Aaron Avshalomov scores
ACA

Special Collections in Performing Arts
University of Maryland Libraries

Processed by: Mario Perez, Josh Bermudez
Date Processed: August 2016
Size: 22.00 Linear Feet
Inclusive Dates: 1933-1956
Bulk Dates: 1935 -1955
Collection No.: 2016-076-AAVSHALOMOV
SCPA shelf location: HH8-2-1 to HH8-3-10
Abstract
Aaron Avshalomov was born in Nikolaievsk, Siberia on October 31, 1894 to Jewish-Russian parents. His father wanted Aaron to study medicine and sent him to Switzerland for that purpose in 1913. Instead, he enrolled in the Zürich Conservatory, where, for a few months, he received his only formal training in music. After the outbreak of World War I, Avshalomov left Europe, returning to Russia and then moving on to China and the United States, where he married his first wife, Esther Magidson, in 1916. The couple immigrated to China the following year, and Aaron stayed in the country even after they divorced and Esther and their son, Jacob, returned to the United States in 1919. Most of the next thirty years of Avshalomov’s life was spent in China, where he served as head librarian of the Municipal Library of Shanghai (1928-43), helped form the Chinese Music Study Society, and conducted the Shanghai Municipal Orchestra (1943-6). After living under house arrest during the Japanese occupation of China, Aaron joined his son in the United States in 1947, where he attempted to recreate the success he had found in China. Aaron Avshalomov died in New York City on April 16, 1965. The collection consists of scores of his works and manuscripts.

Important Information for Users of the Collection
Restrictions: There are no restricted files in this collection. Performance editions are available from the American Composers Alliance (www.composers.com).
Preferred Citation: Aaron Avshalomov scores, Special Collections in Performing Arts, University of Maryland Libraries.
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Status: This collection is PROCESSED

Historical Note
Aaron Avshalomov was born in Nikolaievsk, Siberia on October 31, 1894 to Jewish-Russian parents. His father wanted Aaron to study medicine and sent him to Switzerland for that purpose in 1913. Instead, he enrolled in the Zürich Conservatory, where, for a few months, he received his only formal training in music. After the outbreak of World War I, Avshalomov left Europe, returning to Russia and then moving on to China and the United States, where he married his first wife, Esther Magidson, in 1916. The couple immigrated to China the following year, and Aaron stayed in the country even after they divorced and Esther and their son, Jacob, returned to the United States in 1919. Most of the next thirty years of Avshalomov’s life was spent in China, where he served as head librarian of the Municipal Library of Shanghai (1928-43), helped form the Chinese Music Study Society, and conducted the Shanghai Municipal Orchestra (1943-6). After living under house arrest during the Japanese occupation of China, Aaron joined his son in the United States in 1947, where he attempted to recreate the success he had found in China. Aaron Avshalomov died in New York City on April 16, 1965.

As a child, Avshalomov had first been exposed to traditional Chinese music, particularly Peking opera, in 1907 when his family lived in Khabarovsk, a town near the Russia-China border. After his semi-permanent relocation to China, the dual influence of Chinese and Western musical
cultures became the driving force of his career. His compositions feature the use Western musical instruments to recreate elements of traditional Chinese music and were highly successful with Chinese audiences. These included the First Symphony, the operas Kuan Yin, The Twilight Hour of Yan Kuen Fei, and The Great Wall, and concertos for violin, flute, and piano. The major compositions from his years in the United States are the Second and Third Symphonies and the ballet Dream of Wei Lin.

Scope and Contents of Collection
The Aaron Avshalomov collection covers the period from 1933 to 1956; the bulk of the materials date from 1935 to 1955. The collection consists entirely of scores, including published works and manuscripts.

Custodial History and Acquisition Information
Gift of Jacob Avshalomov, son of Aaron Avshalomov, received in three shipments in September and October 2009. The collection was formerly deeded by the Avshalomov Family to the University of Maryland in December 2015.

Arrangement of Collection
This collection is organized into two series.
- Series I: Printed Music by Aaron Avshalomov
- Series II: Aaron Avshalomov Manuscripts

Series Descriptions

**Series I: Printed Music by Aaron Avshalomov**

**Series II: Aaron Avshalomov Manuscripts**

Box Inventory

**Series 1 – Printed Music by Aaron Avshalomov**

Box 1
Folder 1  “Adjanta (Piano Solo Version)” – Avshalomoff, Aaron
Folder 2  “Adjanta (Score)” – Avshalomoff, Aaron (July 1939)
Folder 3  “Adjanta (Chamber Ensemble Parts)” – Avshalomoff, Aaron (5)
Folder 4  “Adjanta (Orchestral Parts)” – Avshalomoff, Aaron (29)
Folder 5  Arrangements for Viola – Avshalomoff, Aaron
Folder 6  “By and By You Will Die” – Avshalomoff, Aaron

Box 2
Folder 1  “The Carefree Tree” – Avshalomoff, Aaron (October 1955)
Box 3
Folder 1 “Chess Player (Score, 3 Copies)” – Avshalomoff, Aaron (May 27, 1954)
Folder 2 “Cheng Tin Hwa (Chinese Folk Ballad)” – Avshalomoff, Aaron
Folder 3 “Chung-Kwei (Orchestral Score)” – Avshalomoff, Aaron (1940)
Folder 4 “Chung-Kwei (Parts)” – Avshalomoff, Aaron (1940)
Folder 5 “Concerto for Flute (Copied Parts)” – Avshalomoff, Aaron (1948)

Box 4
Folder 1 “Concerto for Flute and Orchestra (Original Parts)” – Avshalomoff, Aaron
Folder 2 “Concerto for Flute and Orchestra (Score)” – Avshalomoff, Aaron
Folder 3 “Concerto for Flute and Orchestra (Piano Score and Solo Part)” – Avshalomoff, Aaron

Box 5
Folder 1 “Concerto in G for Piano (Score and Parts)” – Avshalomoff, Aaron

Box 6
Folder 1 “Concerto in G for Piano (Piano Score)” – Avshalomoff, Aaron
Folder 2 “Concerto in G for Piano (Solo Part)” – Avshalomoff, Aaron
Folder 3 “Concerto in G for Piano (Score)” – Avshalomoff, Aaron (1935)
Folder 4 “Concerto in G for Piano (Piano Part, Photocopy)” – Avshalomoff, Aaron
Folder 5 “Concerto for Flute (Score)” – Avshalomoff, Aaron

Box 7
Folder 1 “Concerto for Violin (Parts)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 2 “Concerto for Violin (Piano Score)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 3 “Concerto for Violin (Solo Part, 2 Copies)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 4 “Concerto for Violin (Score)” – Avshalomov, Aaron

Box 8
Folder 1 “Concerto for Violin (Hard Bound Score)” – Avshalomov, Aaron (1937)
Folder 2 “A Dance with Mirror (from Act II of “The Great Wall”)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 3 “Desolation (Piano Part)” – Avshalomov, Aaron (1942)
Folder 4 “Drowning in Fog (Score)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 5 “Four Biblical Tableaux (Parts)” – Avshalomov, Aaron

Box 9
Folder 1 “The Great Wall (Copied String Parts)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 2 “The Great Wall (Copied Wind Parts)” – Avshalomov, Aaron

Box 10
Folder 1 “The Great Wall (Copied Brass & Percussion Parts)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 2 “The Great Wall (Bound String Parts, 1 of 2)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Box 11
Folder 1  “The Great Wall (Bound String Parts, 2 of 2)” – Avshalomov, Aaron

Box 12
Folder 1  “The Great Wall (Bound Wind Parts)” – Avshalomov, Aaron

Box 13
Folder 1  “The Great Wall (Bound Brass & Percussion Parts)” – Avshalomov, Aaron

Box 14
Folder 1  “The K’e Still Ripples to Its Banks” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 2  “The K’e Still Ripples (arr. flute, strings, perc., harp, piano)” (score & violin part) – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 3  “The K’e Still Ripples to Its Banks (Score & Parts)” – Avshalomov, Aaron (1939)
Folder 4  “Kinsei (Oboe Part)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 5  “Kinsei’s Death (Parts)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 6  “Kwei Fei’s Lament (Score & Parts)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 7  “Lullaby (from opera ‘Kwan Yin’)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 8  “Lullaby (Score & Parts)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 9  “Marvari Gopi (Score & Parts)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 10  “Marvari Gopi (Piano Solo Version)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 11  “Marvari Gopi (Indian Dance)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 12  “Mongolian Warrior (Parts)” – Avshalomov, Aaron

Box 15
Folder 1  “Mudra (Piano Solo Version)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 2  “Mudra (Score & Parts)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 3  “Nocturne (for Er-Hu with Orchestra, no solo part)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 4  “Parvati (Indian Dance, score & parts)” – Avshalomov, Aaron (1939)
Folder 5  “Peiping Hutungs (Parts)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 6  “Peiping Hutungs (Parts)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 7  “Peiping Hutungs (Score)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 8  “#1 – Plucking The Flowers (Piano Score)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 9  “Preludes No. 3 & 4” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 10  “Prelude No. 5 (Score)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 11  “Prelude No. 6 (Score)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 12  “Queen Esther’s Prayer (Parts, Bass missing)” – Avshalomov, Aaron

Box 16
Folder 1  “Sakura (Score)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 2  “Snan Lila (score & parts)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 3  “Snan Lila (score & parts)” – Avshalomov, Aaron (1939)
Folder 4  “A Song of Lamentation (violin part)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 5  “A Song of Lamentation (for Violin, Viola, & Piano)” – Avshalomov, Aaron (1963)
Folder 6  “The Soul of the Ch’In (Violin I Part, original and copy)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 7  “South Indian Temple Dance (Devadasi)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 8  “Spring Dance (arr. Er-Hu and Orchestra)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 9  “Sublimation (3 Scores)” – Avshalomov, Aaron (1949)
Folder 10 “Raddha Krishna (Piano Score)” – Avshalomov, Aaron (1939)
Folder 11 “String Quartet (Parts)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 12 “Stroll in an Ancient Garden (Score & Parts)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 13 “Stroll in an Ancient Garden (for Mixed Chorus)” – Avshalomov, Aaron

Box 17
Folder 1  “Summit Temple (Score)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 2  “Sword Dance (Parts & Score)” – Avshalomov, Aaron (1933)
Folder 3  “Sword Dance (Score & Piano Score)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 4  “Symphony No. 1 (Piano Score)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 5  “Symphony No. 1 (Score)” – Avshalomov, Aaron

Box 18
Folder 1  “Symphony No. 2 (Score)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 2  “Three Songs (Score & Parts)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 3  “Tsin Wing’s Last Words (Score)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 4  “Tsun Wung’s Last Words (Score & Parts)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 5  “Twilight Hour of Yang Kwei Fei (Corrected Sheets)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 6  “Two Chinese Art Songs (Score)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 7  “Unnamed Dance (Piano Score)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 8  “Usha (Dance) – Indian Dance (Score)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 9  “Usha (for Small Orchestra)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 10 “Weeping Willow (Score)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 11 “War God’s Dance for the 5 Planetary Deities (Score & Parts)” – Avshalomov, Aaron

Box 19
Folder 1  “Yang Kuei Fei (Piano Score)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 2  “Yang Kuei Fei (Full Score)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 3  “Yang Kuei Fei (Parts)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 4  “You and I (Score)” – Avshalomov, Aaron (December 10, 1956)
Folder 5  “You Will Die (Parts)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Series 2 – Aaron Avshalomov Manuscripts

Box 20
Folder 1  “Adjanta (Manuscript Score & Parts)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 2  “A Stroll in an Ancient Garden (Manuscript Score)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 3  “Birth of a Flower (Manuscript Score)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 4  “Bow & Arrow Dance (Parts & Manuscripts)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 5  “Bow & Arrow Dance (Parts & Manuscript Score)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 6  “Bow & Arrow Dance (Parts & Manuscripts)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 7  “By and By, You Will Die (Manuscript Score)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 8  “Chess Player (Manuscript Sketches)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 9  “Chinese Children at Play (Manuscript Score)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 10 “Chinese Fox Trots (Manuscript Scores & Parts)” – Avshalomov, Aaron

Box 21
Folder 1  “Desolation (Manuscript Scores & Parts)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 2  “General’s Defeat (Manuscript Score & Parts)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 3  “In A Garden – Gathering Flowers (Manuscript Score & Parts)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 4  “Indian Dance (Manuscript & Scores)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 5  “Indian Spring Dance (Manuscript Score & Parts)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 6  “Kwe Fei’s Song (Manuscript Scores)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 7  “Lantern Dance, Nocturne & Kwei Fei’s Lament (Manuscript & Part)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 8  “Marvari Gopi (Manuscript Score)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 9  “Paravati (Manuscript)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 10 “Poet’s Fancy (Manuscript)” – Avshalomov, Aaron

Box 22
Folder 1  “Raddha Krishna (Manuscript)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 2  “Scattering the Flowers (Manuscript Score & Parts)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 3  “Slow Sword Dance/Sword Dance (Manuscript Score & Parts)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 4  “Snan Lila (Manuscript Parts)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 5  “The Temple Bells (Sketches, Manuscript)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 6  “Tsin Wung’s Last Words (Piano Version Score Manuscript)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 7  “Turandot – Incidental Music (Manuscript Score)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 8  “Usha (Manuscript Score)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 9  “Yang Kwei Fei – Dramatic Poem (Manuscript Scores)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Folder 10 “You and I (Manuscript)” – Avshalomov, Aaron
Subject Headings
- Avshalmov, Aaron, 1894-1965
- Composers--20th century--American
- Composers--20th century--Russian
- Opera--20th century
- Exoticism in music
- Music--Chinese influences

Related Collections
- Jacob Avshalomov scores (his son)
- American Composers Alliance official records (includes files pertaining to both Avshalomovs)