Finding Aid, PIMS.0011

Alinda B. Couper papers

Descriptive Summary

Creator
Couper, Alinda B.

Identifier
PIMS.0011

Inclusive dates
1901-2000

Extent
19 boxes (8.42 cubic feet)

Language
English

Location
Peabody Archives, Arthur Friedheim Library, Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University, 21 E. Mount Vernon Place, Baltimore, MD 21202

Abstract
Alinda Burnham Couper studied harmonic analysis with Nadia Boulanger and taught and composed music, becoming one of the pioneer composers of handbell music and developing a new technique called “four-in-hand.” Couper remained friends with Boulanger and exchanged letters for years after studying with her. The Alinda B. Couper papers contain manuscripts and published scores composed by Couper, as well as her notes, composition journals, papers, and photos.

Access Points
Boulanger, Nadia
Composers
Handbell music
Sacred vocal music
letters (correspondence)
photographs
scores

Administrative Information

Accession Number
2006.8

Immediate Source of Acquisition
Gift of Pamela Stein in 2006.

Conditions Governing Access
The collection is open to research use. Materials in the collection are available for use by appointment, Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Conditions Governing Use
Single copies may be made for research purposes. Permission to publish or perform materials from the collection must be requested from the Peabody

Archives. Researchers are responsible for determining any copyright questions.

Restrictions
The collection is open to research use at the Peabody Archives.

Processing History
Processed by Lauren Anderson and Alexandra Patterson in 2015.

Preferred Citation
[Name of folder or item], [Date], [Box number], [Folder number], Alinda B. Couper papers, PIMS.0011, Arthur Friedheim Library Special Collections, The Johns Hopkins University.

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Biographical Note
Alinda Burnham Couper (1901-1989) was born in Little Falls, New York. She graduated from Cornell University in 1923 and received a master’s degree in music composition from Radcliffe College in 1925. She studied harmonic analysis with Nadia Boulanger and taught and composed music, becoming one of the pioneer composers of handbell music and developing a new technique called “four-in-hand.” Couper remained friends with Boulanger and exchanged letters for years after studying with her.

Scope and Content
The collection contains manuscripts and published scores composed by Alinda B. Couper, as well as her notes, composition journals, papers, and photos.

Arrangement of Collection
The collection is arranged in three series.

Series I: Compositions
Subseries A: Handbell Music
Subseries B: Vocal Music
Subseries C: Miscellaneous Music
Subseries D: Lute Transcriptions
Subseries E: Fontainebleau Notes and Other Compositional Materials

Series II: Subject Files
Subseries A: Personal and Professional Papers
Subseries B: Professional Contracts and Promotional Materials

Series III: Photographs and Scrapbook

Container List
Series I: Compositions

This series contains manuscript and printed scores of music written or arranged by Couper.

Subseries A: Handbell Music

Box 1

1. “All Glory, Laud, and Honor.” One manuscript.
2. “A la claire fontaine.” Bell choir parts and one manuscript.
3. “Amazing Grace.” One manuscript.
7. “At the Lamb’s High Feast.” Three photocopies and one manuscript.
10. “Bist du bei mir.” One manuscript with cello part.
14. “Christ Lay in Bonds of Death.” One manuscript.
15. “Christ the Lord is Risen Again.” Two copies.
17. “Christmas Song.” One manuscript and two copies.
18. “Cockles and Mussels.” One manuscript.
21. “Come, Thou Wonder of All Ages.” One manuscript and two copies.
23. “Coventry Carol/ Lo, How a Rose.” One manuscript.
24. “Daisy Bell.” One manuscript.
26. “Dearest Jesus, Here We Bow.” One manuscript.
27. “Deck the Halls with Boughs of Holly.” One manuscript and one copy.
28. “Deck Thyself, my Soul, with Gladness.” One manuscript.
31. “Echo Song.” Two copies.
32. “Entre le boeuf et l’ane gois.” One manuscript.
34. “Fanfare for Easter.” One full score, trumpet part, handbell part.
41. “Hymn to Confucius” One manuscript.
42. “I love Thy Kingdom, Lord.” One manuscript.
43. “Improvisation.” Two manuscripts copy with revisions. 70.78.82.85.86
44. “In December Comes the Snow” 1961.
45. “Ipswich Saga.” One manuscript and one set of parts.
46. “Jingle Bells.” Four manuscripts.
47. “Joy to the World.” One manuscript and one set of parts.
49. “Largo in G.” One Manuscript.
50. “Lass uns erfreuen/Minuet in g.” One manuscript.
51. “The Lass with Delicate Hair/ Jesus, Savior Pilot Me.” One manuscript.
56. “Minuet in G.” One manuscript.
58. “Morning Mist.” One manuscript and one published copy. 1958
59. “Musette en Rondeau.” Two copies and one copy with revisions
60. “Now Praise We Great and Famous Men.” One copied set of bell choir parts
61. “Now Thank We All Our God.” Three manuscripts.
62. “O come, O come Emanuel.” One manuscript and three copies.
63. “Oriental Suite.” One full manuscript and parts.

Box 2

1. “Pastoral.” One published copy and one set of part
2. “Pere Eternal.” One manuscript.
3. “Praise to the Lord.” One manuscript and two copies with revisions.
4. “Procession-Rondeau.” One manuscript and full set of parts.
5. “Psalm 100.” Set of instructions, one manuscript and four published copies.
6. “Psalm 118, Rendez a Dieu.” One manuscript.
7. “Purcell Suite for Handbells.” Copied set of bell choir parts.
8. “Rejoice in the Lord Always.” One manuscript.
9. “Rejoice! Tis Eastertime!” One manuscript.
10. “Rigaudon.” One manuscript.
12. “Sarabande/ We Three Kings/Good King Wenceslas.” Two manuscripts and three copies.
13. “Siciliano.” Two copies
14. “Seagull’s Rock.” One manuscript and set of bell part copies.
15. “Skating Lessons.” One manuscript
17. “Silent Night.” One manuscript and one copy.
18. “Song of Praise from India.” One manuscript.
19. “Sing Praise to him who Reigns Above.” One copy.
20. “Suite for a Musical Clock.” Manuscript of one and three, copies and notes in Handel’s Music
22. “Tambourine n Rondeau.” Three copies
25. “Tis the Last Rose of Summer.” One partially finished manuscript and one copy.
27. “Toyland.” One manuscript.
29. “Turkey in the Straw.” One manuscript.
31. “What shall I do to Show my love.” One manuscript.
32. “While by My Sheep.” One manuscript.
33. “When Christ Was Born.” One manuscript.
34. “Welsh Hymn Melody.” Two copies.
35. “A young girl walks beside the river, thinking of marriage.” One manuscript.

Subseries B: Vocal Music

Box 3

2. “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name.” One Copy.
4. “As a Hart Longs for the Brooklet. Two Published Manuscripts.
5. “As with Gladness Men of Old.” Six copies.
7. “The Beatitudes.” One manuscript
8. “Blessed Are the Pure in Heart.” One manuscript.
9. “Ceremony of Carols.” One manuscript and two copies.
12. “Christ the Lord Is Risen Again.” One manuscript.
17. “Here with the Ox and Donkey Gray.” One published copy.
18. “How Should I your True Love Know?” One manuscript.
20. “In a Stable.” Two manuscripts and one copy.
24. “Let the Merry Churchbells Ring.” Manuscript with bell part.
26. “May I a Pilgrim Hope to tread.” One manuscript.
27. “My Lord, What a Morning.” One Full manuscript and parts.
28. “Now Thank We All Our God.” Three manuscripts and two ozalids.
31. “Oh Rejoice, Ye people.” One Published Copy.
32. “Parallel Organum.” One Onion Skin and eight Ozalid copies.
34. “Rejoice! ‘Tis Eastertime.” Five manuscripts.
38. “Round the Lord in Glory Seated.” Four manuscripts.
40. The Returning. Song Set.
   a. “Song of the Returning Shepherd.”
   b. “Mary Remembers.”
   c. “Doubting Thomas Remembers.”
   d. “Song of the Returning Wise Men.”
   e. Other Fragments.
41. “Shepherds on Watch.” One Manuscript.
42. “Song of the Returning Shepherd.” One manuscript and one fragment.
44. “Sweet Little Alice Blue Gown.” One manuscript.
46. “The Turtle Dove.” One manuscript.
47. “Two Civil War Songs.” Complete manuscript with trumpet and bell parts. 1965.
49. “Vespers.” One manuscript.
50. “Vesper Hymn.” One manuscript.
51. “Vaillie, Wallie.” One manuscript.
52. “Wait till the Sun Shines, Nellie.” One manuscript.
53. “Wenn mein Stundlein vor haiden ist.” One manuscript.
54. “The Willow Song.” One manuscript.
55. “Wisteria.” One manuscript.
57. “Who is on the Lord’s Side/ Faith of our Fathers.” Eight copies.

Subseries C: Miscellaneous Music

This subseries contains additional compositions and manuscript sketches by Couper, including notes, transcriptions, and arrangements.

Box 4

1. “American Dance.” Unspecified instrumentation. One handwritten manuscript and one photocopy. 1944.
7. *Free Harmonizations of Hymn Tunes by Fifty American Composers*, edited by D. Dewitt Wasson; Features Couper.
9. *Ancient Melodies and Hymns for Church Use*. 1966

Box 5

1. Assorted Instrumental Music (Not Foldered)
2. Assorted Bell Choir Music (Not Foldered)

Box 6

1. Assorted Vocal Music
2. Assorted Composition Journals

Box 7

Assorted liturgical music

Box 8

1. Assorted secular music

Box 19

Several volumes of *Les maîtres musiciens de la Renaissance française* (ed. Henry Expert, 1894-1908) with annotations by Couper.

**Subseries D: Lute Transcriptions**

This subseries contains Couper’s transcriptions of lute music and her related notes on musical arrangement.

Box 9

1. Couper’s Manuscripts of Transcriptions
2. Facsimiles of Spanish Lute Music by Antonio Cabezon
3. Letters about Music from the 15th Century
4. Notes about Transcriptions
5. Transcription Book I
6. Transcription Book II
7. Transcription Book III
8. Transcription Book IV
9. Transcription Book V
Subseries E: Fontainebleau Notes and Other Compositional Materials

This subseries contains materials related to Couper’s studies at Fontainebleau, including musical notebooks and other documents.

Box 10

1. Alumni Association Materials
   c. Concert Program. Sviatoslav Richter, piano. July 9, 1966. (2)
5. Haiti Transcriptions
6. Handbell Ringing
7. Notes on Composition
8. Notebooks (not foldered)
   g. Cahier de Musique. “Material in course of Improvisation, Marcel Dupré. Alinda Burnham, Fontainebleau, 1927.”
   h. Cahier de Musique. “Burnham, June 1931.”
   i. Cahier de Musique. “Burnham, August 1931.”

Series II: Subject Files

This series contains documents created or collected by Couper in the course of her personal and professional activities.

Subseries A: Personal and Professional Papers

Box 11

1. Copyright info
5. Programs from her performances, 1923 and undated.
6. Publicity
7. Schooling materials and certificates
   a. Class Day Exercises, North High School, Class of 1918.
   b. Radcliffe College Commencement Program, June 17, 1925.

8. Writings about Couper
9. Writings by Couper
10. Wedding plans, guest list, and invitation

Subseries B: Professional Contracts and Promotional Materials

Box 12

1. Abingdon Press Contracts
2. American Guild Handbell Ringers
3. Arthur Burnham Estate
4. Bell Tower Publishing Corp.
5. Belwin Mills-1971
6. Canyon Press Contract-Royalties
7. Choristers Guild-Contracts
8. Choristers Guild-Letters/Royalties
9. Galaxy Music Co.
10. Harold Flammer/Shawnee Press
11. Hudson Valley Music Club Study Group
12. H.W. Gray-Contracts
13. J. Fischer Contracts
14. Lectures
15. List of ABC Bell Music
16. Lorenz Publishing Co.
17. Mercury-Contracts/Royalties
18. Press/Honors
20. Studies

Series III: Photographs and Scrapbook

Box 13

1. Burnham Family Pictures
2. Burnham Family Photos.
5. “Our Washington House.”
6. Unmarked Photos
7. Vacation Pictures.
8. Walter’s Pictures.
9. Williamsburg, VA

Box 14
Assorted photographs
Box 15
Assorted photographs

Box 16
Assorted photographs

Box 17
Scrapbook

Box 18
Personal photos and other family items

**Related Materials**


**Revised**

April 2017