

DAVID AHLSTROM COLLECTION
Acc. #993.136

SAN FRANCISCO PERFORMING ARTS LIBRARY & MUSEUM
(1993)

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INTRODUCTION

Provenance

David Ahlstrom's collection was donated by his wife, Mrs. Doris Ahlstrom on Sept. 30, 1993.

Restrictions

None

Publication Rights

See Librarian

Collection Number

Acc. #993.136

Size

1 Box

3 Cartons

4 Oversized Boxes

13 Bound Scores

2 Medium flat boxes

Total(10 boxes)

Total linear feet = 11' (131.5")

Processed

Jeremy Nelson

Date Completed

November 20, 1993

Preferred Citation

SAN FRANCISCO PERFORMING ARTS LIBRARY & MUSEUM

BIOGRAPHY

David Ahlstrom (1927-1993) studied composition with Alan Hovhaness, Bernard Rogers, and Henry Cowell, and Asian philosophy with Haridas Chaudhuri. He held a Ph. D. in composition from Eastman School of Music and he taught composition at Eastern Illinois University, Southern Methodist University, and Northwestern University. He also served as conductor (orchestra, opera and New Music series concerts) at these and other universities ~~and~~. Ahlstrom's opera *America, I Love You*, on a libretto by e e cummings, was one of seven contemporary American operas selected for presentation on OPERA America's First Composer/Librettist Showcase on January 6, 1981 in New Orleans.

Ahlstrom lived in San Francisco where he worked as a composer and writer and as Music Director/Conductor of BAYO and VOICES/SF, an ensemble specializing in showcase performances of new American operas and works for musical theatre.

CONTENTS

The David Ahlstrom Collection contains musical scores, recordings, photographs, programs and biographical information, chronicling his life as a composer from a student at Eastman School of Music to a professional composer. The compositions in the collection range from original scores in pencil and ink, to rolled graphic scores, to the transparencies used for printing & publishing. The recordings are 8 inch reel to reel (with some 5 inch) and standard tape cassettes. They vary from student recitals presenting his works, to lectures, to live professional performances of his many operas and musicals. There are photographs of numerous colleagues and copies of all of his published and unpublished writings. The collection also has programs from BAYO and VOICES/SF (1980's), for which Ahlstrom was director/conductor.

SERIES DESCRIPTION

SERIES I.

SCORES

1 carton, 2 oversized boxes, 2 med. flat boxes,
13 bound scores

Contains all of the original and published works of
David Ahlstrom.

SERIES II.

SCORE TRANSPARENCIES

1 oversized box, 3 folders

3 large folders containing transparencies of
many of Ahlstrom's compositions; (in most cases a
second copy of the original scores in SERIES I). Arranged
in numerical order 1-125 in accordance to the list of
transparencies found in the Productions Series IV.

SERIES III.

ROLLED GRAPHIC SCORES

1 oversized box

Contains rolled graphic scores. Unrolled, some are over
15 feet long. Many of the scores are in very poor
condition due to being rolled as well as the use of spray
glue that was used to place designs in the score.

SERIES IV.

PRODUCTIONS

4 binders, 7 folders, 1 envelope

Contains programs from Creative Sound, VOICES/SF
and BAYO. A conductor's score with notes and
performance direction for *Tumbler of Notre Dame*. Lists
of performances of all his compositions. A list of
transparencies and originals of all his works.
A folder containing synopses for all his operas. Also
contains sketches by Ahlstrom of set and costume designs
for his opera *Three Sisters*.

SERIES V. BIOGRAPHICAL
4 folders, 1 spiral bound volume

Contains short biographies of Ahlstrom from program notes, school grades, reviews of his music, information from *International Who's Who in Music*, *Biographical Dictionary*, and a spiral bound volume *Opera America Composer Librettist Showcase*, 1981 .

SERIES VI. PUBLICATIONS
2 folders

Contains one original and a copy of all published and unpublished articles/papers written by Ahlstrom.
(With lists)

SERIES VII. RECORDINGS
1 carton 1 box

Contains reel to reel and cassette recordings of Ahlstrom compositions and lectures

SERIES VIII. PHOTOGRAPHS
11 folders

Contains photographs with proofs of various colleagues

CONTAINER/FOLDER LISTING

SERIES I. SCORES

<u>Container</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
OV Box 1	-	18 oversized original & printed scores
OV Box 2	-	17 oversized original & printed scores
Box #3	2	Original & printed score to <i>My Hearts in the Highland</i> . 2 Libretti
Box #4	-	4 full scores to operas/musicals.
Carton #8	-	59 original & printed scores.
<OV Box #11> Binder 1-13	-	13 spiral bound scores

SERIES II. SCORE TRANSPARENCIES

<u>Container</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
OV Box #9	3	105 transparencies of scores.

SERIES III. ROLLED GRAPHIC SCORES

<u>Container</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
Box #10	-	23 rolled scores

SERIES IV. PRODUCTIONS

<u>Container</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
Carton #6	7	Folders containing information on productions of Ahlstrom works including synopses, directions and performance dates. 4 binders containing programs & performance directions. One envelope with drawings by Ahlstrom of set & Costume designs for <i>Three Sisters</i> .

SERIES V. BIOGRAPHICAL

<u>Container</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
Carton #6	4	Folders contain biographical materials including program notes, school grades, and reviews. Includes a spiral bound volume entitled, <i>Opera America Composer Librettist Showcase</i> , 1981

SERIES VI. PUBLICATIONS

<u>Container</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
Carton #6	2	articles written by Ahlstrom, published and unpublished (with list).

SERIES VII. RECORDINGS

<u>Container</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
Carton #5	--	55 reel to reel, (45 8-inch, 10 5-inch)
Box #7	-	43 tape cassettes

SERIES VIII. PHOTOGRAPHS

<u>Container</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
Carton #6	11	Photographs and proofs