Inventory of the Derrick Norman Lehmer musical compositions, 1926-1937

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Inventory of the Derrick Norman Lehmer Musical Compositions, 1926-1937

Collection number: ARCHIVES LEHMER 1

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Descriptive Summary
Title: Derrick Norman Lehmer Musical Compositions,
Date (inclusive): 1926-1937
Collection number: ARCHIVES LEHMER 1
Creator: Lehmer, Derrick Norman, 1868-1938
Extent: Number of container: 1 box
Repository: The Music Library
Berkeley, California 94720-6000
Shelf location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.
Language: English.
Donor: Mrs. Helen H. Berryhill, Berkeley
Access
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Derrick Norman Lehmer musical compositions, ARCHIVES LEHMER 1, The Music Library, University of California, Berkeley.
Obituary
(from the Berkeley Gazette, September 8, 1938).
Dr. Derrick Norman Lehmer, professor of mathematics emeritus of the University of California at Berkeley, poet and composer, died at his home, 2736 Regent Street, this morning after an extended illness. He retired from the University on July 27, 1937 after a service of 37 years as instructor, assistant professor, and professor.
Dr. Lehmer was born on July 27, 1867 at Somerset, Indiana, the son and grandson of Pennsylvania pioneers and the great grandson of a Hessian trooper who later joined the Continental Army and settled in Pennsylvania. His mother was Isabel Smith Perry, born in 1823 in Covington, Kentucky.
His primary education was received in the schools of Nebraska and he received his A.B. degree from the University of that State in 1893. His master's degree followed from the same institution in 1896, and he received his doctorate at the University of Chicago in 1900, in which year he came to the University of California as instructor in mathematics. In the same year he married Eunice Mitchell at Decatur, Illinois.

Professor Lehmer's talents as poet and composer matched his skill as a mathematician. While achieving a high place in the world of mathematics, he also held membership in the Poetry Society of London and the Poetry Society of America and wrote numerous poems and sonnets that won wide recognition. His production of the Indian opera "The Necklace of the Sun" was seen twice in Oakland and once in San Francisco, and his songs, particularly those taken from Indian lore were well received everywhere.

Memberships in distinguished societies included Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Epsilon, American Mathematical Society, Circolo Refinconti de Palermo, Mathematical Association of America and member of its executive council; American Geographical Society, American Anthropological Society, Poetry Society of America, Poetry Society of London, California Writers' Club, Bookfellows, Nebraska Writers Guild, League of Western Writers. He was also a fellow of the American Association of the Advancement of Science.

During his service at the University of California at Berkeley, Dr. Lehmer also filled the position of fellow in mathematics at the University of Nebraska, University of Chicago and research assistant at the Carnegie Institution.

Professor Lehmer is survived by his widow, Mrs. Eunice Mitchell Lehmer, and by four daughters and sons: Mrs. Charles Henry Blake of Lincoln, Mass., Mrs. Henry Colman Coffee of Berkeley, Prof. Derrick H. Lehmer of Lehigh University and Stephen M. Lehmer of Mountain View. He also leaves four grandchildren.

Scope and Content
Collection includes various Indian lore songs, and songs from Lehmer's opera The harvest, as well as a folder of biographical notices.

Professor Lehmer also wrote a second opera which is not represented in the UCB Music Library's archives:

Opera The Necklace of the Sun: (A Mayan Drama). Premiere: Scottish Rite Auditorium, Oakland, February 28, 1935. Produced by the Chamber Opera Company Under the direction of Dr. Ian Alexander.

The Music Library also lacks the following compositions:
1. Songs from the Mesas (1932)
2. Songs from the Tundras (1932).
3. The Ballad of San Francisco Bay (1937).

Part I: Published music.

Folder 1. Down the stream and other Indian songs.
Scope and Content Note
Berkeley: D. N. Lehmer, 1927. 11 pp. with flute part.

a. "Down the stream."
b. "Deserted lodge."
c. "Grinding song."
d. "Pomo love song."
e. "Song of the lonely trail."

Folder 2. Fingers of the sun and other Indian songs from the Sierra slopes.
Scope and Content Note

a. "The fingers of the sun."
b. "The calling of the waters."
c. "Before the day."
d. "The basket maiden."
e. "Winter in the valley."
f. "Sunset in the valley."
Part I: Published music.

Folder 3. Indian camp-fire songs. Easy four part arrangements of Indian songs for junior and senior high schools.

Scope and Content Note

  a. "It's raining (Pomo air)."
  b. "Serenade (Pomo air)."
  c. "The sleeping valley (Miwok air)."
  d. "When I am singing (Miwok air)."
  e. "Beating the drum (Chippewa air)."
  f. "Hunting song (Crow air)."
  g. "Bring the days of summer (Eskimo air)."
  h. "Invocation to the sun (Inca air)."

Folder 4. Indian songs from the Northland.

Scope and Content Note

  a. "From the Northland."
  b. "Like a mist upon the mountain."
  c. "Sender of dreams."
  d. "The ghost song."
  e. "Westward."

Folder 4 1/2. "The ballad of San Francisco Bay: A sea chantey for treasure Islanders."

Scope and Content Note
Berkeley: D. N. Lehmer, 1937. (Found in the WPA California Folk Music Project collection).
Remarks: The back page contains an advertisement listing the "Indian Art Songs" published by D. N. Lehmer

Folder 5. Seven Indian Songs from the Yosemite Valley.

Scope and Content Note
Berkeley: The National Society of Colonial Dames, 1924. 18pp.

  a. "Lullaby."
  b. "The dawn."
  c. "Serenade."
  d. "My love is fair."
  e. "The harvest of the pine nuts."
  f. "As down from the mountain I go."
  g. "Come back to Ahwahnee."

Folder 6. Two Indian choruses.

Scope and Content Note

  a. "Buffalo song (Hopi air)."
  b. "Invocation of the sun (Inca air)."

Part II: Songs in manuscript copy.

Folder 7. "Bring in your days of summer."

Scope and Content Note
Ink. Words in typescript.
Dated: June 8th, 1926. No place.
"Hopi Lullaby."
Scope and Content Note
Ink.
No place or date.
Inscription: Collected by the author in Oraibi, from Herbert Yestewa.

"Lonely is the hogan."
Scope and Content Note
Ink.
No place or date.
Remarks: Navajo air.

"The lonely valley."
Scope and Content Note
Ink.
No date or place.
Remarks: Sioux air.

"Sender of dreams."
Scope and Content Note
Ink.
No place or date.
Remarks: Chippewa air.

"Spring on the mesa."
Scope and Content Note
Ink.
No place or date.
Remarks: Hopi air.

"When it rains," for voice, flute, and piano.
Scope and Content Note
Ink.
No place or date.
Remarks: Hopi air.

"Winter in the valley," for voice, flute, and piano.
Scope and Content Note
Ink.
No place or date.
Remarks: Miwok airs. "This is a combination of several songs from the Miwok collected by Professor Gifford."

"Winter on the praire."
Scope and Content Note
Ink.
No place or date.
Remarks: Chippewa air.
Folder 16. [Opera, the Harvest]. (Apparently the following songs are taken from Lehmer’s opera which was performed at the Little Theatre, Palace of the Legion of Honor, San Francisco, on October 14 and 17, 1933).

Scope and Content Note
Ink.
No place or date.

b. Act II: “Whither away the birds of summer time,” for soprano and piano.

Scope and Content Note
Inscription: “This is from a dance song said to be very ancient.”

c. Act III: Famine “Over the ice and the snow.” for soprano and piano.

Scope and Content Note
Inscription: “This song is made from two weather incantations.”

e. Act IV: Northern Lights “From our of the land of shadows,” for soprano and piano.

Scope and Content Note
Inscription: “The theme for this song is taken from a dance song (pisik).”

f. Act IV: Spring song “The snow is going,” for soprano and piano.

Scope and Content Note
Inscription: “The themes for this song are taken from a remarkable record of a Russian song as sung by an Eskimo.”

Folder 17. Folder containing miscellaneous biographical notices added to the collection by John A. Emerson.