



The New York Public Library Music Division

Guide to the

Louise Homer collection of vocal scores

1849-1911

JPF 00-1

Processed by Robert Kosovsky.

Summary

Creator: Homer, Louise, 1871-1947

Title: Louise Homer collection of vocal scores

Date: 1849-1911

Source: The Louise Homer Collection of vocal scores (as well as the manuscripts of her husband Sidney Homer), were donated to the Music Division in November 1967 by Katherine Homer Fryer, one of the daughters of Louise and Sidney Homer.

Abstract: The Louise Homer Collection of Vocal Scores contains a sampling of music owned and annotated by the American contralto.

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Preferred citation: Louise Homer Collection of vocal scores, JPF 00-1, Music Division, The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations.

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

Related Materials:

The manuscript scores of composer Sidney Homer (Louise Homer's husband) are cataloged collectively as JPB 83-299.

Creator History

Louise Homer (née Louise Dilworth Beatty), American contralto, was born in Shadyside, Pennsylvania, on April 28, 1871. She studied in Philadelphia and later Boston, where she met her future husband, the composer Sidney Homer. They were married in 1895. Together they went to France where she studied voice with Fidèle Koenig, and drama with Paul Lhérie.

Homer made her operatic debut in 1898 as Leonora in *La Favorita* at Vichy. The following year she was

engaged at the Théâtre de la Monnaie in Brussels, and soon after was engaged by Covent Garden. She made her Metropolitan Opera debut as Amneris in *Aïda* on November 14, 1900, while the company was on tour in San Francisco. Her house debut in the same role was on December 22, 1900. With one exception (1914-15) she appeared regularly with the company until 1919. From 1920-25 she appeared with the Chicago Opera Company, and in 1926 appeared with the San Francisco and Los Angeles opera companies. She returned to the Metropolitan Opera in 1927, and gave her final staged performance there on November 28, 1929.

Moving to Florida, Homer gave recitals for a while and taught singing for several years. In 1939, Sidney Homer published an autobiographical account of their lives, *My Wife and I*.

Louise Homer died at Winter Park, Florida, on May 6, 1947. In 1973, one of her daughters, Anne Homer, published a biography, *Louise Homer and the Golden Age of Opera*.

Scope and Content Note

The Louise Homer collection of vocal scores represents a sampling of the roles the contralto sang on stage. Some of the scores appear to have been used for pedagogical purposes, a role Homer took on after her retirement from the operatic stage in 1929.

The value in these scores lies in the markings and annotations. At the very least, these markings indicate places for the singer to breath and phrase. In some cases (such as the *Lohengrin* score), Homer has pencilled in alternative notes so as to avoid the high tessiture of Ortrud's part. In several cases such as the French edition of *Il Trovatore*, Homer takes great pains to indicate movement, sometimes annotating each phrase of the music with descriptions of blocking.

These scores provide an unusual view into the artistry of one of the most noted American contraltos of the early part of the twentieth century.

Arrangement: Scores are arranged alphabetically by composer and title.

Key Terms

Titles

Fryer, Katherine Homer

Subjects

Operas -- Vocal scores with piano

Names

Homer, Louise, 1871-1947

American Music Collection

Container List

- c. JMF 74-519 *Bach, Johann Sebastian, 1685-1750. [Matthäuspassion. Piano-vocal score. English] The Passion of our Lord according to St. Matthew. Boston : O. Ditson 1907 (1 vocal score (xi, 262 p.) ; 27 cm.)*
Plate no. 12117. Piano arrangement by Julius Stern and Robert Franz. English text by John S. Dwight.
This item has been cataloged separately.
- i. 1 *Bizet, Georges, 1838-1875. [Carmen. Vocal score. English and French] Carmen : opera in 4 acts. New York : G. Schirmer 1895 (1 vocal score (391 p.) : port. ; 28 cm.)*
Plate no. 12117. English text by Theodore Baker.
- i. 2 *Bruneau, Alfred, 1857-1934. L'attaque du moulin : drame lyrique en quatre actes d'après Emile Zola. Paris : Choudens 1898 (1 vocal score ([6], 273 p.) ; 28 cm.)*
Plate no. A.C. 9000
- i. 3 *Gounod, Charles, 1818-1893. [Roméo et Juliette. Vocal score. English and French] Romeo and Juliet : opera in five acts. New York : G. Schirmer 1897 (1 vocal score (265 p.) ; 28 cm.)*
Plate no. 13203. English text by Theodore Baker.
- i. 4 *Meyerbeer, Giacomo, 1791-1864. [Prophète. Vocal score. French] Le prophète : opera en cinq actes. Paris : Benoit, Aine 1849 (1 vocal score (387 p.) ; 28 cm.)*
Plate no. : B. et Cie. 9244. Nouvelle ed.
- i. 5 *Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus, 1756-1791. [Zauberflöte. Vocal score. Italian and German] Die Zauberflöte = Il flauto magico : Oper in zwei Akten. Leipzig : C.F. Peters 1893 (vocal score (170 p.) ; 28 cm.)*
Plate no. 7794. Kriegsausgabe. Piano reduction "revised" by Gustav F. Kogel.
- i. 6 *Parker, Horatio W. (Horatio William), 1863-1919. [Mona. Vocal score. Selections] Mona : an opera in three acts. New York : G. Schirmer 1911 (vocal score (p. 84-190, 191-273, 191-273) ; 28 cm.)*
Plate no. 22727. Proof sheets. Contains act 2 and two copies of act 3 (one incorrectly labeled act 1).
- i. 7 *Saint-Saens, Camille, 1835-1921. [Samson et Dalila. Vocal score. English] Samson and Delilah, opera in three acts. New York : G. Schirmer 1892 (1 vocal score (222 p.) ; 28 cm.)*
Plate no. 10196. English text by Nathan Haskell Dole.
- i. 8 *Verdi, Giuseppe, 1813-1901. Rigoletto : opera en 4 actes. Paris : Leon Grus, [] ca. 1800-1899 (1 vocal score (291 p.) ; 29 cm.)*
Plate no. L.G. 3681. French text by Edouard Duprez.
- i. 9 *Verdi, Giuseppe, 1813-1901. Il trovatore = The troubadour : an opera in four acts. New York : G. Schirmer 1898 (1 vocal score (239 p.) ; 28 cm.)*
Plate no. 14140. English version by Natalia Macfarren.
- i. 10 *Verdi, Giuseppe, 1813-1901. [Trovatore. Vocal score. English and Italian] Il trovatore : (The troubadour) opera in four acts. New York : G. Schirmer, [] 1898 (1 vocal score (ix, 239 p.) ; 28 cm.)*
Plate no. 14140. English version by Natalia Macfarren.
- i. 11 *Verdi, Giuseppe, 1813-1901. [Trovatore. Vocal score. French] Le trouvere : grand opera en quatre actes : represente sur le Theatre de l'Opera. Paris : Benoit 1857 (1 vocal score (315 p.) ; 28 cm.)*
Plate no. B. a. 1648. Nouvelle edition. French text by Emilien Pacini. Image: Page 63, beginning of "Stride la vampa." !- extptr displaytype="reveal" entityref="homer001"/> -->

- i. 12 *Wagner, Richard, 1813-1883. [Lohengrin. Vocal score. English German] Lohengrin : romantic opera in three acts. Leipzig : Breitkopf Härtel, [] 1914? (1 vocal score (350 p.) ; 28 cm.)*
Plate no. V.A. 959. Piano reduction by Theodor Uhlig. English translation by Frederick and Henrietta Corder. Inside cover contains programs from performances of Lohengrin with Boston Grand Opera, April 17, 1912, and Metropolitan Opera, December 16, 1916.
- i. 13 *Wagner, Richard, 1813-1883. [Lohengrin. Vocal score. French] Lohengrin. Opera en 3 actes et 4 Tableaux. Paris : Durand Fils, [] ca. 1900-1909 (1 vocal score (2 p.l., 347 p.) ; 29 cm.)*
Plate no. D.S.901. French text by Charles Nutter.
- i. 14 *Wagner, Richard, 1813-1883. [Meistersinger von Nürnberg. Vocal score. English German] Die Meistersinger von Nurnberg. Mainz : B. Schott's Sohne 1898 (1 vocal score (467 p.) ; 29 cm.)*
Plate no. 18975a. Piano reduction by Richard Kleinmichel. English translation by Frederick and Henrietta Corder.
- i. 15 *Wagner, Richard, 1813-1883. [Ring des Nibelungen. Rheingold. Vocal score. English German] Das Rheingold. London : Schott 1883 (1 vocal score (221 p.) ; 28 cm.)*
Plate no. 23504. Piano reduction by Richard Kleinmichel. English translation by Frederick and Henrietta Corder.
- i. 16 *Wagner, Richard, 1813-1883. [Ring des Nibelungen. Walküre. Vocal score. English German] Der Ring des Nibelungen. Die Walkure. Mainz ; London : Schott 1899, 1904 (1 vocal score (304 p.) ; 29 cm.)*
Plate no. 26590. Piano reduction by Karl Klindworth. English translation by Frederick Jameson.
- i. 17 *Wagner, Richard, 1813-1883. [Tannhäuser. Vocal score. French] Tannhauser : opera en 3 actes et 4 tableaux. Paris : A. Durand et Fils, [] ca. 1890-1899 (1 vocal score (386 p.) : ill. ; 28 cm.)*
Plate no. D. S. 435. French text by Charles Nutter. Note on title p.: Cette edition contient les additions et les modifications introduites par R. Wagner, pour les representations a l'Opera de Paris. Elle est conforme aux executions modeles de Bayreuth (1891).
- i. 18 *Wagner, Richard, 1813-1883. [Tristan und Isolde. Vocal score. English German] Tristan and Isolda. Leipzig : Breitkopf 1892 (1 vocal score (276 p.) ; 28 cm.)*
Plate no. V.A. 1262. Piano reduction by Richard Kleinmichel. English translation by Frederick and Henrietta Corder.