

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY  
FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS  
MUSIC DIVISION

**GUIDE TO THE HORACE WADHAM NICHOLL PAPERS**

1872 – 1902  
(1.2 linear feet, 2 boxes)

Call No.: JPB 04-22

Contact Information:  
The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts  
Music Division  
40 Lincoln Center Plaza – Third Floor  
New York, New York 10023-7498  
Phone: 212/870-1650  
Fax: 212/870-1794  
Email: [musicdiv@nypl.org](mailto:musicdiv@nypl.org)  
Web address: <http://www.nypl.org/research/lpa/mus/mus.html>

Processed by Matthew Snyder, December 2004

Processed and encoded through a gift from Robert W. Wilson.

© 2004 The New York Public Library. Astor, Lenox, and Tilden Foundations. All rights reserved

Summary

<b>Main Entry:</b>	Nicholl, Horace Wadham
<b>Title:</b>	Horace Wadham Nicholl Papers, 1872 – 1902
<b>Size:</b>	1.2 linear feet, 2 boxes
<b>Source:</b>	Donated by Mrs. Horace Wadham Nicholl, May 1922.
<b>Abstract:</b>	The British composer, organist and writer Horace Wadham Nicholl, a devotee of Wagner and Liszt, was well known and respected during his lifetime. His papers consist of scrapbooks, press clippings, concert programs, promotional material, articles he wrote, and scores.
<b>Access:</b>	Collection is open to the public.
<b>Restrictions on Use:</b>	For permission to publish, contact the Chief, Music Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.
<b>Preferred Citation:</b>	The Horace Wadham Nicholl Papers, JPB 04-22. Music Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

## **Biography**

Horace Wadham Nicholl (b Tipton, England, 17 March 1848; d New York City, 10 March 1922), an English organist and composer, was taught music by his father and Samuel Prince. He spent his early career (1867 – 1870) as an organist in England before moving to Pittsburgh to be organist at St. Paul’s Cathedral. In 1878 he moved to New York, where he worked at various churches in Manhattan and Brooklyn, and where he lived for the rest of his life. Nicholl was an active writer on music as well as a composer, and his articles and letters frequently appeared in *American Musician* and *Musical Courier*; he also was an editor at Schuberth and Schirmer and wrote music textbooks. Highly regarded as a composer in his day, Nicholl was a devotee of Wagner and his compositions reflected the influence of Wagner and Liszt. His compositions include works for organ, voice, choirs, piano, chamber groups and orchestras, as well as one of the first cello sonatas known to be composed in the United States.

## **Source**

Maitland, J.A. Fuller and Christopher Kent. “Nicholl, Horace (Wadham)”, *Grove Music Online* ed. L. Macy (Accessed 7 Dec. 2004), <<http://www.grovemusic.com>>

## **Scope and Content Note**

The Horace Wadham Nicholl Papers document the career of the composer from 1872 to 1902, mainly through newspaper and magazine clippings, but also through concert programs, some promotional material, and the complete parts to one of his symphonies. This time period encompasses Nicholl’s career in Pittsburgh and his early years in New York, a time when Nicholl was simultaneously establishing himself as an organist, a composer, and an author of analytical and general music articles. Concert programs, press reviews, promotional material and general clippings illustrate his musical activities, while Nicholl’s articles in the music press document his writing career.

## **Organization**

The Horace Wadham Nicholl Papers are arranged in the following series and sub-series:

### **Series I: Clippings, Promotional Material and Articles, 1872 – 1902, undated**

Sub-series 1: Scrapbooks, 1872 – 1901

Sub-series 2: Other Clippings, Promotional Material and Articles, 1889 – 1902, undated

### **Series II: Scores, ca. 1882**

## Series Descriptions

The Horace Wadham Nicholl Papers are divided into 2 series and 2 sub-series.

### **Series I: Clippings, Promotional Material and Articles, 1872 – 1902, undated**

1 box, 11 folders

This series provides a detailed documentation of Nicholl's career, mainly through newspaper clippings, but also through concert programs and articles Nicholl authored. The material is in two sub-series: scrapbooks and other material. Nicholl assembled the two scrapbooks; the material in the second sub-series was not found in any order.

- Sub-series 1: Scrapbooks, 1872 – 1901
- Sub-series 2: Other Clippings, Promotional Material and Articles, 1889 – 1902, undated

Sub-series 1: Scrapbooks, 1872 – 1901

7 folders

Arrangement: Chronological

The first scrapbook covers Nicholl's career in Pittsburgh and is still bound; the original book is available for viewing on request. It contains a mixture of press clippings about Nicholl, concert programs and performance reviews. The second book, which covers Nicholl's career in New York, is not bound, but its pages are numbered, with some non-paginated inserts. Its content is similar to the first book, but it also contains published articles by Nicholl, as well as articles from German newspapers.

Sub-series 2: Other Clippings, Promotional Material and Articles, 1889 – 1902, undated

4 folders

Arrangement: Chronological

This material is placed in two sub-levels, clippings and promotional material. The clippings overlap in content and coverage with portions of the scrapbooks, and include several hand-written translations of German articles. One of Nicholl's musicological articles in this sub-series is *Bach's Non-Observance of Some Fixed Rules*. The promotional material includes publisher newspaper advertisements, brochures (in both German and English), and Nicholl's own promotional material with quotes about him from other musicians and composers.

### **Series II: Scores, ca. 1882**

1 box, 21 folders

Arrangement: By instrument

This series consists of the parts for Nicholl's *Second Symphony for Grand Orchestra in C minor and major, Op. 12*.

Box/Folder	Description
<b><u>Series I: Clippings, Promotional Material and Articles, 1872 – 1902, undated</u></b>	
Sub-series 1: Scrapbooks, 1872 – 1901	
<b>Box 1</b>	
	<i>First Book of Reviews, Programs, Criticisms, etc.</i> , 1872 – 1878
F. 1	Service copy.
F. 2	Original.
	Second scrapbook, 1878 – 1901
F. 3	1878 – 1885 (Contains Nicholl articles analyzing Rubinstein and Brahms.)
F. 4	1887 – 1888 (Contains Nicholl articles <i>Character</i> and <i>Sight Reading</i> .)
F. 5	1888 – 1891 ( Contains many articles by Nicholl from <i>American Musician</i> , including several about the conductor Anton Seidl.
F. 6	1889 – 1900 (Contains article by Simeon Bissell discussing Nicholl's work.)
F. 7	1900 – 1901 (Contains extended article by Arthur Pearson, <i>Nicholl's Organ Preludes &amp; Fugues</i> .)
	Sub-series 2: Other Clippings, Promotional Material and Articles, 1889 – 1902, undated
	Clippings and articles, 1889 – 1902, undated
F. 8	1898 – 1900 (Contains 1898 article in <i>Musical Courier</i> surveying Nicholl's work.)
F. 9	1901 – 1902 (Contains Nicholl's 1902 article <i>Bach's Non-Observance of Some Fixed Rules</i> .)
F. 10	Undated
F. 11	Promotional material, 1889 – 1900, undated
<b><u>Series II: Scores, ca. 1882</u></b>	
	<i>Second Symphony for Grand Orchestra in C minor and major, Op. 12, ca. 1882</i>
<b>Box 2</b>	
F. 1	Violin I
F. 2	Violin II
F. 3	Violas
F. 4	Cellos
F. 5	Basses
F. 6	Clarinets
F. 7	Flutes
F. 8	Piccolo
F. 9	Oboe and English Horn
F. 10	Bassoons
F. 11	Contrabassoon
F. 12	Trumpets I & II
F. 13	Trumpet III
F. 14	French Horn I & II
F. 15	French Horn III & IV
F. 16	Trombone I
F. 17	Trombone II
F. 18	Trombone III
F. 19	Tuba
F. 20	Harp
F. 21	Percussion

<u>Box/Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
	<p><b><u>Separated Material</u></b></p> <p>Scores in Music Division</p> <p><i>Life : Symphonic Poem for organ solo, Op. 50: thematic analysis</i>, ca. 1900 (Call no. JPB 85-37. Holograph signed, in ink and pencil. 6 leaves.)</p> <p><i>Musical jottings, motives, etc.</i>, undated (Call No. JPB 98-20. Sketches. 12 pages of music manuscript.)</p>