

Guide to the Alan Hovhaness Letters to Judith Malina

YCAL MSS 359



by Susan Brady

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Collection Overview

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

CALL NUMBER: YCAL MSS 359

CREATOR: Hovhaness, Alan, 1911-2000

TITLE: Alan Hovhaness letters to Judith Malina

DATES: 1953-1959

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.42 linear feet (1 box)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The collection consists of Alan Hovhaness's letters to Judith Malina with accompanying notes, poems, photographs, and printed material. Two letters from Hovhaness to Malina's husband, Julian Beck, and a carbon copy of his response are also included.

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

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.hovhaness>.

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

Purchased from Margolis & Moss on the Adele Gutman Nathan Theatrical Collection Fund, 2009.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Alan Hovhaness Letters to Judith Malina are the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

Alan Hovhaness Letters to Judith Malina. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Existence and Location of Copies

The entire collection is available in digital form.

Alan Hovhaness (1911-2000)

Alan Hovhaness was a prolific American composer whose works were influenced by both Western and non-Western musical traditions. He composed over sixty symphonies including Symphony No. 2, *Mysterious Mountain*, which was premiered by Leopold Stokowski in his debut with the Houston Symphony in 1955. Hovhaness also wrote incidental music for Clifford Odets' Broadway play *The Flowering Peach* and composed music for several of Martha Graham's choreographic works. In 1952 he met Judith Malina, co-director of the Living Theatre, through his wife Serafina Ferrante Hovhaness, who performed with the company. Following their meeting Hovhaness performed benefit concerts and composed incidental music for the Living Theatre production of Strindberg's *Ghost Sonata*.

Judith Malina (1926-)

Judith Malina, actor, writer, and director, co-directed the Living Theatre, a New York-based avant-garde theatre company, with her husband Julian Beck from 1947 until Beck's death in 1985. Malina and company member Hanon Reznikov (who became her second husband) co-directed the company until his death in 2008, after which she assumed sole directorship.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of handwritten letters from Hovhaness to Judith Malina in which he expresses, in prose as well as poetry, his ardent love for her. The letters also include comments regarding his travels, compositions, and his desire to collaborate on various works with Malina. Each letter is enclosed in a sheet of paper annotated with date and city by Malina. Accompanying the letters are two drafts of letters from Malina to Hovhaness; two letters from Hovhaness to Julian Beck regarding a production with a carbon copy of Beck's response; photographs of Hovhaness, his wife Serafina, and Malina; lists of Hovhaness's performances, and printed notices, performance programs, and press clippings; and copies of typed transcripts of the Hovhaness letters annotated by Malina.

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.

Collection Contents

Hovhaness Letters and Accompanying Material, 1953-59

0.42 linear feet

b. 1, f. 1-5	Hovhaness letters to Judith Malina with cover sheets annotated by Malina	1953-58, undated
b. 1, f. 6	Poems and quotes sent by Hovhaness to Judith Malina	1959
b. 1, f. 7	Drafts of two letters from Malina to Hovhaness; three Haikus written by Malina in Hovhaness's hand; and carbon copy of Malina letter to a Mr. Adkins regarding a photograph of Serafina Hovhaness	1959 Feb
b. 1, f. 8	Letters to Julian Beck with carbon copy of Beck letter to Hovhaness	1959 Feb
b. 1, f. 9	Photographs of Hovhaness, his wife Serafina, and Judith Malina	1955, undated
b. 1, f. 10	Lists of Hovhaness's performances in his hand; printed performance notices and programs	1953-56
b. 1, f. 11	"Some additional momentos" consisting of envelopes addressed to Malina in Hovhaness's hand	1954-58
b. 1, f. 12	Press clippings regarding Hovhaness and Thornton Wilder	1954-57
b. 1, f. 13	Carbon copies of typed transcripts of Hovhaness letters with annotations in Malina's hand	1953-58, undated
b. 1, f. 14	Photocopies of typed transcripts of Hovhaness letters with annotations in Malina's hand	1953-58, 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

Composers -- United States

Genres / Formats

Photographs

Names

Beck, Julian, 1925-1985

Hovhaness, Alan, 1911-2000

Malina, Judith, 1926-2015

Corporate Body

Living Theatre (New York, N.Y.)