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Music Division

Guide to the

[Songs. Selections] / Katherine Ruth Heyman

19--?

JPB 83-272

Processed by Martha Grutchfield.

Summary

Creator: Heyman, Katherine Ruth

Title: [Songs. Selections] / Katherine Ruth Heyman

Date: 19--?

Size: 25 folders of ms. music ; 38 cm.

Source: The Katherine Ruth Heyman Songs were donated to the Music Division apparently by the composer or her estate.

Abstract: The Katherine Ruth Heyman Songs is the work of an American woman piano soloist and composer who flourished in the first decades of the twentieth century.

Conditions Governing Use: For permission to copy or publish please contact the Music Division.

Preferred citation: Katherine Ruth Heyman Songs, JPB 83-272, 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.

Separated Materials:

Scores of Katherine Ruth Heyman have been cataloged individually and appear in CATNYP:
<http://catnyp.nypl.org>

The Music Division's clipping file on Katherine Ruth Heyman contains a number of reviews, programs, and other material from Heyman's estate.

Related Materials:

Heyman's personal copy of poems by Ezra Pound is located in the Brown University library.

Creator History

Katherine Ruth Heyman was a pianist and composer.

She was born in Sacramento, California, in 1877. Her father was Arnold Heyman, a noted violinist and pupil of Louis Spohr. Her first teacher was her father, and she made her debut when she was six years old. A period of study in Berlin lasted from 1881 to 1894, where she studied piano with Heinrich Barth, and harmony with L. Tortilowius and Hugo Kaun. In Vienna she studied with various students of Leschetizky, and continued her theoretical studies in London with Adolph Mann. Upon her return to the United States, she studied theory with Carrie Alchin of Dayton, Ohio, and Arthur Farwell, among others. She made her professional debut as soloist with the Boston Symphony Orchestra on October 13, 1899. From 1905 through 1915 she made London her home base from which she could tour European cities. She was especially proud of her successes in St. Petersburg as well as other cities in Russia. It was while living in England that her songs first became known to singers. While living there she befriended Ezra Pound, and set some of his verses to music. He dedicated his poem *Scriptor ignotus* to her.

After her return to the United States she continued to concertize. Her programs reflected a strong interest in contemporary music, probably an outgrowth of her compositional desires. She became a champion of Scriabin's piano music, often devoting half or all of her recitals to his work. Her support of contemporary music extended beyond her recitals to lectures. In 1921 she became director of music at the Knox School in Cooperstown, New York and published several of her lectures as *The Relation of ultra-modern to archaic music* (Boston: Small, Maynard, 1921). She continued to give recitals and lectures, and in 1928 she founded the Groupe Estival pour la Musique Modern in Paris. In 1934 she began to appear regularly in New York City where she settled.

Katherine Ruth Heyman died at age 65, on September 28, 1944 of a heart ailment on her way to St. Luke's Hospital in New York City.

Scope and Content Note

The Katherine Ruth Heyman Songs collection represents a significant part of the composer's output. They range from the 1880s while she was still learning her craft, to a decade before her death, with the bulk falling around the time of her concert tours. The varied selection of text probably reflects her tours to various foreign cities, as it represents her level of intellectual sophistication. Included is a song with a text by her friend Ezra Pound.

Arrangement: Songs are arranged alphabetically by title.

Key Terms

Subjects

Songs (Medium voice) with piano

Names

Heyman, Katherine Ruth
American Music Collection

Container List

- f. 1 *Heyman, Katherine Ruth**Apparuit* 1913 (4 holograph scores.)
Words by Ezra Pound. For voice and piano.
- f. 2 *Heyman, Katherine Ruth**At the seashore* 189- (Holograph score.)
For voice and piano.
- f. 3 *Heyman, Katherine Ruth**Blue law mother goose* 1920 (Holograph score.)
Words by Willis Williston Wilson. For voice and piano.
- f. 4 *Heyman, Katherine Ruth**Book reviews, no. 1: The Italian idea* 1934 (2 holograph scores.)
Words by Rex Hunter. For voice and piano.
- f. 5 *Heyman, Katherine Ruth**Burmese love song* 1919 (Holograph score.)
Words by Edith S. Culver. For voice and piano.
- f. 6 *Heyman, Katherine Ruth**The dead young girl* 1913 (Reproduction of ms. score.)
Words by Charles J. Kirk. For voice and piano.
- f. 7 *Heyman, Katherine Ruth**Depuis ce moment* 1917 (Holograph score.)
Words by Maurice Vauguaire. For voice and piano.
- f. 8 *Heyman, Katherine Ruth**Donegal* 1916 (2 holograph scores, 1 fragment.)
Words from *The red horizon* by Patrick MacGill. For voice and piano.
- f. 9 *Heyman, Katherine Ruth**Dream song* n.d. (Holograph score.)
Words by Clarence Urmy. For voice and piano.
- f. 10 *Heyman, Katherine Ruth**The foolish plant* n.d. (2 holograph scores, 1 reproduction of ms. score.)
Words from *More "In American" poems* by John V. A. (John Van Alstyne) Weaver. For voice and piano.
- f. 11 *Heyman, Katherine Ruth**Hokku* n.d. (Holograph score.)
For voice and piano.
- f. 12 *Heyman, Katherine Ruth**In the night* 1902 (Holograph score.)
For voice and piano.
- f. 13 *Heyman, Katherine Ruth**Love* n.d. (Holograph score.)
For voice and piano.
- f. 14 *Heyman, Katherine Ruth**Mystic shadow ; The dead young girl* 1913 (Holograph score.)
Words to *Mystic shadow* by Stephen Crane; words to *The dead young girl* by Charles J. Kirk. For voice and piano.
- f. 15 *Heyman, Katherine Ruth**Neighbor* 1920 (Holograph score.)
For voice and piano.
- f. 16 *Heyman, Katherine Ruth**Oh little child* 18-- (Holograph score.)
For voice and piano.
- f. 17 *Heyman, Katherine Ruth**The silver brooch* 1895 (Holograph score.)
For voice and piano.
- f. 18 *Heyman, Katherine Ruth**Thou half of my soul God guard and keep* n.d. (Holograph score.)
For voice and piano.
- f. 19 *Heyman, Katherine Ruth**Ton braiser fut tel* 1917 (Holograph score.)
Words by Maurice Vauguaire. For voice and piano.
- f. 20 *Heyman, Katherine Ruth**Tortie-tortue* n.d. (2 holograph scores.)
Words from *Chansons de Bilitis* by Pierre Louys. For voice and piano.

- f. 21 *Heyman, Katherine Ruth* *Tracy's song* n.d. (Holograph sketch.)
For voice and piano.
- f. 22 *Heyman, Katherine Ruth* *Trees* 1922 (3 holograph scores.)
Words by Joyce Kilmer. For voice and piano.
- f. 23 *Heyman, Katherine Ruth* *White horses* 1920 (Holograph score.)
Words from *Chansons de Bilitis* by Pierre Louys, translated by Horace Manchester Brown. For voice and piano.
- f. 24 *Heyman, Katherine Ruth* *The wind* 1910 (3 holograph scores.)
Words by H. W. Davies. For voice and piano.
- f. 25 *Heyman, Katherine Ruth* *Woman ; Russian cradle song* 1914 (Holograph score.)
For voice and piano.