

Alan Hovhaness Music Manuscripts



**Music Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
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Prepared by the Music Division of the Library of Congress

Finding aid encoded by Mónica Hurd, 2021

Collection Summary

Title: Alan Hovhaness Music Manuscripts

Inclusive Dates: 1939-1969

Bulk Dates: 1947-1967

Creator: Hovhaness, Alan, 1911-2000

Extent: approximately 925 items

Extent: 6 containers plus 23 bound scores

Extent: 3 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2014572451>

Summary: Alan Hovhaness was an American composer, researcher, and organist of Armenian descent. He is predominantly known for works heavily inspired by non-European traditions and for drawing on exotic rhythmic, melodic, and instrumental resources founded in his own Armenian ancestry, other Middle Eastern styles, and, in his later years, Japanese and Korean instruments and styles. This finding aid collates classed holograph scores, parts, and sketches by Hovhaness that he donated to the Music Division from 1959 to 1970.

Acquisition Information

Gifts, Alan Hovhaness, 1959-1970

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Processing History

Music Division staff classed scores from the Alan Hovhaness Music Manuscripts in ML96.H853 as they were received from 1959 to 1970. Mónica Hurd coded the finding aid in 2021.

Other Repositories

Other papers of Alan Hovhaness, including a collection of Ozalid scores, correspondence, and ephemera, can be found in the Houghton Library at Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Related Material

Correspondence, music, photographs, and additional material relating to Hovhaness can be found in the following collections at the Library of Congress: [Oliver Daniel Papers](#), [Pearl Lang Papers](#), [Erick Hawkins and Lucia Dlugoszewski Papers](#), [Martha Graham Collection](#), [Andre Kostelanetz Collection](#), and the [Serge Koussevitzky Archive](#).

A collection of 150 letters exchanged between Hovhaness and his third wife, Serafina Ferrante, are cataloged in ML95.H837.

Copyright Status

Materials from the Alan Hovhaness Music Manuscripts are governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.) and other applicable international copyright laws.

Access and Restrictions

The Alan Hovhaness Music Manuscripts are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Music Division prior to visiting in order to determine whether the desired materials will be available at that time.

Certain restrictions on using or copying materials may apply.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [item, date, container or reel or digital ID number], Alan Hovhaness Music Manuscripts, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1911 March 8	Born Alan Vaness Chakmakjian in Somersville, Massachusetts
circa 1925	Composed his first operas <i>Lotus Blossom</i> , <i>Bluebeard</i> , and <i>Daniel</i> at age 14
circa 1929	Studied with Leo Rich Lewis at Tufts College in Massachusetts
1932-1934	Studied composition with Frederic Converse at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, Massachusetts
1931	Changed his chosen name from Alan Scott Vaness to Hovanness
1932	Won the Samuel Endicott prize for composition for <i>Sunset Symphony</i>
1933	Married Martha Mott, his first wife (divorced 1938)
1935	Birth of daughter Jean Christina (Jean Nandi) named after godfather Jean Sibelius
circa 1941	Married his second wife
1942	Studied briefly in Bohuslav Martinů's Master Class with Aaron Copland and Leonard Bernstein at the Berkshire Music Center in Tanglewood, Massachusetts
1941	Changed his name from Hovanness to Hovhaness
circa 1943	Destroyed or discarded a significant amount of his early work
circa 1945	<i>Lousadzak</i> piano concerto premiered in New York
1947 April 14	Married his third wife, Serafina Ferrante
1948-1951	Taught at the Boston Conservatory
1951	Won the American Academy of Arts and Letters Music Prize
1953	Won the Guggenheim Fellowship for Creative Arts
1954	Won the Guggenheim Fellowship for Creative Arts for the second time
1954-1955	Wrote the score for Clifford Odet's play <i>The Flowering Peach</i> at Broadway's Belasco Theatre
1955 October	Premiered <i>Symphony no. 2, Mysterious Mountain</i> , during Leopold Stokowski's début with the Houston Symphony
circa 1955	Commissioned by NBC to write two documentary scores, <i>Assignment India</i> and <i>Assignment South East-Asia</i>
1956-1959	Taught at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York
1958	Awarded Doctor of Music honorary degree by the University of Rochester Commissioned by the Koussevitsky Foundation to write <i>Magnificat</i>
1959	Awarded Doctor of Music honorary degree by Bates College in Lewiston, Maine
1959-1960	Traveled as a Fulbright Research Scholar in India
1960	Traveled to Japan for the first time and conducted his works with the Tokyo Symphony and the Japan Philharmonic Orchestras

1962	Won a Rockefeller Grant and toured Korea and Japan Premiered the cantata <i>Fuji</i> in Tokyo, Japan Composer in residence at the East-West Center of the University of Hawaii for six months in Honolulu Premiered Symphony no. 15, Silver Pilgrimage at the Festival of Music and Art in Honolulu, Hawaii
1963	Collaborated with Martha Graham for her ballet <i>Circe</i>
circa 1963	Married his fifth wife, Elizabeth Whittington (divorced June 16, 1977)
1965	Tour of Russia sponsored by the Department of State under the Cultural Exchange Program Established Poseidon Society Records
1966	Composer in residence with the Seattle Symphony
1973	Collaborated with Martha Graham for her <i>Myth of a Voyage</i> ballet
1977 June 17	Married his sixth wife, Hinako Fujihara
1977	Elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters
1981	Commissioned to write a symphony by Henry Hinrichsen on the theme of Mount St. Helens
1987	Awarded Doctor of Music honorary degree by the Boston Conservatory of Music
2000 June 21	Died in Seattle, Washington

Bibliography

Rosner, Arnold, and Vance Wolverton. "Hovhaness [Hovaness], Alan." *Grove Music Online*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2001. <https://doi.org/10.1093/gmo/9781561592630.article.13420>

Scope and Content Note

The Alan Hovhaness Music Manuscripts chiefly contain manuscript scores, parts, and sketches created by Hovhaness between 1939 and 1969. The works largely represent the middle of his compositional career beginning in the mid-1940s and serve as examples of his unique stylistic development and use of extended melodic themes and Asian instrumentation in his works. Several notable compositions in the collection include Symphony no. 2, Mysterious Mountain; Symphony no. 8, Arjuna; *Meditation on Orpheus*; *Cantata, op. 182, Fuji*; and *Lousadzak*.

Organization of the Alan Hovhaness Music Manuscripts

The collection is arranged in one series:

- [Music, 1939-1969](#)

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Hovhaness, Alan, 1911-2000--Autographs.

Hovhaness, Alan, 1911-2000.

Subjects

Cantatas.

Chamber music--Scores.

Choral music.

Musical sketches.

Operas--Scores.

Songs with piano.

String orchestra music--Scores.
Symphonies--Scores.

Titles

Alan Hovhaness collection

Form/Genre

Autographs (Manuscripts)

Cantatas.

Chamber music.

Fantasias (Music)

Musical sketches.

Operas.

Parts (Music)

Rhapsodies (Music)

Scores.

Sonatas.

Songs.

Symphonies.

Description of Series

Container

Series

Music, 1939-1969 (bulk 1947-1967)

Classed holograph scores, parts, and sketches of original compositions by Hovhaness.
Arranged alphabetically by title.

Container List

Container	Contents
	Music, 1939-1969 (bulk 1947-1967) Classed holograph scores, parts, and sketches of original compositions by Hovhanness. Arranged alphabetically by title.
LCCN: 2013570604	30th Ode of Solomon, 1940s Sketches for baritone voice and piano
LCCN: 2013570663	30th Ode of Solomon, 1940s Holograph vocal score
LCCN: 2013570607	Achtamar, 1948 Holograph score
LCCN: 2013570641	Afton Water, undated Holograph score <i>Note:</i> Adapted from W. Saroya's play <i>Afton Water</i>
LCCN: 2013570771	Anahid, op. 57, no. 1, 1945 Holograph score for flute, english horn, trumpet, kettledrums, cymbals, chimes, and strings
LCCN: 2013570797	Armenian Rhapsody no. 3, Sird Im Sasani, undated Holograph score for strings orchestra
LCCN: 2013570670	Blue Flame, undated Sketches <i>Note:</i> Discarded pages from the first version of the opera
LCCN: 2013570608	Blue Flame, 1959 Sketches
LCCN: 2013570561	The Brightness of Our Noon, 1957 Holograph score for SATB chorus <i>Note:</i> From the poem by Judith Malina
LCCN: 2013570630	The Burning House, op. 185, 1960 Holograph score
LCCN: 2013570761	Cantata, op. 182, Fuji, 1960 Holograph score for women's chorus, flute, xylophone, harp, and strings
LCCN: 2013570760	Cantata, op. 182, Fuji, 1960 Holograph score for women's chorus, flute, xylophone, harp, and strings
LCCN: 2013570622	Cantata, op. 182, Fuji, 1960s Holograph score for women's chorus, flute, xylophone, harp, and strings
LCCN: 2013570629	Cantata, op. 222, Praise the Lord with Psaltery, 1968 Holograph score for SATB chorus and orchestra <i>Note:</i> New revision
LCCN: 2019565604	Canzona and Fugue for Brass Choir, 1967 Holograph score and parts
LCCN: 2013570606	Celestial Fantasy, op. 44, circa 1900-1959 Holograph score for string orchestra
LCCN: 2013570635	Chahagir (Torch Bearer), op. 56a, 1940s Holograph part for viola

Music, 1939-1969 (bulk 1947-1967)

Container	Contents
LCCN: 2013570637	Concerto for Orchestra no. 1, op. 88, 1951 Holograph score
LCCN: 2013570560	Concerto for Orchestra no. 7, op. 116, 1950s Holograph score
LCCN: 2013570634	Concerto for Orchestra no. 7, op. 116, 1950s Holograph sketches
LCCN: 2013570633	Concerto no. 2, op. 89a, 1957 Sketch for violin with string orchestra
LCCN: 2013570643	Demi Lune, op. 74, no. 1, Pagan Saint, 1948 Holograph score for medium voice and piano <i>Note:</i> Words by Consuelo Cloos
LCCN: 2013570642	Demi Lune, op. 74, no. 4, Lullaby of the Lake, 1948 Holograph score for medium voice and piano <i>Note:</i> Words by Consuelo Cloos
LCCN: 2013570640	Demi Lune, op. 74, no. 5, I Heard Thee Singing, 1947 Holograph score for high voice and piano <i>Note:</i> Words by Consuelo Cloos
LCCN: 2013570644	Demi Lune, op. 74, no. 8, Raven River, circa 1948-1949 Holograph score for medium voice and piano <i>Note:</i> Words by Consuelo Cloos
LCCN: 2013570646	Divertimento no. 2, op. 61, no. 5, 1950s Holograph score for clarinet quartet
LCCN: 2013570645	Divertimento no. 3, op. 61, no. 5, 1950s Holograph score for oboe, clarinet, bassoon, and horn
LCCN: 2013570647	Divertimento no. 2, op. 61, no. 5, Fugue, 1950s Holograph score for clarinet quartet
LCCN: 2013570757	Etchmiadzin, op. 62, Drama in Six Scenes, 1946 Holograph score <i>Note:</i> Words by Zabelle Boyajian
LCCN: 2013570788	Etchmiadzin, op. 62b, Prayer of Saint Gregory, 1960-1965 Holograph score for trumpet, piano, and string orchestra
LCCN: 2019565609	Fantasies, op. 70, no. 1, 1967 Holograph score for trumpet, horn, and trombone; parts
LCCN: 2019565608	Fantasies, op. 70, no. 2, 1967 Holograph score for trumpet, horn, and trombone; parts
LCCN: 2019565607	Fantasies, op. 70, no. 3, 1967 Holograph score for trumpet, horn, and trombone; parts
LCCN: 2019565606	Fantasies, op. 70, no. 4, 1967 Holograph score for trumpet, horn, and trombone; parts
LCCN: 2019565605	Fantasies, op. 70, no. 5, 1967 Holograph score for trumpet, horn, and trombone; parts
LCCN: 2013570758	Fantasy on an Ossetin Tune, 1957 Holograph score for piano
LCCN: 2013570615	Floating World, op. 209, 1960s Holograph score
LCCN: 2013570624	Fra Angelico, op. 220, 1960s Holograph score

Music, 1939-1969 (bulk 1947-1967)

Container	Contents
LCCN: 2013570759	Fugue Composed on Bus, 1958 Holograph sketch
LCCN: 2013570762	Ghazals no. 1, op. 36, no. 1, 1963 Holograph score for piano
LCCN: 2013570776	Giglio Dante's Ballet, Game of Chance, 1950s Holograph score for piano
LCCN: 2013570763	Glory of Man, op. 167, 1950s Holograph score for SAB chorus and organ <i>Note:</i> Words selected from the writing of John Lovejoy Elliott
LCCN: 2013570764	Hymn to a Celestial Musician, 1952 Holograph score for piano
LCCN: 2013570616	I Have Seen the Lord, op. 80, 1950s Holograph score for voice, organ, and trumpet, and parts for trumpet
LCCN: 2019565610	I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes Unto the Hills, 1969 Holograph score for SATB chorus and organ
LCCN: 2013570625	In Memory of an Artist, op. 163, 1960s Holograph score for string orchestra
LCCN: 70223677	In the Hills, 1952 Holograph score (incomplete)
LCCN: 2013570765	Jhala, 1952 Holograph score for piano
LCCN: 2013570766	Keep Not Silence, 1951 Holograph score for SATB chorus
LCCN: 2013570767	Khaldis, 1951 Holograph score for piano, trumpet, quartet, and percussion
LCCN: 2013570623	Ko-ola-u, op. 136, 1960s Holograph score for two pianos
LCCN: 2013570768	Lake of Van Sonata, 1947 Holograph sketch for piano
LCCN: 2013570769	Lalezar, op. 86b, 1952 Holograph score for piano <i>Note:</i> Originally composed as incidental music for W. Saroyan's play <i>The Muscat Vineyard</i>
LCCN: 2013570562	The Leper King, op. 219, 1960s Holograph score for baritone solo, flute, trumpet, and percussion
LCCN: 2013570770	The Lord's Prayer, 1963 Holograph score for SATB chorus and organ
LCCN: 2013570636	Lousadzak, 1963 Holograph score for piano and string orchestra
LCCN: 2013570772	Lousnag Kisher, op. 52a, 1958 Holograph score for piano
LCCN: 2013570773	Macedonian Mountain Dance, undated Holograph score for piano
LCCN: 2013570774	Meditation on Orpheus, op. 155, 1964 Holograph score of first ending
LCCN: 2013570620	Meditation on Orpheus, op. 155, 1950s Holograph score

Music, 1939-1969 (bulk 1947-1967)

Container	Contents
LCCN: 2013570775	Meditation on Zeami, op. 207, 1964 Sketches
LCCN: M 59000697	Mesrob, op. 98, 1952 Holograph score for SAB chorus, flute, percussion, harp, and celesta
LCCN: 2013570627	Mountain Dance no. 2, 1960s Holograph score for piano
LCCN: 2013570777	Mountain Idylls, undated Holograph score for piano
LCCN: 2013570778	Mysterious Horse Before the Gate, op. 205, 1964 Holograph score for trombone, glockenspiel, vibraphone, chimes, and tam-tam; parts
LCCN: 2013570779	O for a Shout of Sacred Joy, op. 161, 1950s Holograph score for SATB chorus and organ
LCCN: 2013570617	O God Our Help in Ages Past, op. 137, 1950s Holograph score for SATB chorus and organ
LCCN: 2013570780	October Mountain, op. 135, 1957 Holograph score for marimba, glockenspiel, kettledrums, tenor, drum, bass drum, and tam-tam; parts
LCCN: 2019565612	Ode to the Temple of Sound, op. 210, 1966 Holograph score
LCCN: 2013570782	Orbit no. 2, 1952 Holograph score for piano
LCCN: 2013570783	Orbit no. 2, 1952 Holograph score for piano
LCCN: 2013570784	Out of the Depths, 1939-1957 Holograph score for voice and piano
LCCN: 2013570785	Pastoral, op. 111, no. 1, 1952 Holograph score for piano
LCCN: 2013570676	Pilate, op. 196, Opera in One Act, 1960s Holograph score
LCCN: 2013570786	Poseidon Sonata, circa 1900-1963 Holograph sketches
LCCN: 2013570572	Praise Ye the Lord, 1951 Holograph score for SATB chorus
LCCN: 2013570789	Prelude and Quadruple Fugue for Orchestra, 1955 Holograph score
LCCN: 2013570791	Prometheus, 1964 Holograph score
LCCN: 2013570793	Psalm 148, op. 160, no. 1, 1958 Holograph score for voice and organ
LCCN: 2013570792	Psalm 28, op. 162, 1958 Holograph score for SATB choir and organ
LCCN: 2013570795	Shatakh, 1948 Holograph score for violin and piano
LCCN: 2013570796	Sing Aloud, Psalm 81, 1951 Holograph score for SATB chorus
LCCN: 2019565613	Six Dances for Brass Quintet, 1968 Holograph score

Music, 1939-1969 (bulk 1947-1967)

Container	Contents
LCCN: 2013570798	Slumber Song, undated Holograph score for piano
LCCN: 2013570650	Sonata for Trumpet, op. 200, 1962 Holograph score for trumpet and organ
LCCN: 2013570799	Sonata for Harp, op. 127, 1955-1957 Holograph score
LCCN: 2013570605	Sonata for Piano, op. 12, 1963 Holograph score
LCCN: 2013570618	Sonatina for Piano, op. 120, 1962 Holograph score
LCCN: 2013570651	Song, op. 84, no. 1, Black Pool of Cat, 1950s Holograph score for voice and piano
LCCN: 2013570660	Song, op. 84, no. 1, Black Pool of Cat, 1960s Holograph score for voice and piano
LCCN: 2013570611	Song, op. 85, Yar Nazani, 1942 Holograph score for voice and piano
LCCN: M 61002341	Song, op. 95, Innisfallen, 1952 Holograph score for voice and piano
LCCN: 2013570653	Suite for Accordion, op. 166, 1958 Holograph score
LCCN: 2013570654	Suite for Band, op. 15, 1950 Holograph score
LCCN: 2013570655	Suite for Band, op. 15, 1950 Holograph score
LCCN: 2019565614	Symphony no. 11, op. 186: All Men Are Brothers, 1969 Holograph score
LCCN: 2013570661	Symphony no. 12, op. 188, Psalm 23, circa 1960-1964 Holograph score
LCCN: 2013570574	Symphony no. 17, op. 203, 1963 Holograph score for metal orchestra
LCCN: 2013570656	Symphony no. 2, op. 132, Mysterious Mountain, 1950s Holograph score
LCCN: 2013570657	Symphony no. 4, op. 165, 1950s Holograph sketch
LCCN: 2013570658	Symphony no. 5, op. 170, 1959 Holograph sketch
LCCN: 2013570659	Symphony no. 6, op. 173, 1959 Holograph sketch
LCCN: 2013570781	Symphony no. 8, op. 179, Arjuna, circa 1960-1963 Holograph score and parts
LCCN: 2013570794	Symphony no. 9, op. 180, 1950 Holograph score
LCCN: 2013570559	Symphony, op. 118, no. 4, 1953 Holograph score for chamber orchestra
LCCN: 2013570790	Symphony, op. 65, no. 2, Avak, 1949 Holograph score for soprano, trumpet, and string orchestra

Music, 1939-1969 (bulk 1947-1967)

Container	Contents
LCCN: 2013570603	Symphony, op. 69, no. 2, Agori, 1950 Holograph score
LCCN: 2019565611	Tapor no. 1, op. 14, 1949 Holograph score and parts for band
LCCN: 2013570652	Three Songs, op. 95, 1950s Holograph score for voice and piano <i>Contents:</i> Describe Me; Green Stone; and Fans of Blue
LCCN: 2013570626	To the God Who Is in the Fire, op. 146, 1960s Holograph score for men's chorus and percussion
LCCN: 2013570575	Tocatta and Fugue, op. 6, 1963 Holograph score for piano
LCCN: 2013570666	Tomorrow the Festivals, 1955 Holograph score for chamber orchestra
LCCN: 2013570667	Trio, op, 201, circa 1960-1965 Holograph score for violin, viola, and cello; parts
LCCN: 2013570668	Trio, op, 201, 1962 Holograph score for violin, viola, and cello; parts
LCCN: 2013570576	Triptych: As on the Night, 1952 Holograph score for soprano, celesta, and strings
LCCN: 2013570671	Tryptych: Beatitudes, 1950s Holograph score for SATB chorus and chamber orchestra
LCCN: 2013570672	Unto Thee O God, op. 87, Psalm 75, Verse 1, 1951 Holograph score for SATB chorus
LCCN: 2013570717	Upon Enchanted Ground, 1951 Holograph score for flute, cello, tam-tam, and harp
LCCN: 46018648	Vahakn, op. 59, no 1, 1945 Holograph score
LCCN: M 61002302	Vahakn, op. 59, no. 2, 1947 Holograph score
LCCN: M 61002176	Vahakn, op. 59, no. 4, 1950 Holograph score
LCCN: 2013570673	Vahakn, op. 59, no. 5, 1948 Holograph score
LCCN: 66032574	Variations and Fuge, op. 18, 1964 Holograph score
LCCN: 2013570674	Vijag, op. 60, no. 3, 1946 Holograph score for piano
LCCN: 2013570664	Visions of Saint Mesrob, op. 198, 1960s Holograph score for violin and piano <i>Contents:</i> Celestial Mountain, Celestial Bird, and Celestial Alphabet
LCCN: 2013570648	Watchmen Tell Us of the Night, circa 1960-1966 Holograph score for SATB chorus and organ
LCCN: 2013570675	Watchmen Tell Us of the Night, op. 34b, circa 1960-1966 Holograph score for SATB choir, oboe, clarinet, and strings
LCCN: 2013570609	Why Hast Thou Cast Us Off?, op. 87, Psalm 74, Verses 1-21, 1951 Holograph score for SATB chorus

Music, 1939-1969 (bulk 1947-1967)

Container	Contents
LCCN: 2013570628	Wind Drum, op. 183, 1962 Holograph score for voices, flute, harp, percussion, and strings
LCCN: 2013570610	Yakamochi, 1965 Holograph score for cello
LCCN: 2013570612	Yasodhara, op. 134, 1950s Holograph score for voice, horn, percussion, and harp
LCCN: 2013570750	Yenovk the Troubadour, op. 86a, 1951 Holograph score for piano
LCCN: 2019565615	Unidentified manuscript, undated Holograph score for trombone, timpani, glockenspiel, and strings