

# **Guide to the Giuseppe Cesare Balbo Papers, 1903-1956**

**JPB 06-18**

## **Music Division**

**The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts  
New York, New York**

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## Descriptive Summary

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Giuseppe Cesare Balbo Papers</b>
<b>Collection ID:</b>	<b>JPB 06-18</b>
<b>Creator:</b>	<b>Balbo, Giuseppe Cesare</b>
<b>Extent:</b>	<b>10 linear feet (8 boxes)</b>
<b>Repository:</b>	<b>Music Division. The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts</b>

**Abstract:** Giuseppe Cesare Balbo was an Italian conductor, critic and music teacher who eventually moved to, and taught in, New York City. The collection is primarily scores – both original manuscripts composed by Balbo and those that he copied and/or arranged by other composers.

## Administrative Information

### Access

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

### Publication Rights

For permission to publish, contact the Curator, Music Division.

### Preferred Citation

Giuseppe Cesare Balbo Papers, JPB 06-18, Music Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

### Custodial History

The Giuseppe Cesare Balbo Papers were donated to the Music Division in 1977 by Mrs. Balbo.

## Biographical Note

Giuseppe Cesare Balbo was an Italian conductor, critic and music teacher who eventually moved to and taught in New York City. He was born in 1888 and was educated at the Royal Conservatories of Music in Florence and Lucca (Italy). Balbo studied under Francesco Paolo Frontin, Marco Enrico Bossi, Antonio Scrontino, Cesare Bacchini and Gaetano Luporini. He began his career in his twenties as an orchestra conductor, conducting both orchestral and choral organizations, and winning two first prizes of a cappella choral societies. Balbo was the editor of *L'Italia Musicale* in Florence, and wrote several articles for it and other music magazines. After moving to America he studied at Columbia University under Peter Dykema, then went on to focus on teaching bel canto singing, composition, and harmony. He continued to occasionally write for Italian and American music publications. He died on January 30, 1976, at the age of 88.

## Scope and Content Note

The Balbo papers are primarily made up of scores. It includes many original manuscripts, handwritten by Balbo himself, as well as some of his published works. There is a series of works by other composers that Balbo either hand copied exactly or that he revised and arranged. There are a few professional papers, including some of Balbo's essays, his photograph, and a resumé produced sometime after his move to Brooklyn. There is virtually nothing of a personal nature in this collection.

## Organization

The collection is organized into 4 series. They are:

- Series I: Professional Papers, 1904-1955; undated
- Series II: Works by Others, 1904-1954; undated
- Series III: Scores, 1903-1956; undated
- Series IV: Oversized Scores, 1926; undated

## Series Descriptions

**Series I: Professional Papers, 1904-1955; undated** **1 box**

Alphabetical

This series includes academic papers (in Italian) from Balbo's studies in Italian conservatories. It also includes a later essay in English, as well as Balbo's headshot and resumé.

**Series II: Works by Others, 1904-1954; undated** **2 boxes**

Alphabetical by composer name

This series is primarily manuscripts, hand copied by Balbo himself. It includes works by other composers that Balbo revised or arranged.

**Series III: Scores, 1903-1956, undated** **4 boxes**

Alphabetical by title

Spanning more than fifty years, this series is made up of both manuscripts and published works. It includes some of Balbo's most famous works, for example, three lyrics from *Myricae*, based on the works of the Italian poet Pascoli. Though very few compositions include various drafts (from rough to fine), many do have both full scores and parts, or manuscripts and published versions.

**Series IV: Oversized Scores, 1926; undated** **1 box**

Alphabetical by title

There are only two items in this small series, large manuscripts of *La Vagabonda* and *Inno-Marcia*.

<u>Box/Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
<b>Series I: Professional Papers, 1904-1955; undated</b>	
Academic Papers	
<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>
1	1
	2
	3
	4
	5
	6
	7
	8
	9
	10
	11
	12
	13
	14
3	1
	2
	3
	4
	5
	6
3	7
<b>Series II: Works by Others, 1904-1954; undated</b>	
2	1
	2
	3
	4
	5
	6
	7
	8
	9
	10
	11
	12
	13
	14
3	1
	2
	3
	4
	5
	6

<u>Box/Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
	Act I. Incomplete.
8	Rosemont, Walter and Connolley, Dorothy. <i>Hail Mary</i> , 1953 Arrangement for Omega Music.
9	Rossini, Gioacchino. <i>La Calumnia</i> , undated From <i>The Barber of Seville</i> .
10	Tchaikowsky, Peter. <i>Canzone Napoletana</i> , 1917
11	Verdi, Giuseppe. <i>Otello</i> , 1947 Includes short-term copyright letter from the New York county clerk's office.
12	Unidentified composer. <i>La Gran Via</i> , 1915
<b>Series III: Scores, 1903-1956; undated</b>	
<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>
4	1 <i>Ad Vesperum</i> , 1915-1916 Full scores and piano score. One of the full scores is bound. Includes program from 1916 performance.
	2 <i>Amen</i> , 1909; 1953 One published, one manuscript.
	3 <i>Ave Verum</i> , 1957 Vocal score with harmonium or organ.
	4 <i>Barcarola</i> , undated Full score and separate string part.
	5 <i>Il Canto dei Mietitori</i> , 1903; 1905 Full score and piano score.
	6 <i>Composizioni per voci sole e per piccolo di strumenti</i> , 1910 Bound manuscript.
	7 <i>Divertimento</i> , 1952 For wood instruments.
	8 <i>Four Melodies</i> , 1906; 1954 Vocal scores, published and annotated. These four melodies, written in 1906, were published together by Omega Music in 1954.
	9 <i>Furia</i> , 1905 Vocal score, published and annotated.
	10 <i>Gloria a Dio</i> , 1947
	11 <i>Go Lovely Rose!</i> , 1905; 1954 Chorus score. In 1905 the manuscript was written, published in 1954.
5	1 <i>Impromptu</i> , 1925; 1957; undated Piano score. Two manuscripts, and three published scores. One of the published scores is inscribed but the inscription has been whited out.
	2 <i>Inno-Marcia alla bandiera Americana</i> , 1927 Vocal score.
	3 <i>Inno-Marcia per dance-orchestra</i> , 1938 Two full scores and various parts.
	4 <i>Intermezzo for brass band</i> , 1954
	5 <i>Legenda</i> , 1904? Piano score.
5	6 <i>Light</i> , 1952; undated Two manuscripts and one published chorus score. Improvisation of the adagio from

Box/Folder	Description
	<i>Toccata in G</i> by J.S. Bach.
7	<i>Lyra Mystica</i> , 1908 Vocal score with harmonium or organ.
8	<i>Maggio</i> , 1910; 1912 Two vocal scores, manuscripts.
9	<i>Marcia Paesana</i> , 1912; 1913; undated Full score, wind instruments, and introduction.
10	<i>Minetto</i> , undated Piano and string parts.
11	<i>La Montanara</i> , 1926 Full score.
12	<i>Myricae</i> , 1950 Published vocal score - originally written in 1915. Three lyrics from <i>Myricae</i> - based on Giovanni Pascoli's poems.
13	<i>L'Offerta</i> , 1919; 1956; undated Three vocal scores - two manuscripts and one published.
	<i>Piccoli</i>
14	Piano score, 1906; 1912; 1914; 1915 Various drafts of short pieces for piano.
15	Published piano scores, 1955 Both inscribed. Five short piano pieces for children.
16	<i>La Preghiera della Patria</i> , undated Full score. Includes <i>O Salutaris Hostia</i> .
17	<i>Prime composizioni per piano</i> , 1903-1904 Piano score. Includes <i>Venere Bella</i> , <i>Mesta Sorrisi</i> , <i>Canzone</i> , <i>Intermezzo</i> , and <i>Il Canto dei Mietitori</i> .
6	1 <i>Salvestra</i> , 1915-1916 Never completed opera. Be careful opening the first page - there is a libretto tacked to the first page.
	2 <i>Serentella</i> , undated Full score and parts, as well as a version for violin and piano.
	3 <i>Solfeggetto</i> , 1954 Published piano score. Originally composed in 1909.
	<i>Stile Antico</i> , 1907-1909
	4 Piano score, 1907 Overture only.
	5 Full scores, 1909 Two scores, including one rough version.
	6 Piano scores, 1909 Reduced from the full score.
	7 <i>Sunset in Sicily</i> , 1907; 1910 Full score and parts.
	8 <i>Suspense</i> , 1909 For violin and piano.
7	1 <i>Tantum Ergo</i> , 1912; 1953 Vocal score with organ or piano, a manuscript and two published scores. Includes

<b>Box/Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
	notes on how and when Balbo composed this piece.
2	<i>Three Etchings for oboe and clarinet</i> , 1938; 1954 Three manuscripts, one published version and parts.
3	<i>Twilight</i> , 1946 Full score for oboe and string orchestra.
4	<i>La Vagabonda</i> 1908 Prelude only.
5	1910 For soprano chorus and orchestra. Bound manuscript.
6	Undated Vocal score with piano. Bound manuscript. One page in the front of the manuscript has been cut out.
7	<i>Valzer</i> , 1906 Full score for winds.
8	<i>Waltz #1</i> , 1916 One of three waltzes. Piano score.
9	<i>Why Don't You Come to Me?</i> , 1948; 1951 One manuscript and one published version.
<b>Series IV: Oversized Scores, 1926; undated</b>	
<u>Box</u> 8	<u>Fol</u> 1 <i>Inno-Marcia</i> , 1926 Full score for band.
	2 <i>La Vagabonda</i> , undated Full score, bound.