

**The New York Public Library  
New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center  
Music Division**

Guide to the

**David Chigrinsky scores**

1927-1976

JPB 13-26

Compiled by Matthew Snyder, September 2013

## **Summary**

**Creator:** Chigrinsky, David

**Title:** David Chigrinsky scores, 1927-1976

**Size:** 1 linear foot (4 boxes)

**Source:** Donated by Alexander Chigrinsky in 1984.

**Abstract:** David Chigrinsky (1877-1963) was a Russian composer and teacher who immigrated to the United States in 1923. The David Chigrinsky scores primarily contain his opera *The Misfortune of Being Clever*, and about 15 other works.

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

**Copyright information:** For permission to publish, contact the Chief, Music Division, New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

**Preferred citation:** David Chigrinsky scores, JPB 13-26. Music Division, The New York Public Library.

**Custodial history:** The collection was in the possession of the Chigrinsky family until its donation.

**Processing note:** Physical processing consisted of foldering, arranging, and boxing scores.

## **Creator history**

David Chigrinsky (1877-1963) was a Russian composer and teacher who immigrated to the United States in 1923. He left home as a teenager to attend the Warsaw Conservatory, where he studied piano and conducting, and graduated in 1899. He returned to Russia, studying fugue with Nikolay Sokolov and orchestration with Jāzeps Vītols at the St. Petersburg Conservatory, and graduated with special distinction in recognition of his final student submission, a double fugue for four voices. He remained in St. Petersburg and was active as a composer, conductor, teacher, and critic. Chigrinsky mentored several younger musicians, including Serge Koussevitsky, Jerzy Fitelberg, and Jascha Heifetz.

In 1917, he moved his family to Yevpatoria, in the Crimea, where he resumed his career until he was forced to leave in 1922. Chigrinsky and his family eventually made their way to the United States, settling in New York City, where he continued to compose and teach until his death on June 20, 1963.

### Scope and content note

The David Chigrinsky scores primarily hold full and piano scores for the opera *The Misfortune of Being Clever* (based on the play *Woe From Wit*, by Aleksander Griboyedov). Also present are scores for about 15 other works by Chigrinsky, including music for piano; orchestra; and baritone and orchestra. With a single exception, all the scores are manuscripts.

### Arrangement

The scores are arranged alphabetically.

### Key terms

#### Names

Chigrinsky, David

#### Special formats

Scores

#### Occupations

Composers

Musicians

#### Places

Saint Petersburg (Russia)

## Container list

- b.1 f.1-5 A - S, 1927-1976, undated
- b.2 f.1-4 *The Misfortune Of Being Clever*, undated
- b.3 f.1-4 *The Misfortune Of Being Clever*, undated
- b.4 f.1-5 *The Misfortune Of Being Clever*, undated