prize in the Composer’s Competition in London in June 1960, and was premiered on the BBC. His works have been performed in London, Rome, Graz, Tanglewood, and Middlebury College in Vermont. Duane Davidson died in Washington, D.C. in December 1964.

Scope and Contents

The Duane A. Davidson Papers contain sketches, manuscript scores, and published editions of Davidson’s musical works, including orchestral music, chamber works, piano pieces, songs, and choral music. Davidson’s life and work are further documented by: programs, press releases, and reviews; correspondence with Quincy Porter; writings by Davidson; and sound recordings.

Arrangement

In 2 series as follows: I. Miscellaneous items. II. Musical works of Duane A. Davidson.
### Collection Contents

#### Series I. Miscellaneous items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 1</td>
<td>Davidson, Duane A.</td>
<td>3 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 1</td>
<td>2 autograph letters signed, to Quincy Porter</td>
<td>1960 Jun 8, 1960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 1</td>
<td>1 typed letter signed, to Quincy Porter</td>
<td>1960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 2</td>
<td>Reviews of Davidson's works, photocopies</td>
<td>8 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1963–1976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 3</td>
<td>Press releases, brief biographies, in part, photocopies</td>
<td>4 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1965–1976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 4</td>
<td>Photographs of presentation of 52 of Duane's manuscripts by Harley Davidson (father) to Dean Philip Nelson of the Yale University School of Music</td>
<td>5 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1976 Nov 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 5</td>
<td>Programs including Davidson's works, in part, photocopies</td>
<td>16 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1958–1977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 6</td>
<td>Davidson, Duane A. Reflections of Duane A. Davidson</td>
<td>1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(poetry)</td>
<td>c1966</td>
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### Series II. Musical works of Duane A. Davidson

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| b. 1, f. 7 | Petite Pièce  
3 items  
Holograph signed, in ink, score.  
Holograph signed, in ink, score.  
Holograph signed, in ink, in part photocopies, parts, 2 copies. | 1955 Mar |
| b. 1, f. 8 | Three Songs for Gabrielle  
2 items  
Holograph signed, in ink and pencil, piano-vocal score.  
Photocopy of above. | 1955 Dec |
| b. 1, f. 9 | Introduction - Berceuse and Rondino  
7 items  
Holograph signed, in pencil, for horn and piano [originally entitled Suite No. 2: I. Prelude, II. Berceuse, III. Rondino]  
Prelude for horn and piano.  
Berceuse for oboe and piano, 2 copies.  
Berceuse, oboe part.  
Holograph signed, in ink, for horn and piano.  
Photocopy of holograph signed, horn part. | 1956 Jul 8 |
| b. 1, f. 10 | Sonatine for oboe and piano  
3 items  
Holograph in pencil.  
Photocopy of above, 2 copies. | 1956 Jul |
| b. 1, f. 11 | Summer Day  
1 item  
Holograph signed, in pencil, piano-vocal score. | 1957 Jan 9 |
| b. 1, f. 12 | Pretense  
2 items  
Holograph signed, in pencil, piano-vocal score.  
Photocopy of above. | 1957 Jan 10 |
| b. 1, f. 13 | Sonata for horn and piano  
1 item  
Holograph signed, in ink. | 1957 Aug |
| b. 1, f. 14 | Divertissement en Fa  
1 item  
Holograph signed, in pencil, for oboe, horn, and bassoon. | 1957 |
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<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</table>
| b. 1, f. 15 | Cantata No. 1: Melora’s Song  
5 items  
Holograph signed, in ink and pencil, for soprano, woodwinds, and piano.  
Holograph signed, in ink, for soprano, woodwind quintet, and piano.  
Vocal score for rehearsal only photocopy of signed holograph.  
Photocopy of above.  
Holograph signed, in pencil, sketch. | 1958 Sep |
| b. 1, f. 16 | Cantata No. 1: Song from a Green Hill [substitute lyrics]  
2 items  
Holograph signed, in ink and pencil. | 1958 Dec 31 |
| b. 1, f. 17 | String Quartet No. 1  
4 items  
Holograph signed, in pencil. | 1958 Dec 31 |
| b. 1, f. 17 | Fugue in C Minor  
3 items  
Holograph signed, in ink, for keyboard instrument. | 1958 Dec 31 |
| b. 1, f. 18 | Little Fugue in C Minor  
Holograph signed, in pencil, for string quartet. | 1958 Dec 31 |
| b. 1, f. 19 | Introduction - Song and Parody  
3 items  
Holograph, signed in ink and pencil, for harp and bassoon.  
Holograph in pencil.  
Parts, original and photocopy reduction of bassoon, and photocopy reduction of manuscript for harp only. | 1958 Dec 31 |
| b. 2, f. 1 | Danse Rituelle  
1 item  
Holograph signed, in pencil, 4 hands. | 1959 Jan |
| b. 2, f. 2 | The West Wind  
3 items  
Holograph signed, in ink, piano-vocal score.  
Photocopy of above.  
Holograph in pencil, sketch. | 1959 Jan |
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Container</th>
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<th>Date</th>
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</table>
| b. 2, f. 3 | Madrigal  
*3 items*  
Holograph signed in pencil, for chorus, unaccompanied.  
Holograph signed in ink, for chorus (SATB), unaccompanied.  
Photocopy of above. | 1959 Mar 7 |
| b. 2, f. 4-5 | *Jazz Implications*  
*7 items*  
Holograph signed, in ink and pencil, for band.  
Holograph signed, in ink, for band, 2 copies.  
Holograph signed in ink, parts, 3 copies, in part, photocopies.  
Holograph in pencil, sketch. | 1959 Apr |
| b. 2, f. 6-8 | *Cantata No. 2: Journey of Paradoxes*  
*11 items*  
Holograph signed in pencil, piano-vocal score.  
Holograph signed, in ink, for soprano and orchestra, 5 copies, in part, photocopies.  
Holograph in ink, parts, 3 copies.  
Holograph in pencil. | 1959 Oct 17 |
| b. 3, f. 1 | *Fugue in F Minor*  
*6 items*  
Holograph signed, in pencil, for keyboard instrument.  
Photocopy reduction of above.  
Manuscript, in pencil, for woodwind quartet.  
Photocopy reduction of above.  
Parts, for woodwind quartet, 2 copies. | 1959 Oct 17 |
| b. 3, f. 2 | *Sonata, piano, no. 1*  
*3 items*  
Holograph signed, in ink.  
Photocopy reduction of above.  
Holograph signed in pencil, sketch. | 1960 Jan |
| b. 6, f. 1 | *Introduction and Dance No. 1*  
*3 items*  
Holograph signed in ink and pencil, score.  
Holograph in ink, score.  
Holograph in pencil, sketch. | 1960 Mar |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 3</td>
<td>Introduction and Dance 2 items  Holograph signed, in ink, score.  Holograph, sketches.</td>
<td>1960 Aug</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 4</td>
<td>Psalm 150: Hallelujah 3 items  Holograph signed, in ink, for chorus (SATB), unaccompanied.  Photocopy of above.  Photocopy of holograph, sketch.</td>
<td>1960 Nov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 5</td>
<td>Le 14 Juillet 3 items  Holograph signed, in ink, fantasy for piano.  “To Gérard, bonne chance pour ‘59-‘60, Duane”--verso of title page.  Photocopy of above.  Holograph in ink, sketch.</td>
<td>no date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 6-9</td>
<td>Cantata No. 3: The Execution 13 items  Holograph signed, in pencil, for soprano, tenor, chorus of 4 alto voices, and chamber orchestra.  Holograph signed, in ink, of above.  Photocopy of above.  Holograph signed, in ink, rehearsal reduction for 2 pianos.  Holograph signed, in ink, vocal parts, orchestra reduction, 5 copies, in part, photocopies.  Holograph signed, in ink, parts.  Photocopies of above.  Holograph in ink and pencil, sketch.  Holograph and typescript, synopsis of scenes.</td>
<td>1961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 4, f. 1-3</td>
<td>Stravaganza I 10 items  Holograph signed, in ink, for trombone and orchestra.  Holograph signed, in ink, for trombone and orchestra, revised version, 2 copies.  Holograph signed, in ink, piano reduction.  Holograph signed, in ink, solo trombone part, 3 copies, in part, photocopies.  Holograph signed, in ink, parts.  Manuscript in ink, parts, some duplicates, in part, photocopies.  Holograph in pencil, sketches.</td>
<td>1961</td>
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<td>Container</td>
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<td>Date</td>
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</table>
| b. 4, f. 4 | Berceuse for Ann and Child  
3 items  
Holograph signed, in ink, score.  
Parts, 2 copies, in part, photocopies. | 1962 Jan 3 |
| b. 4, f. 5 | Choreographies  
3 items  
Photocopy of holograph signed, a concerto for oboe and orchestra, score.  
Holograph in ink and pencil, sketch of movement I.  
Holograph in ink and pencil, sketch of movements I and II. | 1962 |
| b. 4, f. 6-7 | Psalm 23  
6 items  
Holograph signed, in ink, for chorus (SATB) and piano.  
Photocopy of above.  
Holograph signed in pencil, for chorus (SATB) and orchestra, score.  
Photocopy of above. | 1962–1964 |
| b. 4, f. 6-7 | Chorale, Introduction and Psalm  
Holograph signed, in ink, for chorus (SATB) and orchestra, score [his Psalm 23]  
Holograph, in part, signed, in part photocopies, parts. |  |
| b. 5, f. 1-3 | French Suite for Small Orchestra  
5 items  
Holograph signed, in ink, score.  
Photocopy of above.  
Holograph in ink, in part, signed, in part, photocopies, parts. Some duplicates.  
Holograph in pencil, score.  
Photocopy of holograph of score. | 1964 |
| b. 5, f. 4 | Cantata No. 4: The Queen's Marie  
3 items  
Holograph in ink, score, incomplete.  
Photocopy of above.  
Holograph in pencil, sketch. | no date |
| b. 5, f. 5 | Composition exercises  
16 items  
Holographs in ink and pencil. | no date |
| b. 5, f. 6 | Joanna  
2 items  
Holograph in ink, synopsis of opera in 3 acts.  
Holograph in ink and pencil, various sketches. | no date |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| b. 5, f. 7 | Psalm 100  
1 item  
Holograph in pencil, sketch. | no date |
| b. 5, f. 8 | Quartet for Woodwinds  
1 item  
Photocopy of score. | no date |
| b. 5, f. 9 | Sketches  
1 item  
Holographs in ink and pencil, various sketches. | no date |
| b. 5, f. 10 | String Quartet No. 2  
1 item  
Photocopy of score. | no date |
| b. 5, f. 11 | Theme and Variations  
1 item  
For woodwind quintet, photocopy of parts. | no date |
| b. 5, f. 12 | Various sketched and libretti  
16 items  
In part, holographs in ink and pencil. | no date |
| b. 6 | Tapes of performances of selected musical works of Duane A. Davidson.  
5 items | |
| b. 6 | Jazz Implications  
| b. 6 | Instrumental works  
Piano sonata, String Quartet No. 1, Sonatina for Oboe and Piano, Sonata for Trombone and Piano, 7.5 IPS, 2 copies. | |
| b. 6 | Choral works  
Chorale and Psalm 23, Madrigal, Cantata No. 1, Cantata No. 2, 2 copies. | |
Selected Search Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library’s online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects
Cantatas, Secular -- Scores
Composers -- Correspondence
Music -- United States -- 20th Century
Piano music
Songs
String quartets -- Scores

Names
Davidson, Duane A. (Duane Andrew), 1934-1964
Porter, Quincy, 1897-1966