

Guide to the Alexander Chesnokov Papers, 1899-1962

JOB 06-2

Music Division

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

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Descriptive Summary

Title:	Alexander Chesnokov Papers
Collection ID:	JOB 06-2
Creator:	Chesnokov, Alexander
Extent:	8.5 linear feet (10 boxes)
Repository:	Music Division. The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

Abstract: The papers of the Russian composer Alexander Chesnokov consist primarily of music scores; they also include unpublished librettos and manuscripts in English, French and Russian.

Administrative Information

Access

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

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

Alexander Chesnokov Papers, JOB 06-2, Music Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Custodial History

The Alexander Chesnokov Papers were donated to the Music Division in 1969 by Galina Chesnokov.

Biographical Note

**Alexander Grigorievich Chesnokov (Tchesnokoff) (1880, Moscow -1941, Paris)
(Pseudonyms: Al. Daleau, Al. Tchayss)**

Russian Orthodoxy had many great composers in the early years of the twentieth century, and Chesnokov was one of the finest.

Alexander Chesnokov, brother of the famous Russian church composer Pavel Chesnokov, was born on March 5, 1880 to the family of hereditary Russian precentors who lived near Moscow, in Voskresensk. As he recalled later he knew music even before he knew the alphabet.

He was educated in, taught at, and wrote music for the Church's seminal musical institution, the Moscow Synodal School of Church Singing. After graduation in 1899 Chesnokov composed his first major work and was dispatched to continue education in Petrograd Conservatory (Rimsky-Korsakov and Glasunov class), which he completed in 1906.

Prolific choir composer, Chesnokov was the star of Orthodox choral music. After being shut down by the 1917 Revolution, he had to make ends meet by teaching or conducting state choirs and orchestras.

Chesnokov emigrated in 1923 to Prague, where he conducted the Russian Student Chorus named after Alexander Arkhangelski. He then settled down in Paris. Chesnokov lectured in the Russian Conservatory and taught church singing in the Sviato-Sergievskii Bogoslovskii Institut.

In Paris Alexander Chesnokov finished his *Requiem of the Mystery of Death, or, The Russian Requiem*, in which he honors graduates of the Petersburg Conservatory. The conservatory was seized by the Bolsheviks, and many were forced to emigrate.

Hard pressed for money, he started making music-hall arrangements for a tiny publishing company, writing his own music during spare moments. Very little of what he wrote during that difficult period has been preserved, but he did manage, however, to send the *Requiem* to his brother in Moscow where in 1990s it had its first performance.

Alexander Chesnokov was buried in France near Paris in 1941.

Scope and Content Note

The Alexander Chesnokov Papers consist of 8.5 linear feet of material dating from 1899 to 1962. They consist primarily of published and unpublished vocal, piano and orchestral music scores, libretti, and manuscripts of his work *Theory of Sound – Colour Synaesthetics. Delsarte's Theory of Analogies applied to Music and Colour*.

Organization

The collection is organized into 4 series. They are:

Series I: Scores, 1899-1941, undated.

Subseries I: Scores by Alexander Chesnokov, 1901-1941, undated.

Subseries II: Scores by other composers, 1899-1900, undated.

Series II: Writings, 1906-1938, undated.

Series III: Subject Files, 1916-1932, undated.

Series IV: Oversized materials, 1926-1927, undated.

Series Descriptions

Series I: Scores, 1899-1941, undated

Arrangement: alphabetical.

This series contain: published and unpublished music piano and vocal scores by Alexander Chesnokov as well as other composers.

Subseries I: Scores by Alexander Chesnokov, 1901-1941, undated 6 boxes

Arrangement: alphabetical.

This series contain: published and unpublished music scores, some with composer's autographs.

Subseries II: Scores by other composers, 1899-1900, undated 1 box

Arrangement: alphabetical.

This series contain: published piano and vocal scores by different composers, including Frederic Chopin, Peter Ilich Tchaikovsky, and Milii Balakirev.

Series II: Writings, 1906-1938, undated 1 box

Arrangement: alphabetical.

This series contain: manuscripts of Chesnokov's librettos and his book *Theory of Sound-Colour Synaesthetics*, as well as published scores.

Series III: Subject Files, 1916-1932, undated

1 box

Arrangement: alphabetical

This series contain: articles from Russian newspapers dedicated to the Chesnokov works; program with his performance; lyrics by unknown authors in Russian, French, and English.

Series IV: Oversized materials, 1926-1927, undated

1 box

Arrangement: alphabetical

This series contain: art works by Chesnokov and holograph manuscript of his *Symphony*.

Series I. Scores, 1899-1941, undated**Subseries I: Scores by Alexander Chesnokov, 1901-1941, undated**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
1	1	<i>A la Balalaika</i> , undated (Sketch, holograph ms.)
	2	<i>Adagio</i> , op.34, undated (Violin score, holograph ms.)
	3	<i>Adagio</i> , undated (Sketch)
	4	<i>Ai, na gore dub, dub. Russian Folk Song</i> , undated (Vocal score, holograph ms.)
	5	<i>Air Du Pays Natal</i> , op.13, 1930 (Sheet music, orchestral parts)
	6	<i>Album les enfants</i> , op.22, undated (Piano score, holograph ms.)
	7	<i>Allaegro</i> , op.40, 1903 (Piano score, holograph ms.)
	8	<i>Andante</i> , undated (Piano score, manuscript)
	9	<i>Attende Domine</i> , undated (Sketch)
	10	<i>Au Pays Des Tziganes</i> , undated (Sheet music, orchestral score)
	11	<i>Au Soir</i> , undated (Piano score, sketch)
	12	<i>Le Baboureur</i> , undated (Parts, scetch)
		<i>Ballade</i> , op.20 no.5, undated
	13	Holograph ms.
	14	Piano score, holograph ms.
	15	Parts, reproduction
	16	<i>La Battle et le Grundin</i> , undated (Sketches)
	17	<i>Berceuse</i> , op.26, no.6, undated
		Piano score, sketch. Also: <i>Chanson du Soir</i> , op.20, no.7.
	18	<i>Blazhen Muzh</i> , undated (Vocal score, holograph ms.)
2		<i>Bogatyrskii Cykl</i> , undated
	19	Music & Libretto, drafts and sketches
	20-25	Sketches
	1	<i>Borba</i> , undated (Piano score, sketch)
	2	<i>Bozhe, zastupnik nash</i> , 1928 (Vocal score, holograph ms.)
	3	<i>Bylina</i> , undated (Vocal score, holograph ms)
	4	<i>Cantilene Russe</i> , op.14, no.1, 1931 (Sheet music, orchestral score)
		<i>Catrinette</i> , op.17, no.1, undated
	5	Vocal score, holograph ms. Lyrics by Igor Severianin in French and Russian
	6	Vocal score, transparency. Lyrics by Igor Severianin in French and Russian
	7	<i>Le Chale noir</i> , op.18, no.3, undated (Vocal score, holograph ms.)
	8	<i>La Chanson de L'esclavage tatar</i> , undated (Piano score, holograph ms.)
	9	<i>Chanson Triste</i> , undated (Sketch, holograph ms.)
	10	<i>Chansonette du coeur</i> , op. 14, no.1, undated (Piano score, sketches)
	11	<i>Chant de Champs Orientals</i> , undated (Piano score, sketch)
	12	<i>Chant Des Bateliers du Volga</i> , undated (Piano score, vocal score, holograph ms.)
	13	<i>Chante Simcone</i> , undated (Piano score, vocal score, sketch)
	14	<i>Children's songs</i> , op.12, no.8-13, undated (Piano score, vocal score, sketches)
	15	<i>Chorny platok</i> , op.17, no.4, undated (Vocal score, holograph ms.)
	16	<i>Chorus</i> , undated (Holograph ms., sketches)
	17	<i>Chto tsveli</i> , undated
		Vocal score, holograph ms. Also: <i>Kolybelnaia</i> , vocal score, holograph ms., undated
	18	<i>Chto ty spish, muzhychok?</i> , undated (Vocal score, holograph ms.)
	19	Church songs, undated (Vocal score, holograph ms., in Russian)
	20	<i>Chvalebnaia Pesn Sviatogo Kniazia Vladimira</i> , undated (Vocal score, holograph ms.)
	21	<i>Con-Con...</i> , undated (Parts, holograph ms.)
	22	<i>La Conte</i> , op.21, no.3, undated (Piano score, sketches)
	23	<i>Danse de harem</i> , undated (Piano score, holograph ms.)
	24	<i>Danse de la nuit</i> , 1928 (Piano score, parts, holograph ms.)
	25	<i>Danse de petite marquise</i> , undated (Piano score, sketches)
	26	<i>Dedicated to Antonine Mikhailovne Chernovoi</i> , 1901 (Piano score, vocal score,

- holograph ms.)
- 27 *Dedicated to M.Sh.*, undated (Piano score, sketch)
- 28 *Le Dervichs. Fox-trot*, undated (Piano score, holograph ms.)
- 29 *Detskaia Kartinka. Dedushka i vnuchek*, undated (Sketches, libretto)
- 30 *Dramaticheskaiia Uvertiura*, undated (Parts, holograph ms.)
- 31 *Dream of love and you*, undated (Sketches)
- 32 *Dremnye pesenki*, undated (Sketches, holograph ms.)
- 3 1 *Ei, ukhnem*, undated (Vocal score, holograph ms.)
- 2 *Les Esquises du jour*, undated (Orchestration, holograph ms.)
- 3 *Etude*, op.20, no.2, undated (Sketches, piano score)
- 4 *Etude*, op.21, no.1, undated (Piano score, holograph ms.)
- 5 *Five preludes*, op.33, undated (Piano score, holograph ms.)
- 6 *Gavott*, op.14, no.3, undated (Parts, sketch)
- 7 Georgian Folk Songs, undated (Vocal score, piano score, sketches)
- 8 *Gloria*, 1926 (Sheet music, vocal score)
- 9 *God with us*, undated (Vocal score, holograph ms.)
- 10 *La Grotte des Korrigans*, op.12, 1926 (Piano score, sheet music. Autograph)
- 11 *Grust devushki*, op.17, no.7a (former no.7), undated (Vocal score, holograph ms.)
- 12 *Iavtukh*, undated (Vocal score, holograph ms.)
- 13 *Ife tvionfante*, undated (Piano score, holograph ms.)
- 14 *Intermezzo*, undated (Sketch)
- 15 *Iskhodila mamenka*, undated (Vocal score, holograph ms.)
- 16 *Iskhodila mladenka*, undated (Vocal score, holograph ms.)
- 17 *Iz nastroenii*, undated
(Piano score, holograph ms. Also: Moods. Preludes)
- 18 *Karmanchiki*, undated (Sketch)
- 19 *Kaz-Bek*, undated (Piano score, holograph ms.)
- 20 *L'amant d'un jour*, undated (Parts, holograph ms.)
- 21 *Laptishi*, undated (Vocal score, holograph ms.)
- 22 *Last tango*, undated (Piano score, sketch)
- 23 *L'attente*, op.11, undated (Transparency)
- 24 *L'attente*, undated (Sketch)
- 25 *L'Immortalite*, undated (Vocal score, holograph ms.)
- 26 *Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom*, undated (Piano score, holograph ms.)
- L'offense n'est pas encore pardonnee*, undated
Piano score, sketch
- 28 *Parts*, holograph ms.
- 29 *Meditation no.2*, undated (Piano score, sketches)
- 30 *Meditation*, op.20, 1929 (Piano score, sketch)
- 31 *La Mer*, op.12, 1928 (Piano score, sketches, holograph ms.)
- 32 *Mogila*, op.24, undated (Vocal score, holograph ms.)
- Moment Melancolique*, op.18, no.1, undated
Vocal score, holograph ms.
- 34 *Transparency and reproduction*
- 35 *Moment Melancolique*, op.19, 1923 (Piano score, holograph ms.)
- 36 *Morceau Lyrique*, op.11, no.4, undated (Piano score, sheet music)
- 37 *Na rodimuiu storonku*, undated (Piano score, vocal score, holograph ms.)
- Nocturne*, op.18, no.2, undated
Vocal score, holograph ms.
- 39 *Vocal score, transparency*
- 40 *La nuit dans la taverne*, op.21, undated (Piano score, holograph ms.)
- 41 *Nyne otpushaiushe*, undated (Vocal score, holograph ms.)
- 42 *Old Dancer*, undated (Piano score, sketch)
- 43 *Osa*, undated (Piano score, sketch)
- 4 1 *Pastel d'Orient. Serenade Oriental*, op.12, 1928 (Sketches, holograph ms.)

- 2 *Pastels Bleus D'orient*, op.12, 1929 (Sheet music, orchestral part)
- 3 *Pesenki Dedka Sheptunka*, undated (Piano score, vocal score, holograph ms.)
- 4 *Pesnia pro Sokola*, undated (Vocal score, holograph ms.)
- 5 *Pesnia pro Tatarskii polon*, op.24, undated (Vocal score, holograph ms.)
- 6 *Petitscerzo*, undated (Piano score, sketch)
- 7 *Prelude no.1*, undated (Piano score, sketches)
- 8 *Prelude* op.21, no.1, undated (Piano score, holograph ms.)
- 9 *Prelude*, op.21, no.2, undated (Piano score, holograph ms.)
- 10 *Premieres lueurs du matin*, undated (Piano score, holograph ms.)
- 11 *Rapsode Chinois*, op.18, undated (Piano score, sketch)
- 12 *La Religieuse*, undated (Parts, holograph ms.)
- Reflet de rubis*, op.17, no.3, undated
- 13 Vocal score, holograph ms.
- 14 Vocal score, transparency
- 15 *Requiem*, undated (Vocal score, sketches)
- 16 *Restaurations*, op.22-24, undated (Vocal score, holograph ms.)
- 17 *La Reve*, undated (Piano score, sketch)
- 18 *La Reve du trigan*, undated (Piano score, holograph ms.)
- 19 *Ritmicheskii Etiud*, undated (Piano score, sketch)
- 20 *Rodnaia*, undated (Parts, vocal score, holograph ms.)
- 21 *Romanzetta*, op.9, no.2, 1908 (Piano score, sketches)
- 22 Russian folk songs, undated (Piano scores, vocal scores, sketches)
- 23 Russian songbook, undated (Sketches, holograph ms.)
- 24 *La Sarafane Ruge*, January 5, 1941
- Vocal score, holograph ms. Note by his wife: Written right before death.
- 25 *Se zhenikh griadiot*. Tropar, 1903 (Vocal score, reproduction)
- 26 *Second Quartet*, op.11, undated (Holograph ms.)
- 27 *Separation*, undated (Parts, sketch)
- Serenade*, undated
- 28 Vocal scores, sketches
- 29 Sketch, holograph ms.
- 30 Sketch
- 31 *Serpentine*, undated (Piano score, sketch)
- 32 *Silence*, undated
- Choir and solo score, holograph ms. Lyrics by K.Balmont in Russian and French
- 33 *Solfège*, undated (Sketches, holograph ms.)
- 5 1 *Sonate*, op.32, undated (Violin score, holograph ms.)
- 2 *Sonate Fantaisie*, op.25, 1923 (Piano score, holograph ms.)
- 3 *Sonate no.2*, op.29, undated (Piano score, holograph ms.)
- 4 *Sonate-Poeme*, op.28, 1924 (Violincelle score, holograph ms.)
- 5 *Sonate pour violin et Piano*, op.32, 1925 (Holograph ms.)
- 6 *Song*, undated (Vocal score, holograph ms.)
- 7 Songs from the *Pesen Podkarpatskikh Rusinov*, op.24, undated (Vocal score, holograph ms.)
- 8 Suite *Eskizy Dnia*, undated (Parts, holograph ms.)
- 9 Symphony, undated (Orchestral score, holograph ms.)
- 10 *Le Tabor Trigan*, undated (Piano score, holograph ms.)
- Tango, undated
- 11 Piano score, holograph ms.
- 12 Piano score, sketch
- 13 Piano score, holograph ms.
- 14 Piano score, ms. (Written by Chesnokov and W.Hirschmann)
- 15 *Titany*, 1924 (Piano score, sketch)
- 16 *La Tombe*, undated (Piano score, vocal score, sketch)
- 17 *Torzhestvennaia Pesn*, 14.05.1926 (Vocal score, holograph ms.)

	18	<i>Trio</i> , op.26, undated (Parts, holograph ms, transparency)
	19	<i>Trio</i> , undated (Parts, holograph ms.)
	20	<i>U vorot sosna raskochalasia</i> , undated (Vocal score, holograph ms.)
	21	Ukrainian Folk Songs, undated (Piano score, vocal score, sketches)
	22	<i>Un Amant</i> , undated (Parts, holograph ms.)
	23	Untitled fox-slow, undated (Piano score, sketch)
	24	<i>Uzh ty Sioma Simeon</i> , undated (Piano score, vocal score, holograph ms.)
		<i>Valse</i> , undated
6	1-3	Piano score, holograph ms.
	4-5	Sketches
	6	Piano score, holograph ms.
	7	<i>Vdol po Piderskoi</i> , undated (Vocal score, holograph ms.)
	8	<i>V dome shumnom zhivu i pustynnom</i> , op.18, no.3, undated (Vocal score, transparency. Lyrics by N. Shklovsky)
	9	<i>La Verite et le Mensonge</i> , op.23, undated (Vocal score, holograph ms.)
	10	<i>Veux-Tu Maimer</i> , undated
		Vocal score, reproduction, transparency, holograph ms. Lyrics by F.Sologub in Russian and French
	11	<i>Village</i> , undated (Sketch)
	12	<i>Vo pole beriozka</i> , undated (Vocal score, holograph ms.)
	13-21	Unidentified, undated (Sketches, piano scores, holograph ms.)

Subseries II: Scores by other composers, 1899-1900, undated

Box	Fol	
7	1	Balakirev, Milii Alekseevich. <i>Da molchit vsiakaia plot</i> , undated (Vocal score, ms.)
	2	Chopin, Frederick. <i>Marche Funebre</i> , 1899 (Sheet music)
	3	Chopin, Frederick. <i>Nocturne</i> , op.9 no.2, undated (Sheet music)
	4	Chopin, Frederick. <i>Trauermarsch</i> , op.35, undated (Sheet music)
	5	Gung'l, Josef. <i>Les Amourettes. Valse</i> , undated (Sheet music)
	6	Lyadov, Anatoly Konstantinovich. <i>Lullaby</i> , undated (Ms.)
	7	Puccini, Giacomo. <i>Tosca</i> , 1900 (Sheet music)
	8	Rimsky-Korsakov, Nikolay. <i>Ai, vo pole</i> , undated (Vocal score, ms.)
	9	Tchaikovsky, Peter Ilich. <i>Girls Chorus (Mazepa)</i> , undated (Vocal score, ms.)

Series II: Writings, 1906-1938, undated

		<i>Accident des dieux</i> , 1928 (Ms.)
8	1	Ms.
	2	Typescript
	3	<i>Deva nesushaia svetilnik</i> , undated (Libretto, typescript)
	4	Letter, undated
	5	Notes regarding the nature of the chorus, undated (Ms, in Russian)
	6	Solfege, undated (Ms, typescript)
	7	<i>Songs of Pierre Jean De Berange</i> , 1908 (Scores and lyrics, in Russian)
	8	<i>A Theory of Sound-Colour Synaesthetics</i> , undated (Drafts, ms., in Russian)
	9	Part 1, 1923-1938
	10	Part 2, 1926
	11	Typescript, in English
	12	Hand-made illustrations
	13	Untitled play, undated (Ms., in Russian)
	14	Works, 1906-1910 (Sheet music)

Series III: Subject Files, 1916-1962, undated

Box	Fol	
9	1	Friken, N. Lyrics, undated (Typescript, in Russian)
	2	Lists of the Russian Church music works, undated (Ms., in Russian)

- 3 Lyrics by unknown authors, undated (Ms., in English, Russian, and French)
- 4 Newspaper articles, undated (In Russian)
- 5 Program, 1926 (In Czech)
- 6 *Restuvratins. Folk Song Poems*, 1916 (Ms., in Russian)
- 7 Russian Folk University in Prague. Schedule. Project, undated (Ms., in Russian)
- 8 Societe des Auters, compositeurs et editeurs de Musique. Letter to Galina Voikowsy-Chesnokov, 1962 (In French)

Series IV: Oversized Materials, 1926-1927, undated

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
10	1	Chesnokov, A. Art works, 1926-1927, undated
	2	Chesnokov, A. <i>Symphony</i> , undated (Orchestral score, ms.)