

Guide to the Thomas Scherman Papers, 1945-1979, undated

JPB 06-58

Music Division

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

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Date Completed: March 2007

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Descriptive Summary

Title:	Thomas Scherman Papers
Collection ID:	JPB 06-58
Creator:	Scherman, Thomas
Extent:	8.5 linear feet (12 boxes)
Repository:	Music Division. The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

Abstract: The Thomas Scherman Papers contain various scores composed by Thomas Scherman (1917-1979) and by the other composers. The bulk of this material dates from 1960s-1970s. Addition to the scores, the collection contains scripts, correspondence, citations and notes.

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 Chief, Music Division.

Preferred Citation

Thomas Scherman Papers, JPB 06-58, Music Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Source

The Thomas Scherman Papers were donated to the library as a bequest prior to 1979.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and cataloged in 2007.

Biographical Note

Thomas Kielty Scherman, American conductor, was born on February 12, 1917. He was a son of Harry Scherman, founder and president of the Book-of-the-Month Club. He attended Columbia University and then studied piano with Isabelle Vengerova and conducting with Carl Bamberger and Otto Klemperer, whose assistant he became in conducting a chamber orchestra composed of European refugees at the New School for Social Research in New York (1939-1941). He subsequently served in the U.S. Army (1939-1941), reaching the rank of captain. In 1947 he became assistant conductor of the National Opera in Mexico City; the same year, he organized in New York the Little Orchestra Society for the purposes of presenting new works, some of them specially commissioned, and reviving forgotten music of the past. Young People's Concerts were added in 1948 and public rehearsals of the Town Hall concerts at low prices in 1951, when the Society made its first tour. In 1950 Scherman made his first European appearance, conducting in Vienna and Switzerland. He also gave performances of operas in concert versions. He terminated the seasons of the Little Orchestra Society in 1975, but organized the New Little Orchestra Society to present children's concerts, which he led until his death. Thomas K. Scherman died on May 14, 1979 in New York.

Scope and Content Note

Most of the collection consists of scores and parts Thomas Scherman arranged and sometimes composed for his Little Orchestra Society. There is a series of works by other composers that Scherman either hand copied exactly or that he revised. The collection includes a number of scripts and librettos including *Red Pony* by Aaron Copland, *Athaliah* by Richard Franko Goldman, *Naughty Marietta* by Victor Herbert and others. The collection also contains a small amount of correspondence, biographical material and photographs.

Organization

The collection is organized into 4 series and 2 sub-series. They are:

Series I. Scores, 1945-1978, undated

Sub-series 1: Scores by Thomas Scherman, undated

Sub-series 2: Scores by Other Composers, 1945-1978, undated

Series II: Librettos, 1954-1979, undated

Series III: Professional Papers, 1959-1979, undated

Series IV: Oversized Material, 1957-1978, undated

Series Descriptions

Series I: Scores, 1945-1978, undated

6 boxes

Sub-series 1: Scores by Thomas Scherman, undated

Sub-series 2: Scores by Other Composers, 1945-1978, undated

This Series is the bulk of the collection, and consists of Scherman's compositions and scores by composers such as *Comus* by Thomas Arne, *Curlew River* by Benjamin Britten, *The Red Pony* by Aaron Copland, *Comic Strip* by Freda Miller, *Things Kids Do* by Carl Seale, *Brand New Shoes* by Toby Tate and others.

Sub-series 1: Scores by Thomas Scherman, undated

1 box

Arrangement: Alphabetical

This sub-series includes several Scherman's compositions, sketches and songs such as *Fugue in G Minor*, *Sonnets*, *Theme and variations and fugue for the pianoforte trio* and others.

Sub-series 2: Scores by Other Composers, 1945-1978, undated

5 boxes

Arrangement: Alphabetical

This sub-series consists of scores by composers such as *Comus* by Thomas Arne, *Curlew River* by Benjamin Britten, *The Red Pony* by Aaron Copland, *Comic Strip* by Freda Miller, *Things Kids Do* by Carl Seale, *Brand New Shoes* by Toby Tate and others.

Series II: Librettos, 1954-1979, undated

4 boxes

Arrangement: Alphabetical

This Series includes scripts and librettos of Benjamin Britten's *Curlew River*, Aaron Copland's *Red Pony*, Giovanni Draghi's *The Master of Music*, Richard Goldman's *Athaliah*, Manos Hadjakis's *Opera for Five*, Russell Porter's *Early Dawn* and others.

Series III: Professional Papers, 1959-1979, undated

1 box

This Series includes citations, publicity, notes, rehearsal schedules, correspondence and article *Curlew River* by Mitchell Donald.

Series IV: Oversized material, 1957-1978, undated

1 box

Arrangement: Alphabetical

Series IV includes one libretto and several citations.

Series I: Scores, 1945-1978, undated

Subseries 1: Scores by Thomas Scherman, undated

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
1	1	<i>Fugue in G minor</i> , undated <i>To Bernardine Scherman</i> . Music manuscript, piano score, 4 p.
	2	<i>Lied auf Immensee</i> von Theodor Storm, undated <i>Zu Bernardine Scherman bescheiden gewidmet</i> . Music manuscript, piano and vocal score, 2 p.
	3	<i>Psalms 121 and 136 for voice and clarinet</i> , undated Music manuscript, 3 p.
	4	<i>St. Luke 2: XIV</i> , , undated Music manuscript, clarinet and voice score, 1 p.
	5	<i>Six variations on an original theme for string quartet</i> , undated Music manuscript. Note on a cover: <i>Born February 12, 1917</i>
	6	<i>Sketches</i> , undated Notebook, music manuscript, 30 p.
	7	<i>Sonnet: Shakespeare</i> , undated Music manuscripts, notebook. 2 sonnets, <i>When in disgrace with fortune and men's eyes..</i> for vocal and piano and <i>I love the Lord</i> for soprano, alto and, clarinet.

- 8 *Theme and variations and fugue for the pianoforte trio*, undated
 Music manuscript, 19 p.
- 9 Untitled song, undated
 Music manuscript, vocal and harp score, 4 p. *Love has flown at the dawning*.
- 10 Untitled song, undated
 Music manuscript, vocal and harp score, 2 p. *Über allen Gipfeln..*
- 11 Untitled song , undated
 Music manuscript, vocal score, 1 p. *Come away, death*

Subseries 2: Scores by Other Composers, 1945-1978, undated

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
2	1	Arne, Thomas Augustine. <i>Comus</i> , 1951 Sheet music. Series: Musica Britannica, Vol.3. Published by the Royal Music Association. Contains pencilled cuts, annotation, additional orchestral parts by Scherman.
	2-3	Britten, Benjamin. <i>Curlw River</i> Sheet music, 1965 Rehersal score. Scherman's copies, annotated, with signature.
3	1-3	
	4	Music manuscript, undated 54 sheets
	5	Transparency, undated 81 sheets
4	1	Reproduction of copyist manuscript, undated With annotation in pencil and pen (by Scherman?), 83 sheets
	2	Copland, Aaron. <i>The Red Pony</i> , 1951 Sheet music. Annotated by Scherman
	3	<i>The Friendly Beasts</i> , 1978 Sheet music. Vocal and piano score. Early English Christmas Carol Song. Arranged by Scherman for soprano, tenor and harp, for a children's concert on December 2, 1978. With annotations.
	4	Haydn, Joseph. <i>Lo Speziale</i> , undated Orchestral score. Photocopies of partial handcopied score by Scherman and of partial published score. Text in English and Italian with English text pencilled in. 233 p.
5	1	Janachek, Leosh. <i>Rikadla</i> , undated Sheet music. English translation penned in. 50 p.
		Miller, Freda D.
	2	<i>Comic Strip, Theatre Page</i> , 1945 Music manuscript. Piano score. 5 p.
	3	<i>Daily Paper: a Ballet in Six Scenes</i> , 1945 Music manuscript. Piano score. 11 p.
	4	<i>The Pied Piper: a Ballet in Two Scenes</i> , 1945 Music manuscript, piano score. The poem by Browning. 10 p.
	5	Monteverdi, Claudio. <i>Madrigals, Book 8</i> , 1962 Music manuscript. Orchestral realization by Scherman. Dated July 22, 1962. 40 p.
	6	Prokofiev, Sergei. <i>Cinderella</i> , 1978 Reproduction of copyist manuscript. Dated July 27, 1978. 147 p. Arrangement by Scherman. Photocopy of <i>Script for Third Children's Concert - 2/17/79</i> , 8 p. Envelope dated 2/79, containing 3 sheets of notes and suggestions by proofreader of copied parts.
	7	Seale, Carl. <i>Things Kids Do</i> , undated Sheet music. Vocal and piano score. Poems by Jan Seale. 22 p.
6	1	Strauss, Johann. <i>The Gypsy Baron</i> , 1948 Sheet music, vocal score. 249 p. on cover in pencil: <i>Master copy, Gypsy Baron, Mead translation. TKS 1/78</i> . Alternate English translation is written in above vocal lines.
	2	Tate, Toby. <i>Brand New Shoes: a Choral Play by Toby Tate</i> , 1964

Reproduction of copyist manuscript. Based on the story of *The Twelve dancing Princesses* by Brothers Grimm. 17 p.

- 3 Tours, Frank E. *The Taming of the Shrew*, undated
Sheet music, orchestral parts. 52 p.
- 4 Weidman, Charles. *Music for Charles Weidman's Techniques*, undated
Reproduction of copyist manuscript, piano score. 4 p.

Series II: Librettos, 1954-1979, undated

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
7	1	Bartok, Bela. <i>Duke Bluebeards's castle</i> , undated Photocopy of a typescript. 24 p.
	2	Berlioz, Hector <i>Beatrice and Benedict</i> , 1960 Typescript, 27 p.
	3	<i>L'Enfance du Christ</i> , undated Program notes by Herbert Weinstock. Original text with English translation. Typescript. 19 p.
	4	Bizet, George. <i>Djamileh</i> , undated Typescript. English translation of libretto. 27 p.
	5	Copland, Aaron. <i>The Red Pony</i> , undated Typescript, 6 p. and typescript marked Corrected Copy, 4 p. Narration by Katherine S. Rosin, arranged from the stories by John Steinbeck.
	6	Donizetti, Gaetano. <i>Rita: comic opera in one act</i> , undated Typescript, plot synopsis and English translation of libretto. 24 p.
	7	Draghi, Giovanni Battista. <i>The Master of Music</i> , 1962 (Typescript, 9 p.)
	8	Glanville-Hicks, P. <i>Die Vertauschten Kopfe</i> , 1962 Typescript, in German. 20 p. Adaption by Moritz von Bombard from Thomas Mann's novel.
	9	Goldman, Richard Franko. <i>Athaliah</i> , undated Typescript, 40 p. <i>Libretto for an opera in one act... very freely after the tragedy of Athalie</i> by Jean Racine, 1691.
	10	Hadjidakis, Manos. <i>Opera for Five</i> , 1968 Photocopy of typescript. Libretto by composer. 81 p.
	11	Haydn, Joseph <i>The Songstress</i> , 1961 Typescript, 11 p. English translation <i>The Apothecary</i> , undated English translation by Scherman.
	12	Typescript, 40 p.
	13	Annotated copy of typescript.
	14	Different English translation Carbon copy of typescript, 49 p. Note below title: German version.
	15	English translation Carbon copy of typescript, 47 p.
8	1-7	Herbert, Victor. <i>Naughty Marietta</i> , undated Typescripts copies. Photocopies. Annotations. Book and lyric by Rida Johanson Young.
	8	Hindemith, Paul. <i>Herodiade</i> , 1970 Typescript, 9 p. Text by Stephane Mallarme, English translation by Scherman
	9	Kleinsinger, George. <i>Archy and Mehitabel</i> , undated Typescript copy, 16 p. Libretto by Joe Darion.
	10	Monteverdi, Claudio. <i>The Dance of the Ingrate: in a Stage Version</i> , 1962 Typescript, 4 p.
9		Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus
	1	<i>Bastien and Bastienne</i> , 1962

- Typescript, 12 p. English translation by Max Leavitt.
- 2 *The Escape from the Seraglio*, undated
 Typescripts, draft and final versions. 26 p. English translation by George Mead.
 Accompanied by typed letter from George Mead of ASCAP to The Little
 Orchestra.
- 3 *The Impresario*, undated
 Typescript, 9 p. English translation by George and Phyllis Mead.
- 4 *The Magic Flute*, 1979
 Typescripts and photocopy of typescripts. 121 p. Introduction to *Magic Flute* (read
 by Scherman). English adaptation by Alice Hammerstein Mathias.
 Changes in Magic Flute script, from conference with Mr. Scherman and
 Mrs. Mathias.
- 5 Pergolesi, Giovanni Battista. *Livietta and Tracolo*, undated
 Typescript, 8 p. English translation by F.Schell
- 6 Porter, Russell. *Early Dawn*, undated
 Typescript, 49 p.
- 7 Prokofiev, Sergei. *Children's Suite: Winter Holiday*, undated
 Photocopy, 5 p. Words by Samuel Marshak, English translation by Louis Untermeyer.
- 8 Ravel, Maurice. *L'Enfant et Les Sortilèges*, undated
 Typescript, 20 p. Text by Colette. English translation.
- 9 Rimsky-Korsakov, Nicolai Andreevich. *Mozart and Salieri*, undated
 Typescript, 12 p. From the play by A.Pushkin. English translation by Patricia Neway.
- 10 Rossini, Gioachino.
 The Bill of Marriage, 1960
 Typescript, 22 p. and typescript with corrections by Scherman, 52 p. English
 translation by Francis Schell and by Scherman. Accompanied by carbon
 copy of letter from Gretchen Clumpner to M. Strass of Turnau Opera
 Players, authorizing him to use Scherman's translation
- 11 *William Tell*, undated
 Copy from unknown publication, 48 p. English translation.
- 12 Seaverud, Harald. *Peer Gynt*, undated
 Typescript, 9 p. A narration for two voices and orchestra. Music by Harald Saeverud,
 adapted from the play by Henrik Ibsen by Arnold Sundgaard
- 13 Sain-Saens, Camille. *The Carnival of Animals*, undated
 Typescript, 5 p. Poem by Ogden Nash
- 14 Schumann, Robert. *Manfred*, undated
 Typescript, 70 p. English text by Lord Byron. With pencilled annotations.
- 15 Seigmeister, Elie. *The Plough and the Stars*, undated
 Typescript, 77 p. Libretto by Edward Mabley. Based on the play by Sean O'Casey.
- 10 1 Strauss, Johann. *The Gypsy Baron*, 1978
 Typescripts, 32 p. Script for concert performance by George Mead, ASCAP.
- Strauss, Richard
- 2 *Ariadne auf Naxos. Vorspiel*, 1954
 Typescripts, 70 p. English translation by George and Phyllis Mead.
- 3 *Daphne*, undated
 Typescript, 56 p. English translation of Joseph Gregor's libretto.
- 4 *Intermezzo*, undated
 Typescript, photocopy, 84 p. English translation of Hofmannstal's libretto by Alice
 Hammerstain Mathias. With pencilled annotations and stage directions.
 Accompanied by copy of vocal score with English translation written above
 voice staff.
- 5 *The Would-be Gentleman*, undated
 Typescript, 130 p. Two different English translations of complete Hofmannstahl
 text. Annotated with stage directions and suggestions for performance
 cuts.
- 6 Wagner, Richard. *Rienzi*, undated
 Photocopy, 20 p. Published English translation

- 7 Wolf, Hugo. *The Corregidor: Opera in Four Acts*, 1958
Typescript, 159 p. German text after a novel by *Alarcan*, by Rosa Mayreder-Obermayer. English translation by George and Phyllis Mead.

Series III: Professional Papers, 1959-1979, undated

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
11	1	Addresses and phone numbers of <i>Naughty Marietta</i> company members, undated
	2	<i>Die Aegyptische Helena</i> Papers, undated
	3	Citations, 1959-1979
	4	Contract, 1976
	5	Correspondence, 1975
	6	Grundtvig's Church, undated
	7	Mitchell, Donald. <i>Curlew River</i> , undated
	8	<i>Naughty Marietta</i> Papers, undated
	9	<i>Naughty Marietta</i> tour, 1976
	10	Notes, undated
	11	Program. Richard Strauss. <i>Intermezzo</i> , 1963
	12	Publicity material for <i>Curlew River</i> , 1969?
	13	Scores first pages, undated
	14	<i>Thomas Scherman's Draft for Children's Concert no. 1</i> , 1978
	15	Two Letters (R. Strauss - D. Neuffer), 1901

Series IV: Oversized Material, 1957-1978, undated

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
12	1	Citations, 1957-1978
	2	Saeverud, Harald. <i>Peer Gynt</i> , undated Typescript, 9 p. With pencilled annotations

Separated Materials:

1. Commemorative plaque from the Associated Musicians Greater New York, Local 802, citing Scherman for "25 years of service to our musical community with The Little Orchestra Society" (1972?).
2. Commemorative plaque from the members of The Little Orchestra, "commemorating ten years of music making... 1945-1947".
3. Commemorative plate from the members of The Little Orchestra Society, "on the occasion of [Scherman's] 25th anniversary season", 1972.
4. Picture frame (20 ½ x 15 ½), encasing two medallions with embossed images of Berlioz and Smetana, and a medal with the embossed image of Handel, 1972.
5. Picture frame (20 ½ x 15 ½), encasing three medals with embossed images of a Roman soldier, an ancient Greek woman, and George Foster Peabody (undated).