Summary

Creator: Wallach, Joelle

Title: Joelle Wallach papers

Date: 1940s-2019

Size: 4.46 linear feet (12 boxes); 312.5 megabytes (250 computer files)


Abstract: Joelle Wallach (1946-) is an American composer. Her papers, dating from the 1940s to 2019, document her work and life through scores; photographs; personal and professional papers; and audio and video recordings.

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

Conditions Governing Access:

Audio and moving image recordings are unavailable pending digitization.

Preferred citation: Joelle Wallach papers, JPB 20-01. Music Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by Matthew Snyder in 2020.

Creator History

Joelle Wallach (1946 – ) is an American composer. She spent part of her childhood in Morocco, then
returned to New York, attending the Bronx High School of Science and the Juilliard Preparatory School, where she studied piano, singing, theory, and composition. Wallach obtained degrees in composition from Sarah Lawrence College (BA, 1967), Columbia University (MA, 1969), and the Manhattan School of Music (DMA, 1984), where she studied with John Corigliano.

Her commissions include her octet, *From the Forest of Chimneys*, written to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the New York Philharmonic Ensembles, and *Toward a Time of Renewal*, a secular oratorio commissioned by the New York Choral Society in 1994 to commemorate their 35th anniversary season in Carnegie Hall. She has received several awards, including from the National Orchestral Association in 1991 for *The Tiger's Tail*. In addition, her *String Quartet #2* (1995) was the American Composers Alliance nominee for the 1997 Pulitzer prize in music.

Wallach’s works are widely performed in the United States and Europe, and several have been recorded. Her second husband was the Sumerologist Stephen J. Lieberman.

**Scope and Content Note**

The Joelle Wallach papers, dating from the 1940s to 2019, document the composer's work and life through scores; photographs; personal and professional papers; and audio and video recordings.

Series I: Scores holds mainly self-published scores and parts for over 120 of Wallach’s compositions from throughout her career. These include such notable works as the octet *From the Forest of Chimneys*; the oratorio *Toward a Time of Renewal*; *The Tiger's Tail* for orchestra; *String Quartet #2*; and song settings of poetry and Jewish liturgy, among other sources. Some titles also have programs or program notes.

Series II: Photographs holds publicity headshots and portraits of Wallach by the photographer Christian Steiner from the 1980s to the 2010s. Also present are personal photographs of Wallach and her family, friends, and spouse.

Series III: Personal and Professional Papers contains personal and professional letters from such figures as Vincent Persichetti, Herb Bielawa, and Rhoda Levine, as well as correspondence with her husband, the Sumerologist Stephen J. Lieberman. Also present is a small set of programs and publicity brochures, as well as diplomas and certificates.

Series IV: Audio and Video Recordings contains an audio recording of *The Firefighter’s Prayer*; video recordings of performances of *In Memory the Heart Still Sings* (with choreography by Ella Magruder) and *String Quartet #2*; and video of a discussion with Wallach at the 1996 La Musica Chamber Music Festival in Sarasota, Florida.

**Key Terms**

**Subjects**
Composers -- United States
Jewish composers
Music -- United States -- 20th century
Music -- United States -- 21st century
Women composers -- United States
Genre/Physical Characteristic
Letters (correspondence)
Photographs
Programs (documents)
Scores (documents for music)

Names
Wallach, Joelle
Container List

Series I: Scores 1967-2018 (9 boxes 3.21 linear feet 73 computer files 94 megabytes)

This series holds scores and parts for over 120 of Wallach's compositions. These range from works for solo voice or instrument, to settings of poetry for voice and piano, to choral pieces, chamber music, orchestral works, a chamber opera, and various other vocal and instrumental combinations.

Notable works in this series include the octet From the Forest of Chimneys, the oratorio Toward a Time of Renewal, The Tiger's Tail for orchestra; Firefighter's Prayer, written in the aftermath of the September 11th, 2001 attacks; the chamber opera The King's Twelve Moons; song settings of works by William Carlos Williams, Walt Whitman, and other poets; settings of Jewish liturgy and Sephardic songs; Where Angels May Lie Down Among Us: A Chamber Symphony; and several string quartets.

With very few exceptions, all the scores are self-published and in final form. Orchestrations are noted in the container list. All titles include full scores; the presence of other score types (such as piano reduction or vocal scores), and parts, are noted in the container list. Some titles also have programs or program notes.

This series also holds one score by John Corigliano, Summer Fantare for orchestra.

Alphabetical by title.

b. 1 f. 1er. 1 3 Short Sacred Anthems 1980
(1 folder 1 computer_file 6.5 kilobytes)
For treble choir (3 sopranos and 2 altos).

b. 1 f. 2 30 Ecumenical Responses 1977
For mixed voices.

b. 1 f. 3 After Alcyon's Dream 2003, 2005
For clarinet, viola, and piano. Includes parts.

b. 1 f. 4 Angry at the Muse 1989-1990
For voice and piano.

b. 2 f. 1 The Assent of the Swallow 1985
For narrator, orchestra, and voices.

b. 1 f. 5 Basket 2018
For voice and piano.

b. 1 f. 6 Beyond the Golden Stairs 1967-2018
For flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombones, tuba, and percussion.

b. 1 f. 7 Beyond the Shadow of the Rain 2003
For violin, viola, and violoncello.

b. 1 f. 8 Birthday Music for Manda 1993
For two guitars.

b. 1 f. 9 Broken-face Gargoyles 1994
For voice and piano.

b. 1 f. 10er. 2 Cantares de los Perdis 1987
(1 folder 1 computer_file 6.2 kilobytes)
For tuba, timpani, and crotales.

b. 1 f. 11er. 3 Cassandra's Lament 2012
(1 folder 1 computer_file 2.2 megabytes)
For unaccompanied women's voices.

b. 1 f. 12 A Choral Theopneusty 1985
For mixed choir and soprano, alto, and tenor soloists.
Series I: Scores (cont.)

b. 1 f. 13  Close Your Eyes 2004
For voice and piano.

b. 1 f. 14  The Clothes of Heaven 2004, 2006
One version for voice and piano, the other for chorus.

b. 1 f. 15  Columbus's Prayer 1989
For chorus and orchestra with baritone solo.

b. 3 f. 1er. 4  Contemplations 1978
(1 folder 1 computer_file 52.4 kilobytes)
For solo bass clarinet.

b. 1 f. 16  Cords 1972-1973
For soprano and two string basses.

b. 1 f. 17  Da Pacem Domine 2018
For mixed choir.

b. 1 f. 18  Dancing Toward Dusk 2016
Versions for soprano, soprano saxophone, and piano; and for soprano, oboe, and piano.

b. 1 f. 19  Daughters of Silence: Eight Songs About Experiences of Women 1988-1993
For voice and piano.

b. 1 f. 20  Diving into the Wreck 2016
For voice and piano.

b. 1 f. 21  The Door Standing Open: Four Songs of Spiritual Torment for Low Voice and Piano 1990

b. 1 f. 22  The Dream of Now: Six Reflective Songs for Voice and Piano 2001

b. 1 f. 23  Elegy 2018
(1 computer_file 20 kilobytes)
For flute, oboe, piccolo, or clarinet.

For voice and piano.

b. 1 f. 25  Eulogy 1997
For oboe d'Amore or soprano saxophone and string quartet. Includes parts.

Firefighter's Prayer / While Hope Remains 2001-2002
While Hope Remains was derived from Firefighter's Prayer.

Firefighter's Prayer

b. 1 f. 26  Notes and Background

b. 1 f. 27  For Soprano and Piano

b. 1 f. 28  For Chorus and Orchestra

b. 1 f. 29  For Baritone and Strings, with Piano Reduction
Includes parts.

b. 1 f. 30er. 6  Five American Echoes 1983
(1 folder 1 computer_file 20.7 kilobytes)
For mixed chorus.

b. 1 f. 31  Five Duets for Recorder and Autoharp 2007

b. 1 f. 32  From the Almanac of Last Things 1998
For voice and piano.
Series I: Scores (cont.)

b. 1 f. 3
From the Forest of Chimneys 1991, 1994
(1 folder 1 computer_file 1.2 megabytes)
Octet for clarinet, bassoon, horn, and strings. Includes parts.

b. 4 f. 1
Glancing Below 1994
For saxophone, two percussion, piano, violin, viola, cello, and contrabass. Includes parts.

b. 4 f. 8
Glimpses 1981 (1 folder 2 computer files 1 megabyte)
For orchestra.

b. 4 f. 3
A Greenbriar Grace 1986
(1 folder 1 computer_file 1.7 megabytes)
For male voices.

b. 4 f. 10
Holography of His Heart 1995
(1 computer_file 1 folder 251 kilobytes)
For solo viola.

b. 4 f. 5
Hymn from the House of Trouble 1993
For voice and piano.

b. 4 f. 6
In Blackwater Woods 1997
For orchestra. Includes sketch.

b. 4 f. 7
In A Dark Time the Eye Begins To See: Three Meditations for Horn and Piano 2005
(1 folder 1 computer_file 1.26 megabytes)
Includes parts.

b. 4 f. 8
In Memory the Heart Still Sings 1995-1998
For clarinet in A or bass clarinet and chamber orchestra. Full score, piano reduction score, and parts.

b. 4 f. 9
In This My Green, Green World: Six Verdant Love Songs for High Voice and Piano 1997

b. 4 f. 10
Incantation 1997
For unaccompanied mixed voices.

b. 4 f. 11
The King’s Twelve Moons: A Chamber Opera in One Act 1989, 1995
(1 folder 1 computer_file 17.45 megabytes)
For voices and piano.

b. 2 f. 2
The Kiss of Anima Mundi: A Samba of Moans and Whispers 1983
For percussion ensemble.

b. 4 f. 12
Kneading Bread 1991
For voice and piano.

er. 13
Kochanecha for Women’s Voices
(1 computer_file 66.25 kilobytes)

b. 4 f. 13
Lágrimas y Locuras: Mapping the Mind of a Madwoman 2011
(1 folder 2 computer files 153 kilobytes)
For piano.

b. 4 f. 14
Let Evening Come 2001
For voice and piano.

b. 4 f. 15

b. 4 f. 16
Loveletter (Postmark San Jose): A Tiny Tender Tuba Rhapsody for Euphonium and Strings 1998
(1 folder 1 computer_file 1 megabyte)
Includes parts.
Series I: Scores (cont.)

b. 4 f. 17  Low in a Manger 2006
For treble voices with piano or organ.

b. 4 f. 18  Mere Dark Is Not So Light As It Seems 2007
For a cappella voices.

er. 16  Midnight Menageries 1991
(1 computer_file 437.7 kilobytes)
For treble voices and piano.

Moiré 2014
Includes parts.

b. 4 f. 19  For Two Violins, Viola, and Two Cellos
Violin 1 part missing.

b. 4 f. 20  For Two Violins, Two Violas, and Cello

b. 4 f. 21  Moment for Oboe Solo 1967

b. 5 f. 1er. 17  Moonlight in the Woods and Vacant Cities: A Mystical Diptych 2000
(1 folder 1 computer_file 3.1 megabytes)
For orchestra.

b. 5 f. 2  Mourning Madrigals 1981
For flute, soprano, tenor, and harp. Includes flute part.

b. 5 f. 3  Movement for String Quartet 1968
Includes parts.

er. 18  My Heart is Like a Singing Bird 2017
(1 computer_file 50.48 kilobytes)
For mixed voices.

b. 5 f. 4  La Musica, los Muertos, y las Estrellas 1988
For two voices and piano.

b. 5 f. 5  The Nightwatch: Two Tiny Songs for High Voice and Chamber Orchestra or Piano 1997
Includes parts.

b. 5 f. 6  No More Walks in the Woods 1990
For voice and piano.

b. 5 f. 7  O Felix Caecilia 1967-2018
For mixed choir.

b. 5 f. 8er. 19  Of Honey and Vinegar 1982
(1 folder 1 computer_file 76.38 kilobytes)
For mezzo-soprano and two pianos.

b. 5 f. 9  On the Beach Alone at Night 1977
For solo chant and mixed voices.

b. 5 f. 10  Oneiros: The Dream 1985
For flute/piccolo, clarinet, violin, cello, and piano. Includes parts.

b. 5 f. 11  Organal Voices 1983
For vibraphone and bassoon.

b. 5 f. 12er. 20  Orison of Ste. Theresa 1984
(1 folder 1 computer_file 31 kilobytes)
Three versions: For piano; for mixed chorus, string orchestra, and harp; and for mixed chorus and piano.

b. 5 f. 13  The Oxen Carol 1967-2018
For mixed choir a cappella.

b. 5 f. 14  Partings and Songs: Seven Songs for High Voice and Piano 1994
Series I: Scores (cont.)

b. 5 f. 15er. 21  
*Pax* 2005, 2011  
(1 folder 1 computer_file 6.57 kilobytes)
Two versions: For unaccompanied vocal quartet or chamber choir; and for voice and piano.

b. 5 f. 16er. 22  
*Piececitos* 2018  
(1 folder 5 computer files 1.38 megabytes)
For violin, cello, piano, and voice.

b. 5 f. 17er. 23  
*Plaint for a Prince and a King* 1982, 1990  
(1 folder 1 computer_file 1 megabyte)
Two versions: For men's voices, brass, and percussion; and for men's voices and piano.

b. 2 f. 3  
*A Prophecy and Psalm* 1981  
For mixed choir and orchestra. Full score (transparencies), and vocal score with piano reduction.

b. 5 f. 18  
*Psalm XXIII* 2003  
Two versions: For mixed choir, oboe, and strings; and for mixed choir, oboe, and organ. Includes oboe and string parts.

b. 5 f. 19  
*A Pussycat Love Song* 2006  
For voice and piano.

b. 3 f. 2  
*Quartet for Saxophones* 1997  
Includes parts.

b. 5 f. 20  
*Quintet for Clarinet and Strings* 1989  
Includes parts.

b. 5 f. 21er. 25  
*Quietus* 1985  
(1 folder 1 computer_file 275 kilobytes)
For female choir, strings and harp or piano. Includes parts and vocal/piano score.

b. 5 f. 22  
*Rape* 1990  
For voice and piano.

b. 5 f. 23er. 26  
*Return* 2007  
(1 folder 1 computer_file 6.3 kilobytes)
For mixed choir.

b. 5 f. 24er. 27  
*A Revisitation of Myth: Four Songs for Viola, Piano, and Medium Voice* 1998  
(1 folder 1 computer_file 9.2 kilobytes)
Includes viola part.

b. 5 f. 28er. 28  
*A Ritual to Read to Each Other* 2018  
(1 computer_file 98.6 kilobytes)
For soprano and marimba.

b. 5 f. 29er. 29  
*River* 1993  
(1 computer_file 470 kilobytes)
For voice and piano.

b. 5 f. 25er. 30  
*Runes and Ritual* 2009  
(1 folder 3 computer files 868 kilobytes)
For violin, viola, cello, and piano. Includes parts.

b. 5 f. 26er. 31  
*Scalerica D'Oro: Suite for Violoncello, Dumbek, Finger Cymbals, and Castanets* 2012  
(1 folder 1 computer_file 8.25 kilobytes)

b. 6 f. 1  
*Senex Puerum Portabat* 2018  
For mixed choir. Includes sketches.
Series I: Scores (cont.)

b. 6 f. 2  Settings of Poetry by William Carlos Williams 1990
For voice and piano.

er. 32  Seven Soliloquies of Small Birds 2000
(1 computer_file 1.8 megabytes)
For clarinet, violin, cello, and percussion.

b. 6 f. 3er. 33  Sextet 1997
(1 folder 1 computer_file 1.2 megabytes)
For flute, oboe, clarinet, horn, bassoon, and piano. Includes parts.

b. 6 f. 4er. 34  Shadow, Sighs and Songs of Longing 1991
(1 folder 2 computer files 2.8 megabytes)
For cello and orchestra. Includes parts and piano reduction score.

b. 6 f. 5  She Walks in Beauty 2006
For voice and piano.

b. 6 f. 6er. 35  Shir Hamaalot (Psalm 126) 1989
(1 folder 1 computer_file 40 kilobytes)
For unaccompanied voice.

er. 36  Sh'ma Kolenu 1989
(2 computer files 419 kilobytes)
For mixed choir.

b. 6 f. 7  Simēni Kachotam al Libbecha “Set Me as a Seal Upon Your Heart” 1987
(2 folders 1 computer_file 7.1 kilobytes)
For mezzo-soprano and chamber orchestra. Includes parts.

b. 6 f. 8  Six Sephardic Songs for Recorder and Autoharp Duo 2007
b. 6 f. 9  A Small Boat of Stars 2016
For violin and cello.

b. 6 f. 10  Songs for an Unborn Child 1991
For medium voice and piano.

b. 6 f. 11  Spiritual 2005
For voice and piano.

b. 6 f. 12  Sticky Grimaces, Toothy Grins 1991
For xylophone and piano.

b. 3 f. 4  String Quartet #1 1986
Includes parts.

b. 6 f. 13  String Quartet #2 1995
Includes parts.

b. 6 f. 14er. 38  String Quartet #3 1999
(1 folder 2 computer files 18.75 kilobytes)
Includes parts.

b. 7 f. 1  Summer Fanfare by John Corigliano 1982
For orchestra.

b. 6 f. 15er. 39  Summer Synchrony 2016
(1 folder 2 computer files 492 kilobytes)
For piano for four, eight, twelve, or sixteen hands. Includes parts.

b. 6 f. 16er. 40  Sweet Briar Elegies 1992
(1 folder 4 computer files 23.13 megabytes)
For soprano saxophone and cello ensemble or piano. Includes parts.

er. 41  Take Home A Dog 2012
(1 computer_file 227 kilobytes)
For mixed chorus and singing dogs.
Series I: Scores (cont.)

b. 6 f. 17er. 42  
*Therefore* 2005  
(1 folder 1 computer_file 7.6 kilobytes)  
For unaccompanied vocal quartet or chamber choir.

b. 6 f. 18  
*Three Spanish Songs* 1985  
For voice and piano.

b. 6 f. 19er. 43  
*Three Whitman Songs* 1989  
(1 folder 1 computer_file 9.2 kilobytes)  
For clarinet, horn, cello or bassoon and medium voice. Includes parts.

b. 6 f. 20  
*Three Whitman Visions* 1976-1977  
For mixed choir.

er. 44  
*Through the Oval Window* 1982-1986  
(3 computer files 1.7 megabytes)  
Three piano preludes.

b. 6 f. 21  
*b. 8 f. 1*  
*The Tiger's Tail* 1990  
For orchestra. Includes parts and reduction for piano four hands.

b. 8 f. 2-3er. 45  
*Toward a Time of Renewal* 1993-2000  
(2 folders 1 computer_file 7.8 kilobytes)  
For chorus, solo voices, and orchestra. Includes full score, piano reduction, and parts.

b. 8 f. 4er. 46  
*A Triad of Blessing* 1988  
(1 folder 1 computer_file 7.36 kilobytes)  
For violin, cello, and piano. Includes parts.

b. 8 f. 5  
*b. 7 f. 2er. 47*  
*Turbulence, Stillness, and Saltation* 1983  
(2 folders 1 computer_file 7.17 kilobytes)  
For orchestra. Includes parts.

b. 8 f. 6  
*Two Introits* 1976  
For mixed choir.

b. 3 f. 5  
*Two Responses* 1974  
Two songs, one for mixed choir, one for two solo voices.

b. 8 f. 7er. 48  
*Up Into the Silence* 1985  
(1 folder 1 computer_file 7.6 kilobytes)  
For solo voice.

b. 8 f. 8er. 49  
*V'erastich li L'olam* 1989-1990  
(1 folder 1 computer_file 68.6 kilobytes)  
For two voices.

b. 8 f. 9  
*Victorian Aunt* 1990  
For voice and piano.

b. 8 f. 10  
*Voices of the Iron Harp* 1985  
For piano.

b. 8 f. 11  
*V'Shamru* 2007  
For mixed choir.

b. 8 f. 12  
*Waiting for the Moon* 1989-1990  
For voice and piano.

b. 8 f. 13  
*When I Couldn't Afford Poetry* 1990  
For voice and piano.

b. 8 f. 14  
*When Lost in the Forest* 2007  
For mixed choir or vocal quartet.

*Where Angels May Lie Down Among Us: A Chamber Symphony* 1992  
Includes parts.
Series I: Scores (cont.)
Where Angels May Lie Down Among Us: A Chamber Symphony (cont.)

b. 8 f. 15
Original Version

b. 9 f. 1
Lake Placid Version

b. 9 f. 2-3
For voice and piano.

Why the Caged Bird Sings 2001-2002

b. 9 f. 5
For Treble Choir, Horn and Piano
In B-flat minor.

b. 9 f. 6
For Treble Choir, Horn and Strings
(1 folder 2 computer files 596 kilobytes)
In A minor. Includes parts for choir, horn, and piano.

b. 9 f. 7
Wisps 1978
(1 folder 1 computer file 6.4 kilobytes)
For piano.

b. 9 f. 8
Woodwind Quintet 1988
For flute, oboe, clarinet, horn, and bassoon. Includes parts.

b. 9 f. 9
The Wreath of Silver Birds 1990
(1 folder 3 computer files 3 megabytes)
For solo piccolo or flute.

b. 9 f. 10
Yeatsongs of a Fool 1985
Two versions: one for voice, percussion, and string quartet; and for voice and piano. Includes parts.

b. 9 f. 11
Unfinished Composition circa 1999
Inspired by the shooting of Amadou Diallo. Contains source material and sketches of music for voice and drum.

Psalm 126 2006
For mixed choir with optional dumbek. Includes dumbek part.

Series II: Photographs 1940-2010s (3 boxes 1.08 linear feet)
The photographs are in two divisions, Publicity and Personal. The bulk of the series consists of publicity headshots and portraits of Wallach dating from the 1980s to the 2010s; many are by the photographer Christian Steiner. Negatives and contact sheets are present as well. The Personal photographs span Wallach's life from the 1940s to the 1980s. They depict her, her family, and friends, as well as her wedding to her second husband, the historian and Sumerologist Stephen J. Lieberman, in 1988.

Publicity

b. 10 f. 1
1980s-2000s

b. 10 f. 2
1980-1981

b. 10 f. 3-5
1992-1998

b. 10 f. 6
2002

b. 3 f. 6
2010s

Personal

b. 10 f. 7-9
Childhood and Family 1940s-1980s

b. 11 f. 1
Wedding 1988
Series III: Personal and Professional Papers 1959-2019 (2 boxes 0.83 linear feet 177 computer files 218.5 megabytes)

This series holds letters, programs and brochures, and diplomas and other certificates.

Letters comprise most of the series. They include professional letters to presenters, funders, colleagues, and composers such as Vincent Persichetti and Herb Bielawa; in some cases there are brief runs of correspondence. A separate file of letters to artists and poets includes notes from Max Wohlberg, Rhoda Levine, and Denise Levertov. Wallach’s personal letters include correspondence with her husband, Stephen J. Lieberman; letters from family and friends; and letters from a fan, K.T. Maclary.

There is a single folder of programs and publicity brochures, with only a few items. The diplomas and certificates include Wallach’s high school and college degrees, a teaching certificate, and her passport.

Certificate of Copyright Registration 1979-2014
(157.5 megabytes 128 computer files)
Digital scans of originals.

Poetry Permissions 1979-2018
(61 megabytes 49 computer files)
Digital scans of originals.

Letters
b. 11 f. 2-3 Professional 1982-1990, 2002
b. 11 f. 4 Artists and Poets 1989-1994
b. 11 f. 5 Lieberman, Stephen J 1987-1992
b. 12 f. 1-2
b. 12 f. 3 Family and Friends 1992-2018
b. 12 f. 4 Maclary, K.T 2017-2018
b. 12 f. 5 Programs and Brochures 1980s-2019
b. 12 f. 6 Diplomas, Certificates, and Passport 1959-2005

Series IV: Audio and Video Recordings 1996-2002

This series contains an audio recording of The Firefighter’s Prayer; video recordings of performances of In Memory the Heart Still Sings (with choreography by Ella Magruder) and String Quartet #2; and video of a discussion with Wallach at the 1996 La Musica Chamber Music Festival in Sarasota, Florida.

Audio and moving image recordings are unavailable pending digitization.