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Music Division

Guide to the

[Johanna Magdalena Beyer scores [microform] / Johanna Beyer]

1931-1943

*ZB-3216 [Microfilm]

Processed by Martha Grutchfield.

Summary

Creator: Beyer, Johanna Magdalena, 1888-1944

Title: [Johanna Magdalena Beyer scores [microform] / Johanna Beyer]

Date: 1931-1943

Abstract: The Johanna Magdalena Beyer scores represent the work of a neglected woman composer.

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>

Physical Location: JPB 82-77

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Processing note: Processed by Martha Grutchfield.

Creator History

Johanna Magdalena Beyer was born on July 11, 1888 in Leipzig. She studied piano and music theory in Germany. In 1924 she arrived in New York and went to study at the David Mannes School. After receiving a teacher's certificate in 1928, she took private lessons with Dane Rudhyar, Ruth Crawford, Charles Seeger, and Henry Cowell. During this time she wrote music and several plays for various projects. She was familiar with Henry Cowell and other composers of his circle. During Cowell's incarceration in San Quentin (1937-40), Beyer served as his secretary and took care of his scores. Towards the end of her life she began to receive a small amount of recognition by her peers, but she

died in poverty in New York, on January 9, 1944.

Scope and Content Note

The Johanna Magdalena Beyer scores represent the music in her possession at the time of her death. They include works for orchestra, chamber ensembles, piano, voice, and other instruments.

Arrangement: The Johanna Magdalena Beyer scores are arranged in a single series alphabetically by title.

Key Terms

Subjects

Instrumental music
Vocal music

Names

Beyer, Johanna Magdalena, 1888-1944
American Music Collection

Container List

- f. 1 *Ballad of the star eater* 1934 (2 holographs scores, 2 scores.)
For soprano and clarinet. Text by Bonaro Wilkinson Overstreet.
- f. 2 *Bees* n.d. (1 p. of ms. music.)
For piano. No. 21 from *Piano-book*.
- f. 3 *Clusters* 1931, 1936 (3 p. of ms. music, [6] p. of music.)
For piano. Alternate title: *N.Y. waltzes*. Waltzes 1, 2, 3 (holograph) composed 1936.
Photoreproduction includes additional waltz from 1931.
- f. 4 *The Composers Forum-Laboratory* January 1937 (1 holograph score, 1 score.)
For chorus (SATB) and piano. Dedicated to Ashley Pettis.
- f. 5 *Cyrnab* Fall 1937 (1 holograph score, 2 scores, holograph parts.)
For orchestra.
- f. 6 *Dance* n.d. (1 holograph score, holograph parts.)
For violin, viola, violoncello, and bass.
- f. 7 *Dissonant counterpoint* n.d. (1 holograph score, 1 score.)
For piano.
- f. 8 *Four pieces for oboe and bassoon* June 1939 (1 holograph score, 2 scores.)
Alternate title: *Suite for oboe and bassoon*.
- f. 9 *Elation* July 20/21, 1938 (1 score.)
For band. Dedicated to Edwin Franko Goldman.
- f. 10 *The Federal Music Project* 1936 (2 holograph scores.)
For chorus (SATB). Dedicated to Ashley Pettis.
- f. 11 *Winter ade : German folksong with various versions* 1936? (2 scores.)
For Piano. Contents: [German folksong] -- Switzerland, 1839 -- England, old popular song, 1672
-- Ireland -- Russian folksong -- Italian folksong.
- f. 12 *Fragment* January 1937 (1 holograph score, 1 score, holograph parts, parts.)
For chamber orchestra. Dedicated to Hans Lange.
- f. 13 *Gebrausch-Musik* 1934 (5 p. of ms. music, 5 p. of music.)
For piano.
- f. 14A *Have faith!* Dec. 1936, January 1937 (1 ms. score, 1 score.)
For soprano voice and flute. Each score consists of two versions of the song.
- f. 14B *The main-deep* October 1937 (1 holograph score.)
For chorus (SATB). Text by James Stephens. Note on title-page: To the Choral Contest
Committee, Federal Music Project.
- f. 15 *March* April 1935 (1 holograph score and parts.)
For clarinet, 2 cornets, percussion (cymbal, drum), violin 1, violin 2, and violoncello.
- f. 16 *Movement for double bass and piano* 1936 (2 holograph scores, 1 score.)
For bass and piano.
- f. 17 *Movement for string quartet* 1938 (1 score.)
For violin, viola, violoncello, and bass.
- f. 18 *Movement for two pianos* 1936 (1 ms. score, 2 scores.)
Dedicated to Henry Cowell.
- f. 19 *Movement for woodwinds* Sept. 1938 (1 ms. score, 5 ms. parts ; 1 score.)
For flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, and double bassoon.
- f. 19A *The People, yes* September 1937 (1 ms. score.)
For SATB chorus. Text by Carl Sandburg.

- f. 20 *Piano book*. Sept. 1936 (1 ms. score, ill.)
Piano music for the beginner in classic, romantic, and modern styles. Includes pages of water-color drawings.
- f. 21 *Prelude and fugue* n.d. (2 scores.)
For piano.
- f. 22 *Quintet for woodwinds* 1933 (1 ms. score ; 2 scores, and 3 sets of parts.)
For flute, oboe, English horn, clarinet, and bassoon.
- f. 23 *Reverence* February 1938 (1 ms. score, 5 ms. parts ; 1 score and 2 sets of parts.)
For English horn, soprano saxophone, alto horn in E flat, timpani, and bass drum. Dedicated to Percy Grainger.
- f. 24 *The Robin in the rain* October 1935 (1 ms. score ; 2 ms. chorus scores.)
Words by Charles Coke Woods. For chorus (SA or SATB) and piano.
- f. 25 *See-saw : study* 1936 (2 ms. scores.)
For piano. See-saw is no. 25 of the Piano book. Study is also from Piano book.
- f. 26 *Six movements for oboe and piano* June 1939 (1 ms. score ; 4 scores.)
2 scores are of version in six movements; 2 scores are of the version in three movements.
Alternative title: *Three pieces for oboe and piano*.
- f. 27 *Sky pieces* April] 1933 (3 ms. scores ; 2 scores.)
Text by Carl Sandburg. For soprano and piano.
- f. 28 *Sonata for clarinet and piano* February 1936 (1 ms. score ; 2 scores.)
Dedicated to Rosario Mazzeo and Nicolas Slonimsky.
- f. 29 *Sonatina in C* June 1943 (4 p. of ms. music.)
For piano.
- f. 30 *[Status quo. Geneva]* 1938 (2 scores.)
Ballet for orchestra. Geneva is part 4 of the ballet Status quo.
- f. 31 *[Status quo. Music of the spheres] Music of the spheres : movement for three electfical instruments* July 1938 (1 score.)
For three undesignated instruments. From the ballet Status quo.
- f. 32 *[Quartet, strings, no. 1]* 1933-1934 (1 ms. score, 4 ms. parts ; 2 scores and 2 sets of parts.)
- f. 33 *[Quartet, strings, no. 2]* July 1936 (1 ms. score + 4 ms. parts.)
- f. 34 *[Quartet, strings, no. 4]* n.d. (1 ms. score, 1p. of sketches ; 1 score.)
- f. 35 *Suite for bass clarinet and piano* n.d. (2 scores.)
Dedicated to Rosario Mazzeo.
- f. 36-37 *Suite for clarinet* 1932 (2 ms. scores.)
Contains two suites for solo clarinet. Contents of Suite I: 1. Presto -- 2. Largo -- 3. Moderato -- 4. Rallentando. Contents of Suite IB: 1. Giocoso -- 2. Lamentation -- 3. Contrast (Sonnetform) -- 4. Accelerando.
- f. 38 *Suite III for clarinet and bassoon* 1933 (1 ms. score ; 1 score.)
- f. 39 *Suite for piano* Nov. 1939 (1 ms. score ; 3 scores.)
Dedicated to Henry Cowell.
- f. 40 *Suite for violin and piano* January 1937 (1 ms. score ; 3 scores.)
Dedicated to Joseph Szigeti and Nikita Magaloff.
- f. 41 *Symphonic movement I* July 1939 (1 score.)
For orchestra.
- f. 42 *Symphonic movement II* March 1941 (1 score.)
For orchestra. Dedicated to Leopold Stokowski.
- f. 43a *Symphonic opus 3* March 1939 (1 ms. score.)
For orchestra. Contents: 1. Andante -- 2. Moderato-Ritmico -- 3. Largo -- 4. Presto.

- f. 43b *Symphonic opus 3* March 1939 (Parts.)
For orchestra. Contents: 1. Andante -- 2. Moderato-Ritmico -- 3. Largo -- 4. Presto.
- f. 44 *Symphonic opus 5* Sept. 1940 (1 score.)
For orchestra. Contents: 1. Moderato -- 2. Andante -- 3. Allegro.
- f. 45 *Symphonic suite* January-July (2 ms. scores.)
For orchestra. Contents: 1. Grave -- 2. Allegretto scherzando -- 3. Lentamente -- 4. Presto.
- f. 46 *Three more pieces for oboe and piano* n.d. (1 ms. score.)
Dedicated to Joseph Mann of Cincinnati.
- f. 47 *Three movements for percussion* 1939 (1 ms. score.)
For triangle, woodblock, tambourine, snare drum, timpani, and gong. Dedicated to John Cage.
Contents: 1. Restless -- 2. Endless -- 3. Tactless.
- f. 48 *Three New York waltzes* August 1936 (1 ms. score (waltz 1) ; 1 score.)
For piano.
- f. 49 See folder 26.
- f. 50 *Three songs* 1933 (3 ms. scores.)
Text by Carl Sandburg. For voice, percussion, and piano. Contents: Stars, songs, faces --
Summergrass -- Timber moon
- f. 51 *Three songs for soprano and clarinet* 1934 (1 ms. score ; 2 scores, 1 p. of text.)
Text by Johanna M. Beyer, dated August 1932. Contents: Total eclipse -- Universal-local -- To be.
- f. 52 *Trio for woodwinds* n.d. (1 ms. score.)
For flute, oboe, and bassoon[?]. Contents: 1. Perpetual -- 2. Scherzando -- 3. Animato.
- f. 53 *Waltz* 1931 (1 ms. score.)
For piano.