



THE SOLOMON EPSTEIN COLLECTION

American composer Solomon Epstein (1939-2018) donated the collection of his unpublished music manuscripts to the ICAMus Archive in 2014. Following his death on December 21st, 2018, the Epstein family donated the composer's papers to ICAMus on December 30, 2018. The contents of this second donation are currently (January 2019) being processed and studied.

Dr. Epstein personally compiled his List of Compositions, with the assistance of ICAMus Director, Aloma Bardi, in November-December 2013. Aloma Bardi has subsequently added further details to the List, and excerpts from significant documents in the Epstein Collection at The ICAMus Studio in Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA, where the Epstein Papers are housed. Manuscript sketches and fragments are currently being studied as well.

This List is a Finding Aid for the ICAMus Archive holdings; it is meant as reference for all those interested in studying, performing, and publishing the works of Solomon Epstein internationally.

In remembering and celebrating Dr. Epstein as a unique composer of outstanding originality, a learned man, a synagogue cantor, and a generous music educator, we formulate the objective and the hope that his works be widely known and appreciated.

Please direct your inquiries to: "ICAMus" <info@icamus.org>; or contact us through our ICAMus Facebook Page.

SOLOMON EPSTEIN
(1939-2018)

LIST OF COMPOSITIONS

OPERAS

MURDER IN THE FIRST

Two Acts. © 1999, 2010 by Solomon Epstein.

Libretto adapted by the composer from the novel and stage play by permission of their author, Dan Gordon (Oak Park, California).

Piano-vocal score [Four Hands], 8 ½" x 11", 369 pages.

Orchestra score, 11" x 17": Act One, pages 1-161; Act Two, pages 162-339.

MOBY-DICK

Opera-Oratorio. Three Acts, © 1989, 2008 by Solomon Epstein and The Estate of Joyce Sparer Adler.

Libretto adapted by the composer and Joyce Sparer Adler from the novel by Herman Melville.

Separate Libretto: 8 ½" x 11", 33 pages.

Piano-vocal score [some sections piano four hands], 8 ½" x 11", 401 pages.

Orchestra score, 11" x 17": Act One, pages 1-338; Act Two, pages 339-648; Act Three, pages 648-785.

THE DYBBUK: AN OPERA IN YIDDISH

Three Acts, ©1994, 1998 by Solomon Epstein.

Libretto adapted by the composer from the Yiddish playscript by S. Ansky [Shloymeh Zanel Rappaport] (public domain). English singable translation by the composer.

Separate Yiddish-English Libretto, 8 ½" x 11", 48 pages.

Piano-vocal score [some sections piano four hands], 8 ½" x 11", 326 pages.

Orchestra score, 11" x 17": Act One, pages 1-253; Act Two, pages 254-421; Act Three, pages 422-704.

Performed: 1999, Beersheba, Israel, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and Tel Aviv, Susan Dellal Centre for Dance and Theatre.

WATER SONGS

One Act, ©1988 by Solomon Epstein and Gabriel Lanci.

Monodrama for dramatic soprano and chamber ensemble with piano.

Libretto by Gabriel Lanci, 8 ½" x 11", 6 pages.

Score by Solomon Epstein, 11" x 17", 42 pages.

«The subject of this work is the struggle between the effort to remember and the forces that erode memory.»

MODEL: ON OEDIPUS

One Act, © 1985 by Solomon Epstein.

Libretto adapted by the composer (in English) from Sophocles as a self-assigned exercise in opera construction.

For soloists, chorus and small orchestra.

THE WILD BOY

One Act, © 1985 by Solomon Epstein.

Libretto by the composer, based on historical events: the attempt (Paris, 1800-1805) by Dr. Jean-Marc Itard to educate "Victor", the feral child found at Aveyron in 1799.

Separate Libretto (English), 8 ½" x 11", 4 pages.

Piano-vocal score, 11" x 17", 60 pages.

Orchestra score, 11" x 17", 98 pages.

«The piano-vocal reduction is only for the sections where the doctor sings. The wild boy's Dance remains only in orchestra score, due to the fact that it relies so heavily on percussion.»

Performed: 1986 at Philadelphia University of the Arts.

MUSICAL

LADY LYD

Two Acts, © 1987 by William Block and Solomon Epstein.

Book and Lyrics by William Block. Music by Solomon Epstein.

Commissioned for the 100th Anniversary of the Haddonfield Plays and Players (Haddonfield, New Jersey), on the occasion of the opening of their new theater.

Performed: 1987.

Book and Songs in piano-vocal score.

INCIDENTAL MUSIC

Shakespeare, THE TEMPEST. 1991.

Incidental Music and Songs, © 1991 by Solomon Epstein.

8 ½" x 11".

For soprano and chamber ensemble with piano.

Commissioned for performance by the Theater Department of the University of Pittsburgh/Johnstown (Pennsylvania) on the occasion of the Gala Opening Week of the Joseph Pasquerilla Center for the Performing Arts.

Brecht, THE CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE. 1982.

Incidental Music and Songs © 1982 by Solomon Epstein.

8 ½" X 11".

Commissioned for performance by the Theater Department of the University of Pittsburgh/Johnstown.

Brecht, MOTHER COURAGE. 1979.

Commissioned to arrange the score by Paul Dessau for available singers and instruments, for the opening production of a new black box theater by the Theater Department of the University of Pittsburgh/Johnstown.

OCCASIONAL WORKS

John Donne, "At the Round Earth's Imagin'd Corners". 1996.

Site-specific piece for baritone and percussion battery. Performed on the Second Floor Rotunda above the Entrance Hall of the Harry Jack Grey Building at the University of Hartford (Connecticut) by young musicians of the Hartt School of Music.

Music for a Holocaust Commemoration - Yiddish Ghetto Songs. 1994.

Arrangements for baritone and cello; Interludes for solo cello.

© 1994 by Solomon Epstein.

Performed at the Annual Jewish Community Holocaust Commemoration, Longmeadow, Massachusetts, 1994.

Processional (Yiddish Song from the Vilna Ghetto, Es shlogt di sho; solo cello); Yugnt Himn; Shtil, di nakht iz oysgeshternt; Candle-lighting Ceremony (solo cello); Hot zich mir di shich tzerissn (Danse macabre); Keil Molei Rachamim (Formal Memorial Prayer); Recessional (Partisan Song; solo cello). 18 pages; ink, pencil.

«Composed while working with Professor Robert Stern at the University of Massachusetts/Amherst. I wanted the overall tone of the music to be stark and spare, so I decided on arrangements of Yiddish Ghetto Songs for voice and solo cello.»

MUSIC FOR SYNAGOGUE CHORAL GROUPS

Music for Sacred Services and Concert Performance by choirs and soloists where the composer was Cantor and Music Director. 1967-1983.

The choral groups ranged from children to teenagers to adult professionals, and included a cappella pieces, pieces with organ or piano accompaniment, and pieces involving various chamber ensembles.

ART SONGS

Rainer Maria Rilke, “Torso of an Archaic Apollo”. (Original in German). 1983.

High voice and piano. Setting in English translation of C.F. McIntyre, by permission of University of California Press, Berkeley.

«This song was imagined for a man’s voice, an operatic dramatic tenor. A woman’s voice tends to obscure the piano part.»

Concert setting of a **Yiddish folksong, Gey Ikh Mir Shpatsirn**”, for contralto and piano. 1982.

Songs to poems by Linda Marcus (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania). 1982.

“How Many Tomorrows”; “Part-Time Clown”.

For female cabaret singer and piano.

Avraham Shlonsky, “Dress Me, Good Mother” (original in Hebrew). 1980.

High voice and piano. Setting in English translation by Ruth Finer Mintz, by permission of University of California Press, Berkeley.

Rainer Maria Rilke, “Der Panther”. 1962.

Setting of German original for medium voice and piano.

CHILDREN'S MUSICAL THEATER

A CHELM STORY. 1979.

Yiddish folktale adapted (in English) and directed by Solomon Epstein. Songs for children with piano by Solomon Epstein.

Performed: Beth Sholom Congregation, Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

IT SHOULD HAPPEN TO A DOG: A SERIO-COMIC STRIP (BBC). 1978.

A staged Haftarah of The Book of Jonah (the traditional Prophetic Reading for the Afternoon Service of Yom Kippur). Adapted and expanded by Solomon Epstein for fifty children as actors, singers and dancers, assisted by adult choir and piano. Music and direction by Solomon Epstein. Performed for the Annual Hanukkah Celebration of Beth Sholom Congregation, Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

SHOLOM ALEICHEM, "HOTELS", from *Inside Kasrilevke*. 1975. Adapted for the stage with music and lyrics of songs for children and piano by Solomon Epstein.

INCOMPLETE WORKS

Walt Whitman's Dream of Edgar Poe. For high baritone and orchestra.

Incomplete draft begun in 1981(1981-1983). 12 pages.

«The text is part of an actual letter written by Walt Whitman.»

