

Guide to the James Weldon Johnson Memorial Collection manuscript music

JWJ MSS 355



Karen Spicher

2021 October

P. O. Box 208330
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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: JWJ MSS 355

CREATOR: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

TITLE: James Weldon Johnson Memorial Collection manuscript music

DATES: 1902-1957

BULK DATES: 1931-1945

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 8.0 linear feet (5 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Autograph manuscript and manuscript reproduction scores and parts for circa 50 works, most by African American composers, including music for voice and piano, chorus, band, or orchestra, 1902-1957, with most 1931-1945 or undated. Circa 20 composers are represented, including Margaret Bonds, H. T. Burleigh, William L. Dawson, George Gershwin, W. C. Handy, Hall Johnson, Ulysses Kay, Florence Price, William Grant Still, Roberta Russell Summers Stone, Howard Swanson, and Will H. Vodery. Vocal music includes texts by African American authors Countee Cullen, James Weldon Johnson, Langston Hughes, Alain Locke, and Bruce Nugent. Some items are inscribed by composers to Carl Van Vechten or others, and some are accompanied by correspondence between composers and Van Vechten or other related materials, 1936-1960.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.jwjmsmusic>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.jwjmsmusic>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

These materials are presumed to have been donated to the James Weldon Johnson Memorial Collection in the early years of its establishment, 1941-1950. More information may be available in the Carl Van Vechten Papers Relating to African American Arts and Letters (JWJ MSS 1050).

Preferred Citation

James Weldon Johnson Memorial Collection manuscript music. James Weldon Johnson Memorial Collection in the Yale Collection of American Literature.

Processing Information

Formerly cataloged as single items in the Beinecke Library's manuscript card catalog, with call numbers beginning Vms, followed by a cutter number based on composer name. In 2021 October, catalog cards were converted to a finding aid, with standardized item-level descriptions and enhancement of composer names and work titles in conformance with the Library of Congress Name Authority File or other authoritative sources.

Scope and Contents

Autograph manuscript and manuscript reproduction scores and parts for circa 50 works, most by African American composers, including music for voice and piano, chorus, band, or orchestra, 1902-1957, with most 1931-1945 or undated. Circa 20 composers are represented, including Margaret Bonds, H. T. Burleigh, William L. Dawson, George Gershwin, W. C. Handy, Hall Johnson, Ulysses Kay, Florence Price, William Grant Still, Roberta Russell Summers Stone, Howard Swanson, and Will H. Vodery. Vocal music includes texts by African American authors Countee Cullen, James Weldon Johnson, Langston Hughes, Alain Locke, and Bruce Nugent. Some items are inscribed by composers to Carl Van Vechten or others, and some are accompanied by correspondence between composers and Van Vechten or other related materials, 1936-1960.

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by composer name, and alphabetically by work title within each name.

Collection Contents

Manuscript Music

Notated music is in autograph manuscript and full score, unless otherwise indicated. Presentation inscriptions are by composer, unless otherwise indicated. Items are identified as autograph manuscript as transcribed from catalog cards and have not been verified. Songs are for voice and piano, unless otherwise indicated.

b. 1 (Oversize), f. 1	Allen, Chester. <i>When Colina's blue</i> (song) Presentation inscription to James Weldon Johnson. Former call number: Vms A15 W4.	undated
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 2	Bonds, Margaret. <i>Songs of the seasons</i> . (song cycle). Words by Langston Hughes (1902-1967). Diazo reproduction Contents: Poème d'automne. Winter moon. Young love in spring. Summer storm. Presentation inscriptions from Bonds and Hughes to Carl Van Vechten, 1960. Former call number: Vms B6 So5.	undated
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 3	Burleigh, H. T. (Harry Thacker) (1866-1949), arranger. <i>Ain't gonna study war no mo'</i> (spiritual) Former call number: Vms B92 Ai6.	undated
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 4	Burleigh, H. T. (Harry Thacker) (1866-1949). <i>A song of rest</i> . Words by Fred G. Bowles Former call number: Vms B92 So5.	undated
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 5	Burleigh, H. T. (Harry Thacker) (1866-1949). <i>Passionale</i> (song cycle). <i>Your eyes so deep</i> . Words by James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938) Presentation inscription to Carl Van Vechten. Accompanied by song text, typescript, with autograph manuscript revisions by Johnson and annotations by Burleigh. Former call number: Vms B92 Y6.	1957
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 6	Burleigh, H. T. (Harry Thacker) (1866-1949). <i>When the twilight shadows fall</i> (song) Former call number: Vms B92 W5.	undated
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 7	Burleigh, H. T. (Harry Thacker) (1866-1949). Accompanying material Contains an envelope addressed to Grace Nail Johnson, 1937; and a clipping about Burleigh, 1944.	1937-1944
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 8	Carpenter, Elliot (1894-1982). <i>America's young Black Joe</i> (song). Words by Langston Hughes (1902-1967). Photocopy Inscription by Langston Hughes. Former call number: Vms C22 Am3.	undated
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 9	Cohen, Cecil (1894-1967). <i>Four winds</i> (song). Words by Sara Teasdale (1884-1933) Presentation inscription to Harold Jackman, 1938. Former call number: Vms C6 F8.	undated

b. 1 (Oversize), f. 10	Coleridge-Taylor, Samuel (1875-1912). <i>Scenes from The song of Hiawatha</i> (cantata). Quotations, signed Texts: "Onaway, awake, beloved" and "Thou the wildflower of the forest." Accompanied by a receipt for purchase from Walter R. Benjamin Autographs, undated. Former call number: Vms C67 H53.	undated
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 11	Dawson, William L. (William Levi) (1899-1990). <i>Break, break, break</i> (chorus and orchestra). Words by Alfred Tennyson, Baron Tennyson (1809-1892). Negative photocopy Former call number: Vms D32 B7.	undated
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 12	Dawson, William L. (William Levi) (1899-1990). <i>Go to sleep</i> (song for voice, piano, and violin). Words by Vernon N. Ray Former call number: Vms D32 G5.	undated
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 13	Dawson, William L. (William Levi) (1899-1990). <i>Interlude</i> (piano and orchestra). Piano part. Diazo reproduction Former call number: Vms D32 In8.	undated
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 14	Dawson, William L. (William Levi) (1899-1990). <i>Out in the fields</i> (chorus (SATB) and orchestra). Words by Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806-1861). Negative photocopy Former call number: Vms D32 Ou8.	undated
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 15-17	Dawson, William L. (William Levi) (1899-1990). <i>Symphony, no. 1, E-flat major</i> . Negative photocopy Former call number: Vms D32 Sy6.	undated
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 18	Emmett, Daniel Decatur (1815-1904). <i>Dixie</i> . (introduction and vocal part) Former call number: Vms Em6 D6.	1902 August 1
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 19	Gershwin, George (1898-1937). <i>Show girl</i> (musical) Former call number: Vms G23 Sh8.	undated
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 20	Gershwin, George (1898-1937). <i>Show girl</i> (musical). <i>My Sunday Fella. Sunday Feller Ballet</i> Former call number: Vms G23 Sh8.	undated
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 21	Handy, W. C. (William Christopher) (1873-1958). <i>Basement blues</i> (military band). Parts Part for B-flat clarinet II and III, verso: presentation inscription to Carl Van Vechten, 1942 January 7. Former call number: Vms H19 B2.	undated
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 22	Handy, W. C. (William Christopher) (1873-1958), arranger. <i>I'll never turn back no more</i> (spiritual, for alto, baritone, and chorus (SATB)) Presentation inscription to Carl Van Vechten, 1942 January 7. Former call number: Vms H19 I2.	undated

b. 2 (Oversize), f. 23	Handy, W. C. (William Christopher) (1873-1958), arranger. <i>Shine like a mornin' star</i> (spiritual, for chorus and piano). Manuscript copy by Clarence M. Jones, and "second proof," with manuscript corrections in an unidentified hand Accompanied by two typed letters from Handy to Carl Van Vechten, 1942 September 22 and October 3. Former call number: Vms H19 Sh6.	copyright 1942
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 24	Handy, W. C. (William Christopher) (1873-1958). <i>Stand on that sea of glass</i> (spiritual, for chorus (SATB)) Presentation inscription to Carl Van Vechten, 1942 January 7. Former call number: Vms H19 St2.	undated
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 25	Johnson, Hall (1888-1970). <i>Run little chillun</i> (folk drama). <i>Ritual music of the new-day pilgrims</i> . Sketches Contents: "Processional," "Credo," "Hymn to the rising moon," and "Dance music for finale of tongola scene." Accompanied by notes and an envelope from Hall addressed to Harold Jackman. Former call number: Vms J63 R8.	undated
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 26	Johnson, Hall (1888-1970), arranger. <i>The star-spangled banner</i> (for chorus (SATB)) Former call number: Vms J63 St2.	1936
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 27	Kay, Ulysses (1917-1995). <i>Danse calinda</i> (ballet). <i>Scene 2</i> . Master copy for reproduction Presentation inscription to the James Weldon Johnson Memorial Collection, Yale University, 1948 December 2. Former call number: Vms K18 D2.	undated
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 28	Kay, Ulysses (1917-1995). <i>Song of Jeremiah</i> (cantata). Diazo reproduction Presentation inscription to Carl Van Vechten, 1946 June 20. Former call number: Vms K18 J4.	1945
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 29	Kay, Ulysses (1917-1995). <i>Suite</i> (orchestra). Master copy for reproduction Presentation inscription to the James Weldon Johnson Memorial Collection, Yale University, 1948 December 2. Former call number: Vms K18 Su4.	1945
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 30	Kay, Ulysses (1917-1995). Unidentified sketches Former call number: Vms K18 D2.	undated
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 31	Muse, Clarence. <i>Listen, Lord: a prayer</i> (song). Words by James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938), from <i>God's trombones</i> Former call number: Vms M97 L6.	copyright 1935
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 32	Price, Florence (1887-1953). <i>Symphony, no. 3, C minor</i> Accompanied by photograph portrait of Price, by G. Nelidoff, Chicago, with presentation inscription to Carl Van Vechten. Former call number: Vms P93 Sy6.	undated

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| b. 4 (Oversize), f. 58 | Schuyler, Philippa (1932-1967). <i>Manhattan nocturne</i> (orchestra)
Presentation inscription to the James Weldon Johnson Memorial Collection, Yale University, 1946 September 5.
Former call number: Vms Sch8 M3. | undated |
| b. 3 (Oversize), f. 33 | Still, William Grant (1895-1978). <i>Kaintuck'</i> (piano and orchestra). Master copy for reproduction, with revisions
Accompanied by a typed letter, signed, from Verna Arvey to Carl Van Vechten, 1942 November 13.
Former call number: Vms St54 K12. | undated |
| b. 5 (Oversize) | Still, William Grant (1895-1978) <i>Sahdji</i> (ballet for orchestra and chorus). Scenario by Richard Bruce Nugent (1906-1987) and Alain Locke (1885-1954)
Presentation inscription to Carl Van Vechten, 1941 January 20.
Accompanied by autograph letters, signed, to Van Vechten from Bruce, postmarked 1942 February 19, and from Locke, 1942 March 16.
Former call number: Vms St54 Sa19. | circa 1931 |
| b. 3 (Oversize), f. 34 | Still, William Grant (1895-1978). <i>The voice of the Lord</i> (for tenor, chorus (SATB) and organ). Photocopy
Accompanied by a typed letter, signed, from Still to Carl Van Vechten, 1946 September 3.
Former call number: Vms St54 P9. | undated |
| b. 3 (Oversize), f. 35 | Stone, Roberta Russell Summers (1886-). <i>At the last</i> (song). Words by A. Newberry (Arthur Newberry) Choyce (1893-1937)
Former call number: Vms St7 At1. | undated |
| b. 3 (Oversize), f. 36 | Stone, Roberta Russell Summers (1886-). <i>The broken field</i> (song). Words by Sara Teasdale (1884-1933)
Former call number: Vms St7 B7. | undated |
| b. 3 (Oversize), f. 37 | Stone, Roberta Russell Summers (1886-). <i>Evangeline spinning</i> (song). Words by Herman Salinger (1905-1983)
Former call number: Vms St7 Ev14. | undated |
| b. 3 (Oversize), f. 38 | Stone, Roberta Russell Summers (1886-). <i>The glory of the day was in her face</i> (song). Words by James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938)
Presentation inscription to James Weldon Johnson, 1936 June 17.
Accompanied by a photograph portrait of Stone, inscribed to James Weldon Johnson on verso, undated; an envelope addressed from Stone to Johnson, 1936; and an autograph letter, signed, from Grace Nail Johnson to Carl Van Vechten, 1945 September 22.
Former call number: Vms St7 G5. | undated |
| b. 3 (Oversize), f. 39 | Stone, Roberta Russell Summers (1886-). <i>Gray eyes</i> (song). Words by Sara Teasdale (1884-1933)
Former call number: Vms St7 G7. | undated |

b. 3 (Oversize), f. 40	Stor, Jean. <i>A lady I know</i> (song). Words by Countee Cullen (1903-1946) Accompanied by a printed program for a performance of <i>Suite for strings</i> , by Stor, 1942 July 19, Lewisohn Stadium, College of the City of New York; and a letter from Harold Jackman to Carl Van Vechten, 1942 September 16. Former call number: Vms St74 L12.	undated
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 41	Sullivan, Maxine (1911-1987), performer. Arrangement of <i>Loch Lomond</i> (jazz vocal). Lead sheets for violins and cello Accompanied by an autograph manuscript note by Langston Hughes, 1952 October. Former call number: Vms Su5 L7.	undated
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 42	Swanson, Howard (1907-1978). <i>Ghosts in love</i> (song). Words by Vachel Lindsay (1879-1931) Former call number: Vms Sw24 G3.	undated
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 43	Swanson, Howard (1907-1978). <i>Short symphony</i> Former call number: Vms Sw24 Sh7.	undated
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 44	Swanson, Howard (1907-1978). <i>Short symphony</i> (arrangement for piano) Former call number: Vms Sw24 Sh7b.	undated
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 45	Swanson, Howard (1907-1978). <i>Still life</i> (song). Words by Carl Sandburg (1878-1967) Former call number: Vms Sw24 St5.	undated
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 46	Vodery, Will H. <i>Dearest memories</i> (song). Vocal part Former call number: Vms V85 D3.	undated
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 47	Vodery, Will H., arranger. <i>Good bye Jonah</i> (spiritual, for 8 voices (SSAATTBarB)) Former call number: Vms V85 G6.	undated
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 48	Vodery, Will H. <i>Messed up in love</i> (song) Former call number: Vms V85 M5.	undated
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 49	Vodery, Will H. <i>N. A. G. A. marching song</i> About the Negro Actors Guild of America. Former call number: Vms V85 N2.	undated
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 50	Vodery, Will H. <i>N. A. G. A. marching song</i> (for orchestra) About the Negro Actors Guild of America. Former call number: Vms V85 N2b.	undated
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 51	Vodery, Will H., arranger. <i>Sittin' in de lap o' de Lord</i> (spiritual, for vocal quartet (SATB) and instrumental ensemble). 2 scores and parts for alto saxophone (or clarinet) I and II and violin Former call number: Vms V85 Si8.	undated
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 52	Vodery, Will H. and Noble Sissle (1889-1975). <i>The unknown soldier lives again</i> (song) Former call number: Vms V85 Un4.	undated

b. 3 (Oversize), f. 53	Vodery, Will H. <i>When Eden was a garden</i> (song). Words by Sam M. Lewis (1885-1959) Accompanied by typescript song text, with manuscript annotations in an unidentified hand. Former call number: Vms V85 W5.	copyright 1944 July 18
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 54	Vodery, Will H., arranger. <i>Why do I love you?</i> (vocal quartet) Arrangement of <i>Why do I love you?</i> from <i>Showboat</i> (musical), by Jerome Kern (1885-1945). Former call number: Vms V85 W6.	undated
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 55	Vodery, Will H., arranger. <i>Wiry whip</i> (vocal octet (SSAATTBB)) Former call number: Vms V85 W7.	undated
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 56	White, Clarence Cameron (1880-1960). <i>Ouanga</i> (opera). <i>Prelude</i> Accompanied by an envelope fragment addressed from White to Carl Van Vechten, postmarked 1947 May 8. Former call number: Vms W58 Oul.	1942
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 57	Unidentified. Fragments of unidentified works	undated

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

African American Composers
African American women composers
American literature -- African American authors -- 20th Century.
Band music -- Scores
Composers -- United States
Harlem Renaissance
Musicals -- United States -- Scores.
Music by African American composers -- 20th Century
Orchestra music -- Scores
Songs with piano
Symphonies -- Scores
Women composers -- United States

Nugent, Bruce, 1906-1987
Kay, Ulysses, 1917-1995
Price, Florence, 1887-1953
Still, William Grant, 1895-1978
Still, William Grant, 1895-1978. (Kaintuck')
Still, William Grant, 1895-1978. (Sahdji)
Still, William Grant, 1895-1978. (Voice of the Lord)
Stone, Roberta Russell Summers, 1886-
Sullivan, Maxine, 1911-1987
Swanson, Howard, 1907-1978
Swanson, Howard, 1907-1978. (Short symphony.)
Van Vechten, Carl, 1880-1964
Vodery, Will H.

Genres / Formats

Musicals
Parts (Music)
Photographs
Scores
Songs
Symphonies

Contributors

Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Bonds, Margaret, 1913-1972
Bonds, Margaret (Songs of the seasons)
Burleigh, H. T. (Harry Thacker), 1866-1949
Burleigh, H. T. (Harry Thacker), 1866-1949. (Passionale. Your eyes so deep.)
Coleridge-Taylor, Samuel, 1875-1912
Coleridge-Taylor, Samuel, 1875-1912. (Scenes from The song of Hiawatha.)
Cullen, Countee, 1903-1946
Dawson, William L. (William Levi), 1899-1990
Dawson, William L. (William Levi), 1899-1990. (Out in the fields.)
Gershwin, George, 1898-1937
Gershwin, George, 1898-1937. (Show girl.)
Handy, W. C. (William Christopher), 1873-1958
Hughes, Langston, 1902-1967
Johnson, Hall, 1888-1970
Johnson, James Weldon, 1871-1938
Locke, Alain, 1885-1954