



## The New York Public Library Music Division

Guide to the

### **Daniel Gregory Mason sketchbooks**

1900-1939

JPB 84-270

Processed by Martha Grutchfield.

### **Summary**

**Creator:** Mason, Daniel Gregory, 1873-1953

**Title:** Daniel Gregory Mason sketchbooks

**Date:** 1900-1939

**Abstract:** The Daniel Gregory Mason Sketchbooks contain sketches for the composer's compositions as well as analyses of other composers' works.

**Conditions Governing Use:** For permission to copy or publish please contact the Music Division.

**Preferred citation:** The Daniel Gregory Mason Sketchbooks, JPB 84-270, Music Division, The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox, and Tilden Foundations.

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Processed by Martha Grutchfield; machine-readable finding aid created by Robert Kosovsky.

### **Related Materials:**

Several holograph scores by Mason are cataloged individually and may be found in CATNYP, the research library's online catalog: <http://catnyp.nypl.org>

The bulk of Mason's papers and scores reside at Columbia University, Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Butler Library, New York, NY 10027.

### **Creator History**

Daniel Gregory Mason was an American composer and educator.

Mason was born on November 20, 1873 in Brookline, Massachusetts into a musical family. (His grandfather was composer Lowell Mason, his uncle was pianist William Mason, and his father, Henry Mason, was a co-founder of the Mason and Hamlin piano manufacturing firm.) While attending Harvard

he studied with John Knowles Paine, graduating in 1895. He continued his studies with Arthur Whiting (in piano), Percy Goetschius (in theory), and George Chadwick (in orchestration). Mason joined the faculty of Columbia University in 1905. In order to perfect his skills at composition Mason went to Paris in 1912 to study briefly with Vincent D'Indy. Mason remained on the faculty of Columbia University until his retirement in 1942, gaining the title MacDowell Professor of Music and becoming chairman of the music department.

Daniel Gregory Mason's compositional style is resolutely conservative based in the Germanic tradition, and somewhat influenced by colorist devices of the French. He was outspoken opponent of corrupting foreign influences in American music, such as music influenced by African-Americans or Jewish-American styles.

A consummate teacher, Mason is credited with being a pioneer in the field of music appreciation, publishing books such as *From Grieg to Brahms* (1902), *The appreciation of music* (1907, a textbook), *A students' guide to music* (1909), *Music as a humanity and other essays* (1921), and numerous other works.

Mason died at Greenwich, Connecticut, on December 4, 1953.

## Scope and Content Note

The Daniel Gregory Mason Sketchbooks contain sketches for several of Mason's works. They also contain analyses of works by other composers.

**Arrangement:** The sketchbooks are arranged in a single series, chronological order.

## Key Terms

### Subjects

Musical sketches

### Titles

[Selections (Sketches)]

### Names

Mason, Daniel Gregory, 1873-1953  
American Music Collection

## Container List

- f. 1 *Mason Daniel Gregory, 1873-1953 [Notebook no. 1],*. May 1900 - August 6, 1939 (1 v.)  
General notebook for analyses, begun in Boston in May, 1900.
- f. 2 *Mason Daniel Gregory, 1873-1953 [Notebook no. 2],*. July 1922 - Spring 1923 (1 v.)  
Begun in Norfolk Connecticut. Includes sketches for *Songs of countryside*.
- f. 3 *Mason Daniel Gregory, 1873-1953 [Notebook no. 3],*. May 14, 1928 (1 v.)  
Sketchbook begun at 32 Via Dell'Erta Camina, Florence, Italy. Includes sketches for *Symphony no. 2* along with analysis of Johannes Brahms's *Symphony no. 1*.
- f. 4 *Mason Daniel Gregory, 1873-1953 [Notebook no. 4],*. Summer 1931 (1 v.)  
Sketchbook "B." Includes sketches for *Symphony no. 2* and *Serenade*.
- f. 5 *Mason Daniel Gregory, 1873-1953 [Notebook no. 5],*. Summer 1933 (1 v.)  
Includes sketches chiefly for Finale of *Suite after English Folksongs*.
- f. 6 *Mason Daniel Gregory, 1873-1953 [Notebook no. 6],*. May 11-July 1, 1935 (1 v.)  
Notes concerning *Quintet* by Vincent d'Indy and earliest sketches for *Lincoln symphony*, *Through the shine*, *Symphony no. 3*, and other works.
- f. 7 *Mason Daniel Gregory, 1873-1953 [Notebook no. 7],*. May 1935 (1 v.)  
Contains scoring of love songs and some sketches for *Symphony no. 3*.
- f. 8 *Mason Daniel Gregory, 1873-1953 [Notebook no. 8],*. Summer 1938 (1 v.)  
Begun at New Canaan, Connecticut.