Guide to the Melchiorre Mauro-Cottone Papers 1874-1982

JPB 06-47

Music Division

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

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Descriptive Summary

Title:	Melchiorre Mauro-Cottone Papers
Collection ID:	JPB 06-47
Creator:	Mauro-Cottone, Melchiorre
Extent:	6 linear feet (12 boxes)
Repository:	Music Division.
	The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

Abstract

This collection contains the music and professional papers of the Italian organist and composer Melchiorre Mauro-Cottone. He performed in New York from 1905 until his death in 1938. Included are correspondence, programs, clippings, photographs, writings and diplomas.

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

Melchiorre Mauro-Cottone Papers, JPB 06-47, Music Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and cataloged in 2006.

Biographical Note

Melchiorre Mauro-Cottone was born in Palermo, Italy, in 1883, and died in New York City on September 29,1938. He studied under his grandfather and father Antonio Mauro, who were both organists and composers. He became organist at the Church of San Carlo Borromeo at the age of twelve. At fifteen he was made organist at St Joseph's Church, also in Palermo. He assisted his father as organist and choirmaster at the Pantheon, Church of the Dominican Fathers, and as teacher at the Royal Conservatory. He became director of the Schola Cantorum Pius X when he was eighteen.

Mauro-Cottone came to America in 1905 to serve as featured recitalist at the Roxy Theatre in New York City. He performed at Mandelssohn Hall in 1910 and served as organist and choirmaster at various Churches, including the Spanish Church, St. Francis Xavier R.C. Church and St. Ignatius Loyola. He also spent some time with the New York Central Synagogue. In 1926, after he had been a guest at the Sesquicentennial Exposition in Philadelphia, King Victor Emmanuel made him Chevalier of the Crown of Italy.

The Italian organist M.E. Bossi's American debut was accompanied by Mauro-Cottone's conducting of the Philadelphia Orchestra. He conducted the same orchestra for the Henry Savage Opera Company's premier of *The Girl of the Golden West*. He also taught piano at is Manhattan home. His original compositions include two Masses and several motets that are widely known throughout the United States.

Scope and Content Note

The Melchiorre Mauro-Cottone papers consist of 12 boxes, dating from 1874 to 1982. Seven boxes contain written music, largely in the hand of Mauro-Cottone. There is a large collection of hymns and other music for Roman Catholic Masses. Some published sheet music is included, as well as an unpublished book entitled *Piano and Theory in Concise Form*. Correspondence is mainly on professional matters, and programs and clippings relate to various performances. There are a number of signed portraits from fellow performers, and three oversized diplomas.

Organization

The collection is organized into three series and five sub-series. They are:

Series I: Professional Papers, 1874-1982

Sub-series 1: Correspondence 1874-1938

Sub-series 2: Programs 1898-1938 and undated Sub-series 3: Clippings 1899-1938 and undated

Sub-series 4: Photographs A-Z Sub-series 5: Writings 1934-1971

Series II: Music Scores 1894-1941 and undated

Series III Oversized Material 1904-1922

Series Descriptions

Series I: Professional Papers, 1874-1982

4 boxes

This series consists of correspondence, programs, clippings, photographs and writings. Material dates from the span of Mauro-Cottone's career and beyond. Correspondence from fellow performers is from both Italy and the US. Programs include Mauro-Cottone's major American performances, and clippings include reviews of these. There are also photograph portraits of colleagues and an unpublished book under 'Writings'.

Sub-series 1: Correspondence 1874-1981

0.5 boxes

Arrangement: Alphabetical

This series includes much communication with fellow organists and performers, from both Italy and the USA. There are letters from around the world requesting performances from Mauro-Cottone. A letter dated 25th Feb 1926 is from Italy's Royal Consul General, confirming that the organist has received an honor from the King. A number of telegrams received by the family on Mauro-Cottone's death are included, as well as correspondence from music publishers.

Sub-series 2: Programs 1898-1938

0.5 boxes

Arrangement: Chronological

Most programs are from the years 1920 to 1938. Performances are in venues such as the Capitol Theatre New York, the town Hall, and the Metropolitan Opera House. Include is a program for the American debut of M.E. Bossi at John Wanamaker Auditorium. Programs for Mauro-Cottone performances outside New York include Baltimore, Hartford, Wilmington, Pittsburg and Rhode Island.

Sub-series 3: Clippings 1899-1938

1 box

Arrangement: Chronological

Clippings range from 1900 to 1982, the majority being from 1928 to 1936. There are articles from both American and Italian newspapers, including notices and reviews of performances. A scrapbook with material dating from 1908 to 1938 includes press clippings, programs and postcards. There are a small number of magazines, including copies of *Journeys Beautiful, Club Woman's Journal*, and *Catholic Choirmaster*.

Sub-series 4: Photographs 1903-1934

1 box

Arrangement: Alphabetical

Photographs are mostly portraits of fellow organists and performances of Mauro-Cottone. Among the portraits are M.E. Bossi, Nicola Montani and Clarence Eddy. A portrait of Mauro-Cottone himself is included, and is attached to a signed guest book for an Anniversary dinner.

Sub-series 5: Writings

1 box

Arrangement: Alphabetical

Writings include a biography of John Barbirolli by Charles Reid, with a highlighted passage where Mauro-Cottone is discussed. Also an unpublished book entitled *Piano and Theory in Concise Form.* A note by the author promises that piano and theory could be self-taught with the 32 lessons included in the book. Dated 1935, it was ten years in the making.

Series II: Musical Scores 1894-1941 and undated

7 boxes

Arrangement: Alphabetical.

The majority of the music is in the hand of Mauro-Cottone. There are large number of hymns and other pieces for Roman Catholic Masses. There are some songs for children and Christmas carols, as well as a number of exercises for organ. A large number of pieces are for organ, but also included are vocal scores and music for strings. Some published sheet music is included, including *Ave Maria* and *Jesus Christus*.

Series III: Oversized Series 1904-1922

1 box

Arrangement: Alphabetical.

This includes three certificates presented to Mauro-Cottone. There are diplomas from Academia Filarmonica Siciliana and R. Conservatoria, and an honorary doctorate from the American University.

Series I: Professional Papers, 1874-1982

Subseries 1: Correspondence, 1874-1981

D	Subseries 1: Correspondence, 1874-1981		
<u>Box</u>	Fol	A D 4074 4004	
1	1	A-B, 1874 -1931	
		(Including letters from M.E. Bossi from Italy, and a letter of reference from a Jewish	
		Rector)	
	2	C-E, 1900-1935	
		(Includes letter of praise from the Capitol Theatre NY, and a notice from the Royal	
		Consul General that Mauro-Cottone is to be honoured by the King)	
	3	F-H, 1896-1981	
		(Includes a letter from organist Edwin Grasse praising Mauro-Cottone's work at the	
		Capitol Theatre)	
	4	I-L, 1905-1938	
		(A number of letters are from Italy, including one from Licea Musicale Di Santa	
		Cecilia)	
	5	MAURO-COTTONE, 1938	
		(Several telegrams to the Mauro-Cottone family offering condolences on his death)	
	6	M-O, 1902-1931	
	J	(Includes letter from Church Rector in Italy, stating that Mauro-Cottone has played	
		there since the age of 12)	
	7	P-S, 1877-1930	
	,	(Includes letter from Sesquicentennial International Exposition offering Mauro-	
		Cottone \$100 to play a concert in 1926)	
	8	U-Z, 1904-1937	
	O	(Includes letter from the Vatican consenting to the name of Pope Pius X being	
		attached to Mauro-Cottone's Scola Cantorum)	
		attached to Madro Cottone 3 Good Cartorally	
		Subseries 2: Programs, 1898-1938	
<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>		
1	9	1898-1918 (Includes early Italian performances)	
	10	1920-1925	
		(Programs for M.E. Bossi are included, among them his 1925 Ameriacn debut)	
	11	1926-1929	
		(Including many New York venues such as Carnegie Hall, Steinway Hall and Town	
		Hall)	
	12	1930-1933	
		(Includes 1931 programs for both the Central Synagogue and St Patrick's R.C.	
		Cathedral)	
	13	1934-1938 (Includes 3 full Carnegie Hall programs)	
	14	Undated	
	• •	(For religious services, Christmas concerts and other performances)	
		(i or roughous services, emissinas series and emer performances)	
		Subseries 3: Clippings and Scrapbook, 1899-1938	
<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>		
2	1	1899-1925	
		(Articles from American and Italian newspapers. Includes copies of Journeys	
		Beautiful magazine from 1925)	
	2	Beautiful magazine from 1925) 1928-1935	
	2	Beautiful magazine from 1925)	
	2	Beautiful magazine from 1925) 1928-1935	
		Beautiful magazine from 1925) 1928-1935 (Includes two copies of the Fischer Edition News and one Club Woman's Journal) 1936 (Includes an article on Mauro-Cottone's thoughts on the electric organ, and two	
		Beautiful magazine from 1925) 1928-1935 (Includes two copies of the Fischer Edition News and one Club Woman's Journal) 1936	
		Beautiful magazine from 1925) 1928-1935 (Includes two copies of the Fischer Edition News and one Club Woman's Journal) 1936 (Includes an article on Mauro-Cottone's thoughts on the electric organ, and two	
	3	Beautiful magazine from 1925) 1928-1935 (Includes two copies of the Fischer Edition News and one Club Woman's Journal) 1936 (Includes an article on Mauro-Cottone's thoughts on the electric organ, and two copies of The Catholic Choirmaster)	
	3	Beautiful magazine from 1925) 1928-1935 (Includes two copies of the Fischer Edition News and one Club Woman's Journal) 1936 (Includes an article on Mauro-Cottone's thoughts on the electric organ, and two copies of The Catholic Choirmaster) 1937-1982	

Box/	Folder	Description
	5 6	Undated (Articles in Italian and English; a G. Schirmer Mail Order Catalog) Scrapbook, 1908-1938
3		(Hardback, with press clippings, photographs and postcards) Subseries 4: Photographs, 1903-1934
	Fol 1 2 3	A-E, 1912-1926 (Portraits including Enrico Bossi and Casella) G-L, 1923-1928 (Includes Fernando Germani) MAURO-COTTONE (Photo of Mauro Cottone at St. Louis, with accompanying Anniversary Guestbook, signed)
	4 5 6	M-R, 1919-1934 (Includes Gino Marinuzzi and Nicola Montani) S-Y, 1908-1925 Unidentified, 1903-1925 (Portraits and one Church photograph)
Box Fol 4 1		Subseries 5: Writings, 1934-1971
	1	Piano and Theory Book (Unpublished hardback book in the hand of Mauro-Cottone: "Piano and Theory in Precise Form". In 32 lessons)
	2	Barbirolli Biography (Hardback biography of composer John Barbirolli. Signed with a highlighted section where Mauro-Cottone is mentioned)
Davi	Fa!	Series II: Music Scores, 1894-1941
<u>Box</u> 5	Fol 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Adeste Fideles, undated (Lead sheets) Adoramus Te Christe, 1932 (Vocal score) Aissa Facillima, undated (For two voices and organ) All Glory, Laud and Honor, 1938 (For organ) Allegro Impetuoso, 1933 (For organ) Amens, 1937 (Mixed voices a capella) Andante, undated (For violin and organ, orchestral score with parts) Andalucia, undated (For organ) Angelus, undated (Piano and vocal score) Aria, undated (By Bach, arranged for soprano with piano accompaniment)
	11 12	Assumpta est Maria, 1912 (2 manuscripts with piano and vocal score) Ave Maria, 1912 (Sheet music for four voices and organ; ms. for 2 voices and organ; ms. for 3 voices and organ; ms. for 4 voices)
	13	Ballata, 1904 (By Heine, ms. with piano and vocal score, includes lyrics)
	14 15	Barearolle, undated (For organ) Beautiful Songs of the World, undated (Collection of songs for children includes lyrics and drawings, unpublished)
	16	Beautiful Spring Come Back to Me, undated (First line of song. Piano and vocal score. Ms. and photocopy)
	17	Berceuse, 1935 (2 ms. for organ, 2 ms. for organ with vocal scores)
	18 19	Black Swans at Fountainbleau, 1934 (Sheet music) Cantata Sacre, 1905 (For piano and four voices)
6	1 2 3	Cantate Domino Canticum Novum, 1919 (Full score, 2 handwritten scores with notes) Cantata Sacre, 1905 (Full score) Cantilena and Musetta, 1928 (For organ)

Box/Folder		Description
	4	Confilms and stad (F. H. L.; B. L.; B. L.; L. B. L.)
	4	Cantilene, undated (For cello and piano. Based on music by Bach)
	5	Cantilina Nuziale, 1930 (For organ. May not be correct title)
	6	Canti Sicilian, undated (Piano and vocal scores)
	7	Canto di Primarera, undated (Piano and vocal scores; includes Canto d'Autumno and O Bella Bocca)
	8	Chimes of the Angelus, 1930 (For organ)
	9	Chinuetto, undated (For string quartet)
	10	Chonchita Mia, undated (By Carlo Neve, for piano)
	11	Christe the Lord is Risen, 1932 (Piano and vocal score, 3 copies with lyrics)
	12	Christmas Berceuse, 1938 (For organ)
	13	Christus Ressurexit, 1931 (Sheet music, organ and vocal score)
	14	Ciaconna in G-Minor, undated (Arranged for organ solo)
	15	Cloister Meditation, A, 1935 (For organ)
	16	Collection of Pieces for Organ, undated (8 piano scores by different composers)
	17	Composizioni Per Organo, 1922 (Sheet music, for organ)
	18	Con Ealma, 1908 (For organ)
	19	Contra Punto, 1903 (For three voices)
	20	Coro, 1905 (Full score)
	21	Cortege, undated (For organ)
	22	Creator Alme Siderum, 1908 (For four male voices)
7	1	Danza dei Bebe, 1904 (For piano four hands. May not be correct title)
	2	Dextera Domini, undated
	•	(By G.P. Palestrina. Published and in very poor condition)
	3	Dolore, undated (Piano and vocal scores. Title may not be correct)
	4	Double Fugue, 1935 (In G-Minor, for organ)
	5	Due Pezzi Per Organo, 1909 (Sheet music for organ. In very poor condition)
	6	Duet for Soprano and Tenor, 1911 (Piano and vocal scores)
	7 8	Easter Processional, undated (With parts) Ecce Panis, undated (Organ and vocal scores)
	9	Ecce Sacerdos Magnus, 1938 (For organ and four voices, with parts)
	10	Exercises, 1894-1904
	11	Faith in His Love, 1926 (Sheet music, for four voices and organ.)
	12	Fa La Nana Bambin, 1935 (Arranged for quartet of mixed voices)
	13	Fascino, undated (Organ and vocal scores)
	14	For the Good Friday Mass, 1931 (Vocal score)
	15	Four Antiphons, undated (For four part chorus of mixed voices)
	16	Fuga a 3 Voci, 1903 (For 3 voices)
	17	Fuga a 4 Voci, 1903 (For 4 voices)
	18	Gavotta in Solo, undated (For string quartet, with parts)
	19	Gavotta Umoresca, undated (For string quartet)
	20	Giaculatoria, undated (Organ and vocal scores)
	21	Glory Be to God, undated
		(For organ and 4 voices. Adapted from music by Bach)
	22	Grand Processional at Avignon, 1934 (Sheet music for organ)
	23	Hamburg, undated (For flute and clarinet)
	24 25	High Mass, 1930 (Complete service, organ and vocal scores)
	25 26	Holy Trinity Mass, undated (Published vocal score for three voices) Hosanna to the Son of David, 1936 (Sheet music, organ and vocal score)
	27	Hymn for Vespers in Lent, 1937 (Includes multiple pieces)
•		
8	1	Idillio, undated (For string quartet, with parts)
	2	Inno a 3 Voci, undated (Organ and vocal scores)
	3 4	Jewish Service, 1934 (Organ and vocal scores) Jesus Christus, 1930
	4	(Sheet music for four voices, ms. with organ and vocal scores)
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Box/Folder	Description
_	Kamanai Oatmu 1000 () (
5	Kamenoi Ostraw, 1929 (Vocal score)
6 7	Kyrie, undated (Organ and vocal scores) Last Composition, 1938 (Unfinished)
8	Last Composition, 1936 (Offinished) Lauda Jerusalem Dominum, 1916 (Sheet music, organ and vocal scores)
9	Leggenda, undated (Organ and vocal scores)
10	Lento Assai, undated (Vocal score, photocopy)
11	Libera Me Domine, undated (Vocal scores)
12	Little Story, undated (For piano)
13	Longing for Hawaii, 1932
	(By Carlo Neve. Words and music, includes handwriten story)
14	Love me O God, undated (Organ and vocal scores)
15	Madrigale, undated (Strings and vocal scores)
16	Madrigale ad una Bionda, 1928 (Philadelphia: St. Gregory Guild, 1928. Eight part chorus a capella with organ ad libitum)
17	Marcia Alle Fiacole, 1919 (For organ)
18	Mary Star of the Sea, 1914 (Organ and vocal scores)
19	May the Words, 1931 (For four mixed voices and organ)
20	Melodiae Sacre Collection, 1934 (Published volumes IV and V. Motets for Church services)
21	Messa del Corpus, undated (Full score)
22	Minuetto, 1897 (For string quartet, with parts)
23	Missa Pro Defunctis, undated (Vocal score)
24	Morning Bells, 1921 (By Carlo Neve. Piano and vocal score)
25	Morning Prayer, undated (For organ)
26	Morning Song, undated (Full score)
27	My Connie, undated (By Carlo Neve. Parts)
28	My Voyage, undated (Sketch. Includes lyrics by Georgia Grant Chester)
29	Neopolitan Love, undated (Piano and vocal score)
30	Ninna-Nanna, 1931 (Boston: McLaughlin and Reilly, 1931. For mixed quartette with incidental solo)
31	Night, undated (Piano and vocal score)
32	Nigra Sum Sed Formosa, 1916 (Organ and vocal score)
33	Nocturne, undated (Piano score)
34	Noel, 1932 (by Louis Claude d'Agum)
9 1	Nostalgia Autumnal, undated (Piano and vocal score, with lyrics)
2	Notes and other text, 1928 and undated
3	O Bella Bocca, 1929 (Vocal score)
4	O Bella Mia Speranza, undated
_	(Published, for organ with vocal score for six voices)
5 6	O Come and Mourn, undated (Vocal score) Old Hundred, The, 1935 (Piano and vocal score)
7	O Salutaris Hostia, undated (Published, organ and vocal score)
8	Passacaglia, undated (For piano)
9	Passion, The, undated
10	Petite Valse, undated (For piano)
11	Pie Jesus, 1911 (For three voices)
12	Prega Per Me, undated (For piano)
13	Prelude and Fugue in MInor Key for Pianoforte, 1934 (For piano)
14	Prelude and Fugue on the name BACH, undated (For piano)
15	Preludio All'Antica, 1903 (Published, for organ)
16	Preludio Reigioso, undated (For organ)
17	Prima Fuga, 1903 (For organ)
18 19	Pueri Hebreorum, undated (For three voices and organ)
19	Regina Coeli, 1941

Box/Folder		Description
	20	(Boston: McLaughlin & O'Reilly, 1941. Includes handwritten parts for four voices) Requiem Mass, 1936 (Four part chorous of mixed voices a capella (first copy from the original manuscript))
	21 22	Romance, undated (For piano) Romanze, 1932 (For violin and piano)
	23 24	Romanze Liriche, undated (Piano and vocal score) Romanze Senza, undated (For piano)
	25	Salve Regina, undated (Milan: A. Bertarelli and C. Organ and vocal score)
	26 27 28 29 30 31	Sanctus, undated (Milan: A. Bertarelli and C. For four voices) Sanctus and Benedictus, 1937 (For four voices, with parts) Sanctus for a funeral, undated (For three voices) Save Me O God, undated (Anthem for four mixed voices and organ) Se Avessi L'ali, undated (Piano and vocal score) Serenata, 1898 (Vocal and piano score)
10	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	Seven Words, 1932 (For four voices) Shadows, undated (Vocal and piano score, with lyrics) Silent Night, undated (For four voices, with parts) Six Kyrie Songs, undated (Piano and vocal scores) Six Pieces for Organ, undated (Cover only) Sketches (in pencil), 1921-1938 Sketches (in ink), 1906-1933 Sketches (workbook), 1918 (Includes note on inside cover: "reward will be paid" if found and returned) Socrum Convivium, 1921 (For five voices) Sonata in D-Minor, 1935 (For organ, in three movements) Son Gelasa Di te, undated (Piano and vocal score) Sonatina, undated (Piano score) Stabat Mater, 1918 (For double chorous and four solo of mixed voices) Suite Per Pergano, undated (In four parts) Super Flumina, undated (For three voices) Tantum Ergo, 1936 (Milan: A. Bertarelli and C. For organ and two voices) Te Deum, undated (For four voices and piano)
11	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	Terra Tremuit, 1934 (Offertory, SATB. With parts) Three Easy Pieces for Organ, undated

Box/F	older	Description
	18 19	Veglia, 1926 (Piano and vocal score) Veni Creator, undated (For organ and three voices)
	20	Veni Jesu, 1914 (For sprano, organ and vocal score)
Pov	Eol	SERIES III: OVERSIZED SERIES: CERTIFICATES, 1904-1922
<u>Box</u> 12	Fol 1 2 3	Accademia Filarmonica Siciliana, 1905 (Diploma) R. Conservatorio Di Musica, 1904 (Diploma) The American University of Chicago and Los Angeles, 1922 (Doctorate)