



BHC-MSS 0225
Guide to the Papers of John Adam Hugo
April 2022

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Hugo, John Adam

Title: Papers of John Adam Hugo

Dates: 1890-1943

Quantity: 24 linear feet

Abstract. John Adam Hugo was a Bridgeport born composer who after showing great skill with music, studied at the Stuttgart Conservatory. Following his time at the Conservatory, he toured Europe as a musician before returning to the United States. He spent several years in Baltimore, where he founded the European Conservatory and served as the music director for the Women's College of Baltimore. He later returned to Bridgeport where he stayed until his death in 1945. Hugo wrote three operas, with *The Temple Dancer* performed by the Metropolitan Opera in 1919. His collection is the only known group of his compositions, and includes opus numbered works, operas, and unpublished works.

Language: English

Repository: Bridgeport History Center

Biographical History:

John Adam Hugo was born on January 5, 1873 in Bridgeport, Connecticut and died in the same city on December 29, 1945. He displayed musical talent at an early age, according to his obituary published in the *Bridgeport Post*, with a particular interest and emphasis on piano. His German father was said to have encouraged John to study abroad, which is how he ended up at the Stuttgart Conservatory (now the State University of Music and Performing Arts Stuttgart) – one of the most noted music schools in the late 1800s.

While in Germany, Hugo was instructed by Wilhelm Speidel, and Carl Doppler of the Stuttgart Opera House. It is likely during this period that the *Post's* note regarding Hugo's performance for the King of Württemberg occurred, along with encounters with other German nobles of the era. His performance history in Europe was not limited to the Germanic speaking regions though – Hugo had performances in London and Milan.

Hugo returned to the United States in 1899. He lived in Baltimore, Maryland for a time, where he worked at the Peabody Conservatory. Soon after, he founded the European Conservatory in that same city, and served as the head of the music department for the Women's College of Baltimore. He wrote at least two known songs in honor of the women there, as evidenced by the compositions in the collection.

John Adam Hugo wrote at least three operas: *The Hero of Byzanz* (originally *Belisar*), *The Temple Dancer*, and *The Sun God*. It is unclear if *The Hero of Byzanz* was the work he composed for the Vienna Opera Competition his obituary alludes to (the bound composition volume of the work simply reads “Metropolitan Prize”), but *The Temple Dancer* was fully produced by the Metropolitan Opera in New York City in March 1919. It was one of the earliest American opera works performed there, and was generally well received.

While living in Bridgeport for much of the 1910s onward, Hugo divided his time between composing and teaching. Some of his works were performed locally, including by the Bridgeport Symphonic Orchestra. Hugo’s obituary notes that his studio space had a cat, photographs of crowned heads of Europe, and a more German feel to it based on where he studied for so many years.

Hugo married Aime Atkins, with whom he had one son, Roland Clifford Hugo.

It is unclear what his cause of death was – the *Post* only notes that he died in St. Vincent’s Hospital after a long illness. The last dated composition in the collection is from 1943. Given that the earliest works begin in 1892, it is reasonable to suspect that this illness had an impact on Hugo’s ability to compose.

John Adam Hugo is buried in Mountain Grove Cemetery in Bridgeport.

Bibliography

“Hugo, John Adam,” Biographical files. Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport Public Library.

International Who's who in Music and Musical Gazetteer: A Contemporary Biographical Dictionary and a Record of the World's Musical Activity. Current Literature Publishing Company. 1918. pp. 294

Whelan, Anne. “Prof. John Adam Hugo, Teacher, Musician, Composer, Succumbs.” *The Bridgeport Post*, December 30, 1945.

Scope and Content note:

This collection, with a few exceptions, consists almost entirely of Hugo's music compositions. This includes pencil drafts, inked pages, and in several instances, fully published works. For larger works, including symphonies and operas, the material present includes the conductor's score, sheet music for individual instruments, and drafts. Most of his manuscripts are noted as “My own manuscript, John Adam Hugo” in the lower left corner of the page of the composition.

Three operas are present in this collection: *The Temple Dancer*, *The Hero of Byzanz* (originally titled *Belisar*) and *The Sun God*. *The Temple Dancer*, the only opera which Hugo had performed, includes drafts as well as the conductor's score, individual orchestra pieces, and chorus books all used at the performance at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City. *The Hero of Byzanz* contains drafts as well as a bound final draft that Hugo submitted for the Metropolitan Prize. The last opera that Hugo wrote, *The Sun God* has an extant typescript libretto in addition to the first draft of the opera, conductor's score, and music for individual instruments.

There are several missing opus numbered works from the collection that do not appear to have ever made their way to the Bridgeport Public Library, based on their absence from the 1955

inventory. However, the evolution of Hugo's musical career is well documented in the collection and shows a wide range of compositions in terms of style and content.

Arrangement note:

Music of the era when Hugo was composing had largely standardized the use of opus numbers to indicate the order of compositions. While he by and large relied upon this system, with 38 opus works, there are others that received no number, and others still that are undated. To reflect the original order that Hugo used and in respect to conventional music cataloging standards, the collection is divided into three series

Series I, Opus works, contain all known opus numbered works in order. In several instances, there are gaps, meaning the opus work has been lost. Series II, Works, contains compositions arranged by date. Series III, undated works, contains compositions both fragmented and completed that were never dated by Hugo.

In several instances both in series I and series II, Hugo's compositions have formed discreet subseries. This is primarily true for his operas which were completed to various states. Opus 37, The Temple Dancer, contains extensive material relating to its staging at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York City.

Administrative information:

Provenance: Gift of Aime Hugo, c. 1950s

Processing note, internal only: Processing and arrangement was done in consultation with friend of the archivist who has studied music and is a trained opera singer. She explained to the archivist that with regards to arrangement, material that fall under the heading of "opus" is to be given priority, as it is the composer working in a particular order. Other works should follow.

Preferred Citation:

Papers of John Adam Hugo (BHC-MSS 0225), Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport Public Library.

Names and Subject Tracings

Personal names

Hugo, John Adam

Corporate names

Metropolitan Opera (New York, N.Y.)

Metropolitan Opera (New York, N.Y.). Studio

Subject tracings

Opera

Composers -- United States

Music notes.

Sheet music

Bridgeport (Conn.)

Detailed box/folder listing

Box 1

1. Op 1., Fantasie in D major, October 12, 1897
2. Op. 2, Suite, allegro), Prelude, 1, 2, Oct 18, 1896
3. Op. 2 no. 2, Gavotte, Sept. 22, 1893
4. Op. 2 no. 3, Allegretto, Oct., 28, 1900
5. Op. 3 no. 1, Sonata in C minor, undated
6. Op. 3 no. 2, Sonatina, I-II, undated
7. Op. 4, Trio in E flat major, not complete, c. May 23, 1895
8. Op. 5, December album, vol. 1-3, no.1-10, undated
9. Op. 5, no. 4 Norwegian March, no. 5, Gavotte Hungroise, Liebesglück, c. 1893
10. Op. 5, no.7 Phantasiestuck for piano, March 17, 1893, ed. 1895
11. Op. 6 no. 1 Albumblatt, G major, 1902
12. Op. 6 no. 2 Polonaise for piano, 1902
13. Op. 6 no. 2, Traum in Italy, Nov. 26, 1893
14. Op. 6 no. 5 and no opus, Characteristique for piano, undated
15. Op. 7., Concertstuck in F minor, piano and orchestra
16. Op. 7, concerto, July 17, 1895
17. Op. 8 no. 1, Mein Herze und deine Stimme, alto voice and piano, 1893
18. Op. 8 no. 2, Ich will dir immer sagen, June 23, 1893
19. Op. 8 no. 3, An den Wind, July 15, 1893
20. Op. 8 no. 4, An den Frühling, August 28, 1893

Box 2

1. Op. 9, Belisar, incomplete, partial scenes, worksheets, etc. c. 1893
2. Op. 9, Belisar, incomplete, partial scenes, worksheets, etc. c. 1893

Box 3

1. Op. 9, Belisar, incomplete, partial scenes, worksheets, etc. c. 1893
2. Op. 9, Belisar, incomplete, partial scenes, worksheets, etc. c. 1893
3. Op. 9, Belisar, incomplete, partial scenes, worksheets, etc. c. 1893
4. Op. 9, Hero of Byzanz, prelude to second act, undated

Box 4

Op. 9, Belisar, vocal-piano score in penci, 1893
Op. 9 draft, c. 1902?

Box 5

Op. 9, Hero of Byzanz, bound competition copy, ??? post move back to Bport.

Box 6

1. Op. 10, no. 1, Lotusblüme, Dec. 23, 1894
2. Op. 10 no. 2, Gott Grüsse Dich, Sept. 6, 1894
3. Op. 10 no. 3, Du bist wie eine Blume, voice and piano, Oct. 12, 1894
4. Op. 10 no. 4, He is Risen, Jan 29, 1904
5. Op. 10 no. 5, An die Entfernte
6. Op. 11, Concerto in C major, undated
7. Op. 12 no. 2, Characteristique for piano, April 16, 1894
8. Op. 12 no. 3, Characterstuck score for orchestra, undated

9. Op. 13, Concert de societe, incomplete, undated
10. Op. 13, Trois prelude, piano, June 18, 1898
11. Op. 14 Revere characterisque, violin and piano, 1897
12. Op. 15, Children scenes for piano, undated
13. Op. 15 no. 4, Romance for piano, Sept. 30, 1910
14. Op. 16, Concerto no. 2 in C minor for piano, incomplete, undated
15. Op. 18, Kinderszene, 1891
16. Op. 19 no. 1 Bolero, g minor for piano, undated
17. Op. 19 no. 2, Valse for piano, April 6, 1898

Box 7

1. Op. 20 no. 1, Air orchestra complete score with piano parts, Oct, 1908
2. Op. 20 no. 2, ala minuetto, undated
3. Op. 20 no. 3, Romanze for violin and piano, unfinished, undated
4. Op. 21, Symphony in C minor, conductor's score, orchestra, April 1909
5. Op. 21, Symphony in C minor, conductor's score, orchestra, April 1909

Box 8

1. Op. 21, Symphony in C minor, conductor's score, orchestra, April 1909
2. Op. 21, Symphony in C minor, conductor's score, orchestra, April 1909
3. Op. 21, Symphony in C minor, conductor's score, orchestra, April 1909

Box 9

1. Op. 21, Symphony in C minor, conductor's score, orchestra, April 1909
2. Op. 21, Symphony in C minor, conductor's score, orchestra, April 1909
3. Op. 22, no. 1-2, Serenade for the piano (Des Morgens, Des Abends), June 8, 1909
4. Op. 23 no. 1 Wilde Burschen/Five Children Scenes, undated
5. Op. 23 and no op., Romanze for piano, March 23, 1898
6. Op. 25 Quare Morceaux for piano, August 19, 1911
7. Op. 25, no. 1, Bercuse F major for piano, undated
8. Op. 25 no. 3, Il cigno for violin and piano, May 13, 1912
9. Op. 27 no. 1, Burschenabscheid for men's choir, April 3, 1912
10. Op. 28, Children scene, Sept. 18, 1911
11. Op. 29, no. 1, Three children scenes, Oct. 8, 1911
12. Op. 29 no. 2, Tanz der Todten, full score, undated

Box 10

1. Op. 31, no. 1, Trois morceaux gavotte, May 12, 1912
2. Op. 33 no. 1, Zwei Raben for baritone and piano, undated
3. Op. 33 no. 2, Schweizer's Heimwech for baritone, Feb. 24, 1913
4. Op. 33 no. 3, Jakobitenleider, incomplete, undated
5. Op. 34, no. 1, meditation for cello and piano, Feb. 22, 1913
6. Op. 34 no. 2, L'amore della luna, undated
7. Op. 36 no. 1, Song of Silence for soprano, May 24, 1913
8. Op. 36, no. 2, Prelude to spring for violin and piano, Oct 28, 1913
9. Op. 38 no. 1, Wiengelid, violin and piano, undated
10. Op. 38 no. 1, My Derie, Nov. 23, 1913
11. Op. 38 no. 3, Spring Flowers for piano, Dec. 14, 1913
12. Op. 38 no. 4, Echoes, undated

13. Op. 37, The Temple Dancer selections, miscellaneous, nothing completed, c. 1910s
14. Op. 37, The Temple Dancer selections, miscellaneous, nothing completed, c. 1910s
- 15.

Box 11

1. Op. 37, The Temple Dancer selections, miscellaneous, nothing completed, c. 1910s
2. Op. 37, The Temple Dancer, conductor's score, 1918-1919

Box 12

1. Op. 37 The Temple Dancer, Partition and orchestra parts for The Temple Dancer original box lid with index of orchestra music on verso, 1918-1919
2. Op. 37, The Temple Dancer, Partition and individual orchestra scores, 1918-1919
3. Op. 37, The Temple Dancer, Partition and individual orchestra scores, 1918-1919

Box 13

1. Op. 37, The Temple Dancer, Partition and individual orchestra scores, 1918-1919
2. Op. 37, The Temple Dancer, Partition and individual orchestra scores, 1918-1919

Box 14

1. Op. 37, The Temple Dancer, conductor's score, 1919
2. Op. 37, The Temple Dancer, orchestra parts from the Met production, 1919
3. Op. 37, The Temple Dancer, orchestra parts from the Met production, 1919
4. Op. 37, The Temple Dancer, orchestra parts from the Met production, 1919

Box 15

1. Op. 37, The Temple Dancer, chorus books from the Met production, 1919
2. Op. 37, The Temple Dancer, chorus books from the Met production, 1919
3. Op. 37, The Temple Dancer, chorus books from the Met production, 1919
4. Op. 37, The Temple Dancer, chorus books from the Met production, 1919
5. Op. 37, The Temple Dancer, chorus books from the Met production, 1919

Box 16

1. Op. 37, The Temple Dancer, Orchestra score, 1919
2. Op. 37, The Temple Dancer, chorus score, 1919
3. Op. 37, The Temple Dancer, Musical America [review of the Temple Dancer], 1919-03-22
4. Op. 37, The Temple Dancer, Scenes from the Temple Dancer [published sheet music], 1919

Box 17

1. Albumblätter, c. 1890
2. Adagio, e flat major, 1890
3. Fantasie Hongroise, 1891-07-28
4. Nocturne for piano, 1892
5. Fantasie in E minor, 1892
6. Ungarische Fantasie for two pianoforte, 1892
7. Andante e allegro, 1892

8. Ballad, G minor in complete for piano, 1892
9. Lieu aus de fantasie, score for orchestra, 1893-08 to 09
10. Traum for orchestra, 1893-02
11. Adagio for piano, D major, 1893-05
12. Nocturne for piano, 1893-06-12
13. Zwi declamation vortage, 1893-11-23
14. Amerikanischer Baverntanz, 1894-03-05
15. German peasant dance, 1898-03-22
16. O the pleasure of the plains, 1899-02
17. Class song, soprano and alto, 1903

Box 18

1. Class ode, alto solo, 1903
2. Eingebildeter Neger, 1905-08-20
3. When we two parted for soprano and piano, 1908-02-05
4. Kuss, for soprano, 1905-08-18
5. Improvisation no. 2, 1906-07-20
6. Village Blacksmith, song for men's chorus, 1910-05
7. Scherzo for orchestra, 1912-05-25
8. I saw from the beach, 1913-06
9. When in death I shall recline, piano and violin obligato, 1913-02-03
10. Meeting of the waters, violin, voice, and piano, 1913-04-17
11. Under the starlight, voice and piano, 1915-02-07
12. Heimkher for baritone, 1916-03
13. Iris exile for piano, violin, 1917-04-25
14. There's a Bower of Roses, voice, piano, violin, 1917-04-30
15. Voices on the Wind, for piano, 1918-04-09
16. Song to America, for voice and piano 1923-03-03

Box 19

1. The Sun God, Original manuscript with piano and vocal score, 1922-1923
2. The Sun God, Suite, conductor's score, piano score, orchestra notation, c. 1922-1923

Box 20

1. The Sun God, Suite, conductor's score, piano score, orchestra notation, c. 1922-1923
2. The Sun God, Partition for The Sun God, c. 1922-1923

Box 21

1. Single roles for the cast of The Sun God, c. 1922-1923

Box 22

1. The Sun God libretto, undated
2. The Sun God, book, undated
3. The Sun God, scenario I-III, 1922-1923
4. The Sun God, scenario I-III, 1922-1923
5. Memories, orchestral score, 1941-07
6. Op. 37, The Temple Dancer, Minor cast scores, 1919
7. Op. 37, The Temple Dancer, Minor cast scores, 1919

8. Op. 37, The Temple Dancer, Minor cast scores, 1919

Box 23

1. Suite of moods, piano score, 1938-04
2. Symphonic poem for orchestra, complete with piano score, 1938-01
3. Symphonic ballad for orchestra, 1939-05

Box 24

1. Symphonic ballad for orchestra, 1939-05
2. Flower of Liberty, 1940
3. Memories, orchestral score, 1941-07

Box 25

1. Fantasia, complete, 1942-10
3. Contento for orchestra, conductor's score, orchestra store, piano in pencil, 1942-01

Box 26

1. Perche, Symphonic poem for orchestra, score, pencil-piano, orchestra parts, 1940-02
2. Symphony #2, 1942-1943

Box 27

1. Op. 12, De Dank, 1902 [print version]
2. Op. 6 [print version], 1902
3. Songs by John Adam Hugo, 1919
4. Perche, 1940-02
5. Perche, 1940-02
6. Symphony #2, conductor's score, orchestra score, piano score, piano sheets in pencil, 1942-1943
7. Symphony #2, conductor's score, orchestra score, piano score, piano sheets in pencil, 1942-1943

Box 28

1. Appassionata for orchestra, undated
2. Calcet operatic suite for orchestra, undated (NB Later "The Sun God"), undated
3. Concerto in E minor by Chopin, quintet for strings
4. Concerto in G minor, Mendelssohn, quintet, undated, undated
5. Concerto in G minor, Muschelos, quintet, undated
6. Dream, piano and voice, undated
7. Fuga Fantastique, incomplete, undated
8. Frühling Marsch, undated
9. Grand March, undated
10. Has Sorrow Thy Young Days Shaded, undated
11. Konzertstuck, orchestra scores, undated

Box 29

1. Moderato ed presto, flute and piano, incomplete, undated
2. My Jesus I Love Thee, chorus and organ, undated

3. O My Love's Like a Red Red Rose, for tenor and soprano with piano, undated
4. Orchestration, undated
5. Quartetto, undated
6. Rhapsodie Hongroise for violin and piano, undated
7. Rondo for piano, unfinished, undated
8. Romance d'amor, unfinished, undated
9. Schicksalsklagen for orchestra, undated
10. Song of the Camp, male chorus, orchestra or piano, undated
11. Spanish Dances, undated
12. Traumerei, undated
13. Misc., unfinished, undated
14. Misc., see page 19 of index, undated

Box 30

1. Overture for orchestra inspired through the WPA, undated
2. Overture for orchestra inspired through the WPA, undated

Box 31

1. Op. 37, The Temple Dancer, cast scores, 1919

Box 32