



The New York Public Library  
Music Division

Guide to the

**[Horace Johnson scores] / Horace Johnson**

1916-1930

JPB 84-58

Processed by Martha Grutchfield.

## Summary

**Creator:** Johnson, Horace, 1893-1964

**Title:** [Horace Johnson scores] / Horace Johnson

**Date:** 1916-1930

**Abstract:** Horace Johnson Scores represent most of the compositional output of an American music critic.

**Access:** Some collections held by the Dance, Music, Recorded Sound, and Theatre Divisions at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts are held off-site and must be requested in advance. Please check the collection records in **the NYPL's online catalog** for detailed location information. For general guidance about requesting offsite materials, please consult: <https://www.nypl.org/about/locations/lpa/requesting-archival-materials>

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**Preferred citation:** Horace Johnson Scores, JPB 84-58, Music Division, The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox, and Tilden Foundations.

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Processed by Martha Grutchfield; machine-readable finding aid created by Robert Kosovsky.

## Creator History

Horace Johnson was an American music critic and composer.

He was born in Waltham, Massachusetts, October 5, 1893. His mother had been a concert singer. He studied piano with Marie Kieckhofer and Ulysse Buhler at the Berkshire School, 1911-13, theory, piano, and organ with John P. Marshall of Boston University, 1914-16, and composition with Bainbridge Crist of Boston, 1914-18. He completed his musical education with four years of study in France and England. In 1923 he married author Helen Redington.

Johnson was assistant editor of the *Musical Observer*, and later became managing editor of the *Musical Courier* for eight years (1930-1938). He also held positions for *The Etude*, *The Musician*, *The Talking Machine Journal*, *Musical America*, and music editor of *The Delineator*.

Johnson was appointed director of the Works Progress Administration Music Project and began his duties at the end of May, 1939, which lasted at least two years.

Johnson was known mostly for the many songs he composed, a number of which were performed by Alice Tully.

Horace Johnson died in Tucson, Arizona, on May 30, 1964.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The Horace Johnson scores contains a number of Johnson's works, in particular his orchestral music. Though he composed numerous songs, they were not part of the collection.

**Arrangement:** Works are arranged alphabetically by title.

## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

Instrumental music

Musical sketches

Vocal music

### **Names**

Johnson, Horace, 1893-1964

American Music Collection

## Container List

- f. 1 *Johnson, Horace Absense*,. May 8th, 1916 (1 pencil fragment.)  
Words by Robert Burns. For voice and piano.
- f. 1 *Johnson, Horace Absense*,. 1917 (1 ink score.)  
Words by Robert Burns. For voice and piano. Note on score: First song and first composition published.
- f. 2 *Johnson, Horace Babe of Bethlehem*,. n.d. (1 pencil sketch for solo voice, SATB chorus and piano.)  
Words by Helen Redington.
- f. 2 *Johnson, Horace Babe of Bethlehem*,. c1928 (1 ink score for SATB chorus and piano.)  
Words by Helen Redington.
- f. 2 *Johnson, Horace Babe of Bethlehem*,. Nov. 15, 1924 (1 pencil sketch for voice and piano.)  
Words by Helen Redington. On t.p.: *Christmas hymn*, Nov. 15 '24, Florence.
- f. 3 *Johnson, Horace Cara mia, []*. 1923 (1 ink score.)  
Words by Helen Redington.
- f. 4 *Johnson, Horace Imagery suite*,. n.d. (3 v. in ink.)  
For orchestra. First performance by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Sir Dan Godfrey conductor, April 10, 1926. Suggested by a poem by Rabindrinath Tagore. Contents: 1. Procession to Indra -- 2. Aparasa -- 3. Urbasi.
- c. JPB 78-11 *Johnson, Horace [Imagery. Procession to Indra] Procession to Indra*,. 1925 (1 score (22 p.))  
Holograph in pencil. Begun Dec. 8, 1924, finished Jan. 9, 1925.  
This item is classified separately.
- f. 5 *Johnson, Horace [Imagery. Procession to Indra (Sketches)] Oriental procession*,. Mar. 30, 1923 (Pencil sketch.)
- f. 6 *Johnson, Horace [Imagery. Procession to Indra (Sketches)] Oriental procession*,. Nov. 24, 1924  
Sketch for piano, 4 hands.
- f. 7 *Johnson, Horace [Imagery. Urbasi]*,. Nov. 30, 1924 (Fragment of pencil sketch.)
- f. 8 *Johnson, Horace [Imagery. Urbasi] Trees at night*,. Nov. 30th 1925 (Piano sketch.)  
Published by G. Schirmer as a piano piece entitled *Trees at night*.
- f. 9 *Johnson, Horace [In the American manner] Sonatina Americana*,. Jan. 26th, [1926 (Fragment of pencil sketch.)
- c. JNH 80-14 *Johnson, Horace [Music, string orchestra] Music for strings* 1945? (1 ms. score (51 p.) ; 40 cm.)  
  
Reproduction of holograph.  
  
This item is classified separately.
- f. 10 *Johnson, Horace The rose and the gardener*,. Oct. 17, 1925 (1 pencil score.)  
Words by Austin Dobson. For voice and piano.
- f. 10 *Johnson, Horace The rose and the gardener*,. c1930 (1 ink score.)  
Words by Austin Dobson. For voice and piano.
- f. 11 *Johnson, Horace Streets of Florence*,. December 1929  
For orchestra. Accompanied by poem by Helen Redington, typescript, June 1925. First performed under the direction of Carlos Chavez in Mexico City, July 9, 1937. Contents: 1. Piazza Santo Spirito -- 2. Erta Canina -- 3. Borgo San Jacopo.
- f. 12 *Johnson, Horace [Streets of Florence]*,. June 18, 1925, June 23, 1925, July 1, 1935 (Piano sketches.)

- f. 13 *Johnson, Horace The three cherry trees,*. 1928 (2 ink scores with alterations in pencil.)  
Words by Walter de la Mare. For voice and piano. Contains 1st and 2nd versions. Song published by G. Schirmer in 1928.
- f. 14 *Johnson, Horace Thy dark hair,*. March 12, 1920 (In pencil with words and vocal line in ink.)  
Words by James Mahoney. For voice and piano. Published by Carl Fischer in 1921.