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Guide to the
Modest Altschuler scores
[1903]-1945
JPB 13-07

Compiled by Matthew Snyder, March 2013

Summary

Creator: Altschuler, Modest, 1873-1963

Title: Modest Altschuler scores, [1903]-1945

Size: 4 linear feet (16 boxes)

Source: Donated by André M. Smith, 2011.

Abstract: The Modest Altschuler scores primarily hold music performed by the Russian Symphony Orchestra, including original published editions by notable Russian composers, as well as arrangements and original music by Altschuler.

Access: Collection is open to the public. Library policy on photocopying and photography will apply. Advance notice may be required.

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Processing note: Processing consisted of foldering and arranging scores.

Creator history

Modest Altschuler (1873-1963) was a Russian cellist, conductor, and composer. Born near Kiev in what is today Belarus, he began studying cello at the Warsaw Conservatory when he was thirteen years old. He later moved to Moscow to study composition with Anton Arensky, harmony with Sergei Taneyev, and cello with Alfred von Glehn. He also studied conducting at the Moscow Conservatory.

Altschuler immigrated to the United States in 1896, and in 1903 formed the Russian Symphony Orchestra of New York. The group was devoted to providing support and performance opportunities for recent Russian émigrés, and to promoting the music of recent Russian composers. Altschuler conducted its premiere performance at Cooper Union Hall in 1904, after which the ensemble expanded and moved uptown to Carnegie Hall.

Altschuler kept the orchestra active for about nineteen years. Its repertoire was mainly Russian, including Altschuler's friend and Moscow classmate, Sergei Rachmaninoff, Nikolay Rimsky-Korsakov, Peter Ilich Tchaikovsky, Alexander Glazunov, Mikhail Ippolitov-Ivanov, and Igor Stravinsky, among others. Some performances were United States premieres, and the orchestra introduced to America such figures as the violinist Mischa Elman, pianist Josef Lhévinne, and the composers Sergei Prokofiev (performing his First Piano Concerto), and Aleksandr Scriabin (who appeared as guest conductor).

Altschuler disbanded the organization in 1922 and moved to Los Angeles, where he wrote film scores, privately taught composition and orchestration, and conducted the Glendale Symphony Orchestra and the WPA Federal Symphony No. 1 of Los Angeles. His students included Charles Haubiel and Roy Harris. Altschuler was the great-uncle of the conductor Leonard Slatkin.

Sources:

Slatkin, Leonard. *Conducting Business: Unveiling the Mystery Behind the Maestro*. Milwaukee: Amadeus, 2012.

"Russian Symphony Orchestra of New York: A Chronological Listing."
http://www.stokowski.org/Principal_Musicians_Russian_Symphony_of_NY.htm (Accessed March 22, 2013.)

Scope and content note

The Modest Altschuler scores are in published and manuscript form. Many are full orchestral scores and/or parts for music performed by the Russian Symphony Orchestra, often in early Russian editions. Some are in their original form, while others are Altschuler arrangements. The arrangements consist of entirely new scores, and modifications of the original published scores. Featured composers include Anton Arensky, Aleksandr Glazunov, Reinhold Glière, Mikhail Glinka, Alexander Ilynsky, Mikhail Ippolitov-Ivanov, Anton Rubinstein, Peter Ilich Tchaikovsky, and Sergei Vasilenko.

Some of the scores bear rehearsal and performance markings. While many are published, in certain cases the parts seem to have been copied directly from published full scores and are therefore not considered arrangements. In other cases, Altschuler credits himself on the scores as arranger. In addition to the Russian composers named above, the Altschuler arrangements contain music by Ludwig van Beethoven, Frédéric Chopin, Percy Grainger, and Joaquín Malats, among others.

Other scores in the collection are by colleagues or students of Altschuler, such as Charles Haubiel, and the composers Harlow Mills, John Powell, and Helen Howarth Wemmel. Altschuler's own music manuscripts include works for orchestra, songs, and small ensemble music meant for dancing, as well as untitled or unidentified score and part pages and sketches.

Arrangement

The scores are divided into Altschuler arrangements and compositions (arranged by composer and title, respectively), music by other composers, and unidentified/untitled manuscripts. Unless otherwise noted, all the scores under "music by other composers" are published.

Key terms

Names

Altschuler, Modest, 1873-1963
Arensky, Anton Stepanovich, 1861-1906
Glazunov, Aleksandr Konstantinovich, 1865-1936
Glière, Reinhold Moritzevich , 1875-1956
Glinka, Mikhail Ivanovich, 1804-1857
Haubiel, Charles, 1892-1978
Ilynsky, Alexander Alexandrovich, 1859-1920
Ippolitov-Ivanov, Mikhail Mikhailovic, 1859-1935
Rossiiskii gosudarstvennyi simfonicheskii orkestr
Rubinstein, Anton, 1829-1894
Tchaikovsky, Peter Ilich, 1840-1893
Vasilenko, S. (Sergei)

Special formats

Scores

Occupations

Arrangers
Conductors (musicians)
Musicians

Container list

Arrangements and Compositions by Modest Altschuler

Arrangements

Arensky, Anton, undated

b.1 f.1 *The Eagle* (For orchestra. Full score.)

b.1 f.2 *Legend* (Violin 1 part.)

b.1 f.3 Bauer, George. *Overture, 1945* (For orchestra. Full score.)

b.1 f.4 Beethoven, Ludwig van. *Ecossaises*, undated (For orchestra. Full score.)

Chopin, Frédéric, undated

b.1 f.5 *Andante* (Parts for strings and harp.)

b.1 f.6 *Theme* (For orchestra. Full score.)

b.1 f.7 Unidentified (Parts for violin, viola and bass.)

b.1 f.8 Glazunov, Aleksandr. *Eh Ughnyem*, undated (For piano.)

b.1 f.9 Glinka, Mikhail *Life for the Czar*, undated (Trombone part only.)

b.1 f.10 Grainger, Percy. *Irish Tune No. 5 from County Derry*, undated (For string quartet.)

b.1 f.11 Ilynsky, Alexander. *Dance of the Gnomes*, undated (Percussion parts.)

b.1 f.12 Kreisler, Fritz. *Shoen Rosmarin*, undated (For string orchestra. Full score.)

b.1 f.13 Malats, Joaquín. *Serenata*, undated (For orchestra. Full score.)

b.1 f.14 Popper, David. *Gavotte*, undated (For orchestra. Score and parts.)

Powell, John, undated

b.1 f.15 *Banjo Picker* (For orchestra. Parts only.)

b.1 f.16 *Dance du Ventre* (For orchestra. Parts only.)

b.2 f.1 Purcell, Henry. *Nymphs and Shepherds*, undated (For orchestra. Full score and parts.)

Rachmaninoff, Sergei, undated

b.2 f.2 *Barcarolle* (For orchestra. Full score and parts.)

b.2 f.3 *Vocalise* Op. 34, No. 14 (Violin II part only.)

b.2 f.4 Rimsky-Korsakov, Nikolay. *Sadko* (Excerpt), undated (Vocal parts.)

Rubinstein, Anton, undated

b.2 f.5 *Etude* (For orchestra. Parts only.)

b.2 f.6 *Kammenoi-Ostrow*, No. 17 (For orchestra. Full score.)

b.2 f.7 Spendiarov, Alexander. *Les Trois Palmiers*, undated

For orchestra. Combination of published score and parts and manuscript revisions.

Tchaikovsky, Peter Ilich, undated

b.3 f.1 *Aziozo* (For voice and piano.)

b.3 f.2 *Dances de Cygnus* from *Swan Lake* (For violin and piano.)

b.3 f.3 *A Legend* (Choral score.)

b.3 f.4 *Marche Miniature in D Minor* from *Orchestral Suite No. 1* (String and woodwind parts.)

b.3 f.5 *Nocturne for Cello and Piano No. 4*

For orchestra and cello. Full score and incomplete parts.

b.3 f.6 *Ophelia* from *Hamlet*, Op. 67a (String parts.)

Arrangements and Compositions by Modest Altsc... (cont.)

Arrangements (cont.)

Tchaikovsky, Peter Ilich, undated (cont.)

b.3 f.7 *Pezzo Elegiaco*, Op. 50
For orchestra. Published original score for violin, cello and piano, with manuscript orchestration.

b.3 f.8 *The Queen of Spades* (Violin parts.)

Traditional Songs or Unknown Composers, undated

b.4 f.1 *Dixie* (For orchestra. Full score and parts.)

b.4 f.2 *Love Theme* (For orchestra. Parts only.)

b.4 f.3 *Mighty Lak a Rose* (For orchestra. Full score and parts.)

b.4 f.4 *Song of the Volga Boatman* (For orchestra. Full score and parts.)

b.4 f.5 *Swing Low Sweet Chariot* (For orchestra. Full score and parts.)

b.4 f.6 *Where'er You Walk* (Incomplete parts for orchestra.)

Compositions

b.5 f.1 *Ah-Me*, 1922, undated
For voice and piano. Lyrics by Annelu Burns.

b.5 f.2 *The Circle March*, undated
For orchestra. Full score, incomplete parts.

b.5 f.3 *A Doctor They Have Made Of Me*, undated (For voice and piano. Incomplete score.)

b.5 f.4 *Eihod*, undated (For orchestra. Full score and parts.)

b.5 f.5 *Fox-Trot*, undated (For cello.)

b.5 f.6 *Horse*, undated (For orchestra. Full score and parts.)

b.5 f.7 *Longing*, undated
For voice and piano. Lyric by Leila Brett.

b.5 f.8 *Oh, Let Us Be Off*, undated (For voice and piano.)

b.5 f.9 *A Russian Fantasie*, undated (For orchestra. Full score and parts.)

b.5 f.10 *Sea Hawk*, undated
For voice and piano. Lyric by J.L. Johnston.

b.5 f.11 *Shake Hands My Dear*, undated (For vocal duet and piano.)

b.5 f.12 *A Soldier Song*, undated
For orchestra. Score fragment and incomplete parts.

b.5 f.13 *The Song of Old*, undated (For voice and piano.)

b.5 f.14 *Spring Valse*, undated (Violin and viola parts.)

b.5 f.15 *Tabozka*, undated (For piano.)

b.5 f.16 *Tinkle! Tinkle!*, undated (For orchestra. Parts.)

b.5 f.17 *A Wonderful, Wonderful Man Is He*, undated (For voice and piano. Incomplete score.)

b.5 f.18 *Zaza (Fox-Trot)*, 1920
For voice, violin, bass and piano. Words by L. Brett.

b.5 f.19 Untitled, undated (For voice and piano.)

Music By Other Composers

Music By Other Composers (cont.)

Arensky, Anton

b.6 f.1-2 *Symphony No. 1* (Parts.)

b.6 f.3 *Variations On A Russian Song* (For string quartet. Part manuscripts.)

b.6 f.4 Davidoff, Carl. *Concerto No. 4 in E Minor for Cello and Orchestra* (Published and manuscript parts.)

b.7 f.1 Glazunov, Aleksandr. *Scene Dansante*, Op. 81 (For orchestra. Parts with markings.)

Glière, Reinhold

b.7 f.2 *Die Saporager-Kosaken*, Op. 64 (Parts.)

b.7 f.3 Overture to *Schach-Senem*, Op. 69 (Parts.)

Haubiel, Charles.

b.7 f.4 *Madonna*, 1945

Manuscript copy. For voice and piano. Words by Emily Nichols Hatch.

b.8 f.1 *Suite Passecaille*, undated (For orchestra. Full score manuscript.)

Ilynsky, Alexander

b.8 f.2 *Psyche Fragment Symphonique*, undated (For orchestra. Full score and parts.)

b.8 f.3 *Noure et Anitra*, Op. 13, undated (Parts.)

b.9 f.1-2 *Noure et Anitra*, Op. 13, undated (Parts.)

Ippolitov-Ivanov, Mikhail

b.9 f.3 *Mtzyri* from *Gypsy Song*, undated (For orchestra. Parts.)

b.10 f.1-2 *Symphony No. 1*, undated (Part manuscripts.)

b.10 f.3 *Turkish Fragments*, undated (For orchestra. Parts.)

b.10 f.4 Jurrasowsky, Alexandre. *Les Fantomes*, undated (Parts.)

b.11 f.1 Koreshchenko, Arseny. *Armenian Suite*, undated (Part manuscripts with markings.)

b.11 f.2 Knipper, Lew. *Kleine Lyrische Suite*, Op. 18, undated (Parts.)

b.11 f.3 Massenet, Jules. *Meditation*, undated (Parts.)

Mills, Harlow

b.11 f.4 *American Fantasy*, undated (For orchestra. Part manuscripts.)

b.11 f.5 *Prayer for Troubled Times*, undated (Viola part only.)

b.11 f.6 Schubert, Franz. *Symphony No. 8 in B Minor* (Unfinished), undated (Parts (incomplete set), with markings.)

Tchaikovsky, Peter Ilich

b.11 f.7 *Die Nacht*, undated (Parts.)

Symphony No. 6 Pathetique, undated

b.12 f.1-2 Parts.

b.13 f.1 Parts.

Vasilenko, Sergei

b.13 f.2-3 *Hyrcus Nocturnus*, Op. 15, undated (For orchestra. Parts.)

