### Guide to the John Cheshire Papers, 1853 - 1945 and undated

#### JPB 83-158

#### **Music Division**

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

### **Contact Information**

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## **Descriptive Summary**

Title:	John Cheshire Papers
Collection ID:	JPB 83-158
Creator:	Cheshire, John and Zoe Cheshire
Extent:	.9 linear feet (2 boxes)
Repository:	Music Division.
	The New York Public Library for the Performing
	Arts

### **Administrative Information**

#### Access

Collection is open to the public. Photocopying prohibited. Advance notice may be required.

### **Publication Rights**

For permission to publish, contact the Curator, Jerome Robbins Dance Division.

### **Preferred Citation**

John Cheshire Papers, JPB 83-158, Music Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

### **Custodial History**

Papers donated by Zoe Cheshire in 1945.

### **Processing Information**

The collection was processed and cataloged in 2005.

#### **Biographical Note**

John Cheshire, harpist and composer, was born on March 28, 1837 in Birmingham, England. He studied at the Royal Academy of Music in London from 1852-1855 and afterwards under Sir G.A. Macfarren and J.B. Chatterton. In 1855, he was appointed harpist to the Royal Italian Opera and in 1865, principal harpist at Her Majesty's Theatre. From 1858-1861, he toured in South America, and in 1879 Norway and Sweden. In 1888, he was the harpist to the National Opera Company. His compositions included an opera, *Diana*, which he wrote while in Brazil, *Cantat, The King and the Maiden* (book by Arthur Matthison), performed at St. James Hall on April 20, 1866, and The *Buccaneers*.

In 1871 he married Mathilda Maria Frances Baxter, an excellent pianist who appeared with success at many of his concerts. From this union, three daughters (Iris, Pearl and Zoe) and a son (Harold) were born. Zoe Cheshire and Harold Cheshire followed their parents into the limelight, as a harpist in New York and an actor in England, respectively.

For the last twenty years of his life, John Cheshire lived and performed, mostly, in America. He died on Sept. 26, 1910 in New York, NY.

#### Sources:

- New York Times Obituary. "John Cheshire, Harpist, Dead." Proquest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1857-Current file): Sept. 27, 1910, p. 13.
- New York Times Obituary. "Mrs. Mathilda Cheshire." Proquest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1857-Current file): Sept. 16, 1927, p. 23.
- New York Times Obituary. "Zoe Cheshire." Proquest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1857-Current file): Sept. 16, 1946, p. 5.
- Scrapbooks (Box 1, Folders 2-10)
- Wier, Albert, E. *The Macmillan Encyclopedia of Music and Musicians*. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1938.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The papers of John Cheshire (1853 – 1945 and undated) consist of scrapbooks, a music journal, a certificate and scores. Most of the clippings and letters found within the scrapbooks refer to the musical careers of both John Cheshire and Zoe Cheshire. His daughter, Zoe Cheshire, created the majority of the scrapbooks found within this collection. As such, programs indicating her performance of her father's composition can be found; as well as information regarding the distribution of her father's possessions after his death.

Aside from a few photographs found within a scrapbook, there are no items within the collection that reveal the private life of John and Mathilda Cheshire.

### **Organization**

The collection is organized into two series and two subseries. They are:

Series I: Personal Papers, 1853 -1945 and undated

Series II: Scores, 1885 - 1904 and undated

Subseries 1: John Cheshire Arrangements, 1885 - 1904 and undated

Subseries 2: Other Artists, undated

### **Series Descriptions**

### Series I: Personal Papers, 1853 - 1945 and undated

1 box

Arrangement: Alphabetical

This series contains John Cheshire's music journal, scrapbooks and a certificate. The scrapbooks created by Zoe Cheshire on her father's work, as well as her own, are included in this series.

#### Series II: Scores, 1885 - 1904 and undated

1 box

Arrangement: Alphabetical

This series is composed of two subseries. The first subseries contains John Cheshire's arangements, whereas the second subseries contains the scores of other artists found within the collection.

Subseries 1: John Cheshire Arrangements, 1885 - 1904 and undated

This subseries contains John Cheshire's harp arangements.

.75 box

#### **Subseries 2: Other Artists, undated**

.25 box

This subseries contains the musical compositions written by other artists found within the collection.

#### **Box/Folder** Description

#### Series I: Personal Papers, 1853 - 1945 and undated Box 1 F. 1 Music Journal, 1911 and undated Scrapbooks (The scrapbooks are mostly comprised of letters, clippings and programs) John Cheshire F. 2 *Press Criticisms of Mr. and Mrs. Cheshire*, 1870 – 1910 (Pages 1-2 missing) 1877-1909 F. 3 Zoe Cheshire Book 1: A List of Things I have disposed of, and presented. June 5, 1937, F. 4 1930-1945 Book 2: Interesting Letters on Different Subjects, 1898-1941 (Mostly letters, F. 5 some clippings; front cover detached) Book 3: Odd Programmes and Press Clippings, 1870-1931 (Photocopy--cover F. 6 kept) Unbound, 1853 – 1939 (In addition to the letters and clippings, there are a few photographs in this unbound and untitled scrapbook) F. 7 Part 1 of 4 F. 8 Part 2 of 4 F. 9 Part 3 of 4 F. 10 Part 4 of 4 (Photocopies of clippings found in this unbound scrapbook) Box 2 F. 1 Certificate--Royal Academy of Music, ca. 1855 Series II: Scores, 1885-1904 and undated Subseries 1: John Cheshire Arrangements, 1885 - 1904 Benedictus Dudley Buck, undated F. 2 F. 3 John Stainer, 1898 Nov. 26 F. 4 Bridal March (Lohengrin Wagner), 1894 Sept. 2 Fantasia (Faust), 1904 May F. 5 Harp Solos (New Series), 1885 and undated (No. 3--on cover: "Favorite Barcarole by F. 6 Menozzi"; No. 5--based on Mozart's "Voi che Sapate" from La Nozze de Figaro") F. 7 He Shall Feed His Flock--voice and harp, 1899 Jan. 13 Jubilate Deo / Praise be to God (J.B. Calkin)--choir and harp, 1897 Mar. 1 F. 8 F. 9 Largo (Handel), undated (Gustav Saenger and Philipp Mittell) Lascia ch'io Pianga--Here Let My Tears Flow (Handel), 1897 F. 10 Maid of Athens, 1902 Jun. 30 (Byron poem verse written on cover) F. 11 F. 12 Marche Funèbre (Chopin), undated Les Rameaux (Faure), undated (John Cheshire translates title to "The Palm Trees") F. 13 Robin Adair--Scotch air, undated F. 14 Romance Op. 44 No. 1 (A. Rubenstein), undated (Violin and harp piece; property of F. 15 Zoe Cheshire written on cover) Salut d' Amour (E. Elgar), undated (Published sheet music for Elgar version included) F. 16 Scandinavian melody, 1897 Mar. 3 F. 17 Te Deum (Arthur Foote), 1897 Apr. 9 F. 18 Te Deum Laudamus J. B. Calkin, 1897 Mar. 15 F. 19 F. 20 John Stainer, 1897 Mar. Terzetto (Saint-Saen), undated (Dec. 9 - Dec. 25 on cover--no year given) F. 21 Traumerei (Schuman), 1897 F. 22 F. 23 *Valse*—posthume, undated Violets (Maude Valerie White), 1903 July 24 F. 24

Box/Folder	Description	_
F. 25	A - Z, 1899 Jan. and undated	
	Subseries 2: Other Artists, undated	
F. 26	Dunkley, Ferdinand, undated	
F. 27	Kennedy, J., undated	
F. 28	Unknown, undated	
F. 29	A - Z, undated	

# **Separated Material – Music Division:**

The majority of John Cheshire's scores were individually catalogued and are available through the Music Division.