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JACOB AVSHALOMOV
SCORES, 1928-2001
(bulk 1940-1998)
5.36 Linear feet (15 boxes)

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Abstract

Jacob Avshalomov, composer, was born in China, but immigrated to the U.S.A. in 1937. He studied in Los Angeles with Ernst Toch, at the Eastman School of Music with Bernard Rogers, and at Tanglewood with Aaron Copland. Avshalomov spent the majority of his career as the director of the Portland Youth Orchestra from 1954 to 1995. The Scores contains various drafts and sketches and scores composed by Jacob Avshalomov from 1928-1998. The bulk of the material dates from 1940-1998, and in addition to the scores, the collection contain correspondence, libretto and compositions written by the composer's father, Aaron Avshalomov.

Administrative Information:

Acquisition:	Gift of Jacob Avshalomov in two parts, 1990 and 2003
Access:	The collection is open for research.
Restrictions on Use:	For permission to copy or publish, please contact the Music Division.
Preferred Citation:	The Jacob Avshalomov Scores, JPB 02-5, Music Division, The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox, and Tilden Foundations.

Biography/History

Jacob Avshalomov was born on March 28, 1919 in Tsingtao, China to a Russian composer father, Aaron Avshalomov, and an American mother. Jacob's first introduction to music was in 1937 in Shanghai, where he assisted his father in producing a Chinese ballet and in preparing scores.

In December 1937, Jacob immigrated to San Francisco with his mother. (His father moved to America in 1947.) In 1938, Avshalomov studied composition with Ernst Toch in Los Angeles. Avshalomov attended Reed College in Portland Oregon in 1939-1941. There, he studied conducting with Jacques Gershkovitch and played percussion and cello in the Junior Symphony. He received a master's in 1943 from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY, where he studied composition with Bernard Rogers. On August 31, 1943, Avshalomov married Dorris Felde, with whom he had two children, both became professional musicians: David became a composer-conductor and Daniel, a violist and a member of the American String Quartet.

In 1944, Avshalomov became a naturalized American citizen. While serving in the U.S. army, as an interpreter during World War II, he made his conducting debut with a performance of Bach's *Passion According to St. John* in 1944. Also while in the army, Avshalomov composed *Slow Dance*, his first work to receive a significant hearing. The piece was performed by the National Symphony under Richard Bales in Washington D.C. on August 13, 1945.

In 1946, he received an Alice M. Ditson Fellowship from Columbia University. Avshalomov spent that summer at the Berkshire Music Center at Tanglewood, where he studied composition with Aaron Copland. Then, in the fall of 1946, Avshalomov joined the music faculty at Columbia University. During his eight-year tenure, he founded and conducted the university chorus and occasionally conducted the orchestra which presented the American premieres of Michael Tippett's *A Child of Our Time*, Bruckner's Mass in D and Handel's *The Triumph of Time or Truth*. In 1957, Avshalomov completed, what he has identified as his most significant work, *Inscriptions at the City of the Brass*.

Avshalomov received many honors during his career including the Ernest Bloch award for the cantata *How Long O' Lord* in 1948, and a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1951. His major choral work, *Tom O'Bedlam*, which premiered on December 15, 1953, was awarded the New York Music Critics Circle Award. He received honorary doctorates in music and humane letters from the University of Portland (1966), Reed College (1974), and Linfield College in McMinnville, Oregon (1976). In 1968, President Johnson appointed Avshalomov to the National Council on Humanities. He served until 1978

In 1954, Avshalomov left Columbia University and moved to Portland, Oregon where he took over the 30-year old Portland Junior Symphony (its name was changed in 1978 to the Portland Youth Orchestra) During his 41-year tenure he led students on six international tours.

On March 28, 1999, Avshalomov's 80th birthday was celebrated in Portland with a special concert with an orchestra made up of his alumni from the Portland Junior Symphony and the Youth Philharmonic.

Sources:

Ewen, David. *American Composers Today*. New York: H.W. Wilson, 1949.

Stabler, David: "Avshalomov, Jacob", *The New Grove Dictionary of Music Online* ed. L. Macy (Accessed 12 November 2003), <http://www.grovemusic.com>.

Slonimsky, Nicolas. *Baker's Biographical Dictionary of Musicians--centennial ed.*, vol. 1, 151. New York: Schirmer Books, 2001.

Scope and Content Note

The majority of the collection consists of Jacob Avshalomov scores encompassing a fifty-year period of his work from 1928 to 1978. There are several drafts of many of the compositions in the collection. The collection also contains two scores written by the composer's father, Aaron Avshalomov. The other materials in the collection include limited correspondence, clippings and programs. The majority of the material was dated, labeled and arranged in chronological order by Jacob Avshalomov. The collection also contains Jacob Avshalomov's typescript for his autobiography, *Winding Way: Composers out of China -- a chronicle*.

Organization:

The Jacob Avshalomov scores are divided into two series and arranged chronologically:

Series I: Scores, 1928-1998

Sub series I - Aaron Avshalomov, 1936-1958

Sub series II - Jacob Avshalomov, 1928-1998

Series II: Ephemera, 1943-2001

Series Descriptions:

The **Scores** series, which consists of 4.86 linear feet of material arranged chronologically, is by far the largest series in the collection. The series includes sketches, drafts and, in some cases, libretti for Jacob Avshalomov's composition, as well as three folders of materials written by his father, Aaron Avshalomov. The majority of the material is written in the composer's hand. The amount of material related to each piece varies greatly. The amount of material in each folder also varies dramatically; some folders may contain only one score, while others may contain a larger amount of material.

The **Ephemera** series consists of .5 linear feet arranged chronologically. One entire box is dedicated to the typescript manuscript of Avshalomov's *Winding Way: Composers out of China -- a chronicle*. The other box contains a limited number of clippings, correspondence, program notes and libretto.

Box/Folder	Description
Series I: Scores, 1928-1998	
Works by Aaron Avshalomov, 1936-1958	
F. 1	<i>The K'e still ripples to its banks</i> , 1936 -- 1 holograph score
F. 2	<i>The Twilight Hour of Yang Kuei-Fei</i> , 1958 -- 1 ms. score (reproduction)
F. 3	<i>The Twilight Hour of Yang Kuei-Fei</i> , 1958 -- 1 holograph vocal score
Works by Jacob Avshalomov, 1928-1998	
F. 4	<i>Esquise Orientale</i> , 1928 -- 1 holograph score
F. 5	<i>Petite Suite</i> , 1935 -- 1 holograph score
F. 6	<i>Impression</i> , 1936 -- 2 holograph scores
F. 7	<i>On the T'ung T'ing Lake</i> , 1937 -- 1 ms. vocal score, 2 holograph scores and 1 holograph set of incomplete parts
F. 8	<i>Moon in the Yellow River</i> , 1940 -- 1 holograph vocal score
F. 9	<i>An Afternoon Muse</i> , 1940 -- 1 holograph score
F. 10	<i>U pap bila sabaka</i> , 1940 -- 1 holograph score
F. 11	<i>The Little Clay Cart</i> , 1940 -- 1 holograph score and the set of holograph parts
F. 12	<i>Because Your Voice</i> , 1941 -- 1 ms. score (reproduction) (SATB version) and 1 holograph score (SA version)
F. 13	<i>Two Bagatelles</i> , 1941-- 1 holograph score and 1 holograph sketch
F. 14	<i>Dance of One Denied</i> , 1941 -- 1 holograph score, 1 ms. score (reproduction) and holograph set of parts
F. 15	<i>The Little Clay Carte Suite</i> , 1941 -- 3 holograph scores
F. 16	<i>Vision</i> , 1942 -- 1 ms. score (reproduction)
F. 17	<i>Theme & Variation</i> , 1942 -- 1 holograph score
F. 18	<i>Slow Dance</i> , 1942 -- 1 ms. score (reproduction)
F. 19	<i>Casella, Alfredo</i> <i>Sicilienne & Burlesque orchestration by J. Avshalomov</i> , 1942 -- 1 holograph score
F. 20	<i>The T'ai T'ien Mtn</i> , 1942 -- 1 holograph score and 1 holograph short score (for section 2 only)
F. 139	<i>Two Poems for Orchestra</i> , 1942 -- 1 ms. score (reproduction)
F. 140	<i>The Taking of T'ung Kuan</i> , 1942 -- 1 holograph score
F. 21	<i>Merry Dance</i> , 1943 -- 1 ms. scores and parts (reproduction)
F. 22	<i>How Long O Lord</i> , 1945 -- 2 holograph scores, 1 ms. score (reproduction) and lyrics (also includes notes)
F. 23	<i>Oh When</i> , 1945 -- 1 ms score (reproduction)
F. 24	<i>Tom O'Bedlam</i> , 1951 -- 1 holograph score (also includes lyrics)
F. 25	<i>Tom O'Bedlam</i> , 1952 -- 1 score (inscribed by J. Avshalomov)
F. 26	<i>Of Man's Mortalitie</i> , 1952 -- 1 holograph score and 1 manuscript score (reproduction)
F. 27	<i>Of Man's Mortalitie</i> , 1952 -- 2 holograph sketches and lyrics
F. 28	<i>Evocations</i> , 1952 -- 1 holograph score
F. 29	<i>Calaf's Song</i> , 1952 -- 1 holograph score and lyrics
F. 30	<i>Oedipus' Cradle Song</i> , 1949 -- 1 holograph score
F. 31	<i>In Time of Plague</i> , 1949 -- 1 holograph score
F. 32	<i>Prophecy</i> , 1947 -- 1 holograph score and lyrics
F. 33	<i>Inscriptions at the City of the Brass</i> , 1955 -- 1 holograph score (labeled preliminary draft)
F. 34	<i>Inscriptions at the City of the Brass</i> , 1955 -- 1 holograph sketch (includes notes)
F. 35	<i>Inscriptions at the City of the Brass</i> , 1955 -- notes
F. 36	<i>Inscriptions at the City of the Brass</i> , 1955--1 holograph sketch

Box/Folder	Description
F. 37	<i>Inscriptions at the City of the Brass</i> , 1955 -- 1 holograph sketch
	Series I: Scores, 1928-1998 (cont.)
	Works by Jacob Avshalomov
F. 38	<i>Inscriptions at the City of the Brass</i> , 1955 -- narration, text and lyrics
F. 39	<i>Inscriptions at the City of the Brass</i> , 1955 -- 1 holograph score
F. 40	<i>Inscriptions at the City of the Brass</i> , 1955 -- 1 holograph short score (labeled final draft)
F. 142	<i>Inscriptions at the City of the Brass</i> , 1955 -- 1 holograph score
F. 143	<i>Inscriptions at the City of the Brass</i> , 1955 -- 1 ms. score (reproduction)
F. 41	<i>Inscriptions at the City of the Brass</i> , 1955 -- 1 holograph score
F. 42	<i>Inscriptions at the City of the Brass</i> , 1955 -- 1 ms. score (reproduction)
F. 43	<i>Make a Joyful Noise Unto the Lord</i> , 1956 -- 1 ms. score (reproduction)
F. 44	<i>Plywood Age</i> , 1955 -- 1 holograph draft (labeled 2 nd version)
F. 45	<i>Plywood Age</i> , 1955 -- 1 holograph score (Part I), 1 ms. score (Part II)(reproduction) and 1 holograph score (Part III)
F. 46	<i>Threnos</i> , 1955 -- 2 holograph score and 1 ms. score (reproduction)
F. 47	<i>Proverbs of Hell</i> , 1955 -- 1 holograph sketch, 1 holograph score and notes
F. 48	<i>Proverbs of Hell</i> , 1955 -- 1 score (reproduction)
F. 49	<i>Whimsies</i> , 1955 -- 2 holograph score
F. 50	<i>Whimsies</i> , 1955 -- 1 ms. score (reproduction)
F. 51	<i>Wonders</i> , 1955 -- 2 ms. scores (reproduction)
F. 52	<i>Wonders: The Smile, Part I</i> , 1955 -- 3 holograph scores, 3 ms. scores (reproduction) and lyrics
F. 53	<i>Wonders: Grain of Sand, Part II</i> , 1955 -- 2 holograph scores, 1 ms. score (reproduction) and lyrics
F. 54	<i>The Ch'ing T'ing Mountain</i> , 1956 -- 1 ms. score (reproduction)
F. 141	<i>Evocations</i> , 1956-- 1 ms. score (reproduction)
F. 55	<i>One, Two, Three for David</i> , 1957 -- 1 holograph score
F. 56	<i>One, Two, Three for David</i> , 1957 -- 2 ms. score
F. 57	<i>Two Old Birds</i> , 1957 -- 2 holograph score and lyrics
F. 58	<i>Two Old Birds</i> , 1957 --3 ms. score (reproduction) and lyrics
F. 59	<i>The Glass Town</i> , 1957 -- 1 holograph score and lyrics
F. 60	<i>Now Welcome Summer</i> , 1957 -- 1 holograph score
F. 61	<i>Phases of the Great Land</i> , 1958 -- 1 holograph sketch and 1 note
F. 62	<i>Phases of the Great Land</i> , 1958 --1 holograph sketch (Part I)
F. 63	<i>Phases of the Great Land</i> , 1958 -- 1 holograph sketch (Part II)
F. 64	<i>Phases of the Great Land</i> , 1958 -- 1 holograph score (Part II)
F. 65	<i>Phases of the Great Land</i> , 1958 -- 1 ms score (reproduction)
F. 66	<i>Symphony: The Oregon</i> , 1961 -- holograph sketch and notes
F. 67	<i>Symphony: The Oregon</i> , 1961 -- 1 holograph score
F. 68	<i>I Saw a Stranger Yester'en</i> , 1962 -- 1 holograph score and 1 ms. score (reproduction)
F. 69	<i>Praises from the Corners of the Earth</i> , 1965 -- 1 holograph vocal score, lyrics and other related material
F. 70	<i>Praises from the Corners of the Earth</i> , 1965 -- 1 ms. score(reproduction)
F. 71	<i>City Upon a Hill</i> , 1967 -- libretti for the cantata
F. 72	<i>City Upon a Hill</i> , 1967 -- 1 holograph score
F. 73	<i>City Upon a Hill</i> 1967 -- 1 ms. score (reproduction)
F. 74	<i>Celebrations</i> , 1967 -- 1 holograph score
F. 75	<i>Suite Marybetty</i> , 1968 -- 1 holograph score
F. 76	<i>The Thirteen Clocks</i> , 1972 -- 1 holograph short score

Box/Folder	Description
F. 77	<i>The Thirteen Clocks</i> , 1972 -- 1 holograph score
	Series I: Scores, 1928-1998 (cont.)
	Works by Jacob Avshalomov
F. 78	<i>The Thirteen Clocks</i> , 1972 -- 1 holograph sketch
F. 79	<i>The Thirteen Clocks</i> , 1972 -- lyrics and notes
F. 80	<i>Songs for Alyce: The Watch Part IV</i> , 1974 -- 1 holograph sketch and 2 ms. scores (reproduction)
F. 81	<i>Songs for Alyce</i> , 1974 -- 2 holograph score and 1 ms. score (reproduction)
F. 82	<i>Songs for Alyce</i> , 1974 -- lyrics and typography
F. 83	<i>O Time</i> , c1974 -- 1 holograph score
F. 84	<i>Fanfare for the Calligrapher-Laureate</i> , 1972 -- 1 holograph score
F. 85	<i>Quodlibet Montagna</i> , 1975 -- 1 holograph sketch (includes notes)
F. 86	<i>Raptures for Orchestra on Madrigals of Gesualdo</i> , 1975 -- 1 vocal score (reproduction) (includes notes)
F. 87	<i>Opened Sesame</i> , 1984 -- sketches, notes and 2 scores (reproduction)
F. 88	<i>Up at Timberline</i> , 1985 -- 1 holograph score (Part I <i>The Mountain</i>)
F. 89	<i>Up at the Timberland</i> , 1985 -- 1 holograph score (Part III <i>The Arctic</i>) (includes notes)
F. 90	<i>Up at Timberline</i> , 1985 -- 1 holograph score (includes sketches)
F. 91	<i>Up at Timberline</i> , 1985 -- 1 ms. score (reproduction)
F. 92	<i>Entrada for Reed</i> , 1986 -- holograph sketches and 1 holograph score (includes notes)
F. 93	<i>The Most Triumphant Bird</i> , 1987 -- 1 sketch and 1 ms. score (reproduction) (includes notes)
F. 94	<i>The Most Triumphant Bird</i> , 1987 -- 2 holograph sketches (includes program notes)
F. 95	<i>The Most Triumphant Bird</i> , 1987 -- 2 ms. score (reproduction) (includes notes)
F. 96	<i>Proverbs of Hell</i> , 1988 -- 1 holograph score and lyrics
F. 97	<i>Proverbs of Hell</i> , 1988 -- 1 ms. score (reproduction)
F. 98	<i>Proverbs of Hell</i> , 1988 -- 1 ms. score (reproduction)
F. 99	<i>Proverbs of Hell</i> , 1988 -- 1 ms. score (reproduction)
F. 100	Untitled various lyrics and notes, c1989
F. 101	<i>Glorious th' assembled fires</i> , 1990 -- 1 holograph sketch
F. 102	<i>Glorious th' assembled fires</i> , 1990 -- 1 holograph short score and lyrics
F. 103	<i>Glorious th' assembled fires</i> , 1990 -- 1 ms. score (reproduction) and note
F. 104	<i>Glorious th' assembled fires</i> , 1990 -- 1 score (reproduction) and corrections
F. 105	<i>Oedipus' Cradle Song</i> , 1992 -- 1 holograph score and 2 ms. scores (reproduction)
F. 106	<i>Symphony of Songs</i> , c1992 -- related correspondence
F. 107	<i>Symphony of Songs</i> , c1992 -- related notes
F. 108	<i>Songs in Season</i> , 1993 -- 1 holograph sketch, notes and lyrics
F. 109	<i>Songs in Season</i> , 1993 -- 1 holograph score
F. 110	<i>Songs in Season</i> , 1993 -- 1 score (reproduction)
F. 111	<i>Seasons' Greeting</i> , 1993 -- 1 score (reproduction)
F. 112	<i>Seasons' Greeting</i> , 1993 -- 1 score (reproduction)
F. 113	<i>Seasons' Greeting</i> , 1993 -- 1 score (reproduction)
F. 114	Various Corrections, 1994 (labeled by Jacob Avshalomov)
F. 115	<i>Songs from the Goliard</i> , 1995 -- 1 holograph sketch
F. 116	<i>Songs from the Goliard</i> , 1995 -- 1 holograph draft and lyrics
F. 117	<i>Songs from the Goliard</i> , 1995 -- 1 ms. score (reproduction)

Box/Folder	Description
<u>Series I: Scores, 1928-1998 (cont.)</u>	
Works by Jacob Avshalomov, 1928-1998	
F. 118	<i>Songs from the Goliard</i> , 1995 -- 1 score (reproduction) (includes notes and corrections)
F. 119	<i>Songs from the Goliard</i> , 1995 -- 1 score (reproduction)
F. 120	<i>Poem Fantasies</i> , 1995 -- 1 holograph sketch and notes
F. 121	<i>Poem Fantasies</i> , 1995 -- 2 holograph scores (Part I and III) and 1 ms. score (reproduction)
F. 122	<i>Poem Fantasies</i> , 1995 -- 1 ms. score (reproduction)
F. 123	<i>His Fluid Aria</i> , 1995 -- sketches and notes
F. 124	<i>His Fluid Aria</i> , 1995 -- 2 holograph score
F. 125	<i>His Fluid Aria</i> , 1995 -- 1 ms. score (reproduction)
F. 126	<i>His Fluid Aria</i> , 1955 -- 1 score (reproduction)
F. 127	<i>His Fluid Aria</i> , 1995 -- 1 score (reproduction) (labeled 3 rd pass)
F. 128	<i>His Fluid Aria</i> , 1995 -- 1 score (reproduction)
F. 129	<i>Arcana</i> , 1996 -- 1 ms. score
F. 130	<i>Arcana</i> , 1996 -- 2 scores (reproduction) and cover illustration
F. 131	<i>Doris Songs</i> , 1996 -- 1 holograph score
F. 132	<i>Doris Songs</i> , 1996 -- 1 holograph draft
F. 133	<i>Doris Songs</i> , 1996 -- 1 ms. score (includes corrections and notes)
F. 134	<i>Doris Songs</i> , 1996 -- 1 ms. score (reproduction)
F. 135	<i>Reflections on the road</i> , 1998 -- 1 ms. score (reproduction)
F. 136	<i>Reflections on the road</i> , 1998 -- 1 ms. score (reproduction) (labeled final changes)
F. 137	<i>Reflections on the road</i> , 1998 -- 1 score (reproduction)
F. 138	Unidentified score fragments
<u>Series II: Ephemera, 1943-2001</u>	
F. 145	Avshalomov's Winding Way: Composers out of China -- a chronicle, 2001 -- publicity materials
F. 146	Avshalomov's Winding Way: Composers out of China -- a chronicle, 2001 -- 1 typescript
F. 147	Clippings, 1957-1974
F. 148	Correspondence, 1988
F. 149	Programs, 1941-1998
F. 150	Various notes
F. 151	<i>Avshalomov, Aaron: Great Wall</i> , 1943 (libretto and scenario)
F. 152	<i>Avshalomov, Aaron: Great Wall</i> , 1943 (notes)
F. 153	<i>Avshalomov, Aaron: Great Wall</i> , 1943 (libretto)
F. 144	Poster advertising concert, 1998

Related Material

The Music Division holdings include an archival collection and finding aid of Aaron Avshalomov scores

Separated Material

Compact discs can be found in the Avshalomov (Jacob) Collection within the Rodgers and Hammerstein Archives of Recorded Sound. For a list of titles, check in the Rodgers and Hammerstein Archives