

# The Duane A. Davidson Papers

MSS 17



Compiled by Adrienne Nesnow

1996-2007

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<https://guides.library.yale.edu/MusicSpecialCollections>

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Gilmore Music Library  
120 High Street  
PO Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520  
(203) 432-0497  
musicspecialcollections@yale.edu  
<https://guides.library.yale.edu/MusicSpecialCollections>

**CALL NUMBER:** MSS 17

**CREATOR:** Davidson, Duane A. (Duane Andrew), 1934-1964

**TITLE:** The Duane A. Davidson Papers

**DATES:** 1955-1977 (inclusive)

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 4 linear feet (6 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** Materials chiefly in English.

**SUMMARY:** Music, correspondence and other papers, and photographs by the American composer Duane A. Davidson (1934 or 1935-1964)

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/music.mss.0017>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/music.mss.0017>.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box  
f. folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

The Duane A. Davidson Papers were established in the Music Library of Yale University in 1976 by Davidson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harley Davidson (no relation to the motorcycle manufacturer).

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### Conditions Governing Access

The Papers are open to researchers by appointment. There are no restricted materials in the collection. Please contact the Special Collections staff to schedule an appointment.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The Duane A. Davidson Papers are the physical property of the Irving S. Gilmore Music Library of Yale University. Copyrights belong to the composers and authors, or their legal heirs and assigns.

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## Preferred Citation

MSS 17, The Duane A. Davidson Papers in the Irving S. Gilmore Music Library of Yale University.

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## Biographical / Historical

Duane A. Davidson was born in Rural Retreat, Virginia in 1934 or 1935. He earned a B.A. from Emory and Henry College in Virginia, and a master's degree in music in 1960 from Yale, where he was a student of Quincy Porter. His further studies included lessons with Leon Kirchner at Tanglewood in 1960. Davidson received awards for several of his works. In 1953 he was named the outstanding young composer during Pan American week. *Psalms* 150 won for him the Block Award, and in June 1960 he gained first prize in the Queen Elizabeth International Contest of the Wind Music Society in London. His *Jazz Implications* won first prize in the Composer's Competition in London in June 1960, and was premiered on the BBC. His works have been performed in London, Rome, Graz, Tanglewood, and Middlebury College in Vermont. Duane Davidson died in Washington, D.C. in December 1964.

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## Scope and Contents

The Duane A. Davidson Papers contain sketches, manuscript scores, and published editions of Davidson's musical works, including orchestral music, chamber works, piano pieces, songs, and choral music. Davidson's life and work are further documented by: programs, press releases, and reviews; correspondence with Quincy Porter; writings by Davidson; and sound recordings.

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## Arrangement

In 2 series as follows: I. Miscellaneous items. II. Musical works of Duane A. Davidson.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Miscellaneous items

b. 1, f. 1	Davidson, Duane A. <i>3 items</i>	
b. 1, f. 1	2 autograph letters signed, to Quincy Porter	1960 Jun 8, 1960
b. 1, f. 1	1 typed letter signed, to Quincy Porter	1960
b. 1, f. 2	Reviews of Davidson's works, photocopies <i>8 items</i>	1963-1976
b. 1, f. 3	Press releases, brief biographies, in part, photocopies <i>4 items</i>	1965-1976
b. 1, f. 4	Photographs of presentation of 52 of Duane's manuscripts by Harley Davidson (father) to Dean Philip Nelson of the Yale University School of Music <i>5 items</i>	1976 Nov 18
b. 1, f. 5	Programs including Davidson's works, in part, photocopies <i>16 items</i>	1958-1977
b. 1, f. 6	Davidson, Duane A. Reflections of Duane A. Davidson <i>1 item</i> (poetry)	c1966

**Series II: Musical works of Duane A. Davidson**

b. 1, f. 7	Petite Pièce <i>3 items</i> Holograph signed, in ink, score. Holograph signed, in ink, score. Holograph signed, in ink, in part photocopies, parts, 2 copies.	1955 Mar
b. 1, f. 8	Three Songs for Gabrielle <i>2 items</i> Holograph signed, in ink and pencil, piano-vocal score. Photocopy of above.	1955 Dec
b. 1, f. 9	Introduction - Berceuse and Rondino <i>7 items</i> Holograph signed, in pencil, for horn and piano [originally entitled Suite No. 2: I. Prelude, II. Berceuse, III. Rondino] Prelude for horn and piano. Berceuse for oboe and piano, 2 copies. Berceuse, oboe part. Holograph signed, in ink, for horn and piano. Photocopy of holograph signed, horn part.	1956 Jul 8
b. 1, f. 10	Sonatine for oboe and piano <i>3 items</i> Holograph in pencil. Photocopy of above, 2 copies.	1956 Jul
b. 1, f. 11	Summer Day <i>1 item</i> Holograph signed, in pencil, piano-vocal score.	1957 Jan 9
b. 1, f. 12	Pretense <i>2 items</i> Holograph signed, in pencil, piano-vocal score. Photocopy of above.	1957 Jan 10
b. 1, f. 13	Sonata for horn and piano <i>1 item</i> Holograph signed, in ink.	1957 Aug
b. 1, f. 14	Divertissement en Fa <i>1 item</i> Holograph signed, in pencil, for oboe, horn, and bassoon.	1957

b. 1, f. 15	<p>Cantata No. 1: Melora's Song 5 items</p> <p>Holograph signed, in ink and pencil, for soprano, woodwinds, and piano.</p> <p>Holograph signed, in ink, for soprano, woodwind quintet, and piano.</p> <p>Vocal score for rehearsal only photocopy of signed holograph.</p> <p>Photocopy of above.</p> <p>Holograph signed, in pencil, sketch.</p>	1958 Sep
b. 1, f. 16	<p><i>Cantata No. 1: Song from a Green Hill</i> [substitute lyrics] 2 items</p> <p>Holograph signed, in ink and pencil.</p> <p>Photocopy of above.</p>	
b. 1, f. 17	<p>String Quartet No. 1 4 items</p> <p>Holograph signed, in pencil.</p> <p>Photocopy of holograph signed, parts.</p> <p>Holograph in pencil, sketch</p> <p>Photocopy of holograph signed, with note about revisions in score dated 1960 Apr.</p>	1958 Dec 31
b. 1, f. 18	<p>Fugue in C Minor 3 items</p> <p>Holograph signed, in ink, for keyboard instrument.</p>	
b. 1, f. 18	<p>Little Fugue in C Minor</p> <p>Holograph signed, in pencil, for string quartet.</p> <p>Photocopy, parts.</p>	1958
b. 1, f. 19	<p>Introduction - Song and Parody 3 items</p> <p>Holograph, signed in ink and pencil, for harp and bassoon.</p> <p>Holograph in pencil.</p> <p>Parts, original and photocopy reduction of bassoon, and photocopy reduction of manuscript for harp only.</p>	1958
b. 2, f. 1	<p>Danse Rituelle 1 item</p> <p>Holograph signed, in pencil, 4 hands.</p>	1959 Jan
b. 2, f. 2	<p>The West Wind 3 items</p> <p>Holograph signed, in ink, piano-vocal score.</p> <p>Photocopy of above.</p> <p>Holograph in pencil, sketch.</p>	1959 Jan

b. 2, f. 3	Madrigal <i>3 items</i> Holograph signed in pencil, for chorus, unaccompanied. Holograph signed in ink, for chorus (SATB), unaccompanied. Photocopy of above.	1959 Mar 7
b. 2, f. 4-5	Jazz Implications <i>7 items</i> Holograph signed, in ink and pencil, for band. Holograph signed, in ink, for band, 2 copies. Holograph signed in ink, parts, 3 copies, in part, photocopies. Holograph in pencil, sketch.	1959 Apr
b. 2, f. 6-8	Cantata No. 2: Journey of Paradoxes <i>11 items</i> Holograph signed in pencil, piano-vocal score. Holograph signed, in ink, for soprano and orchestra, 5 copies, in part, photocopies. Holograph in ink, parts, 3 copies. Holograph in pencil.	1959 Oct 17
b. 3, f. 1	Fugue in F Minor <i>6 items</i> Holograph signed, in pencil, for keyboard instrument. Photocopy reduction of above. Manuscript, in pencil, for woodwind quartet. Photocopy reduction of above. Parts, for woodwind quartet, 2 copies.	1959 Oct 17
b. 3, f. 2	Sonata, piano, no. 1 <i>3 items</i> Holograph signed, in ink. Photocopy reduction of above. Holograph signed in pencil, sketch.	1960 Jan
b. 6, f. 1	Introduction and Dance No. 1 <i>3 items</i> Holograph signed in ink and pencil, score. Holograph in ink, score. Holograph in pencil, sketch.	1960 Mar



b. 3, f. 3	<p>Introduction and Dance <i>2 items</i></p> <p>Holograph signed, in ink, score.</p> <p>Holograph, sketches.</p>	1960 Aug
b. 3, f. 4	<p>Psalm 150: Hallelujah <i>3 items</i></p> <p>Holograph signed, in ink, for chorus (SATB), unaccompanied.</p> <p>Photocopy of above.</p> <p>Photocopy of holograph, sketch.</p>	1960 Nov
b. 3, f. 5	<p>Le 14 Juillet <i>3 items</i></p> <p>Holograph signed, in ink, fantasy for piano.</p> <p>"To Gérard, bonne chance pour '59-'60, Duane"--verso of title page.</p> <p>Photocopy of above.</p> <p>Holograph in ink, sketch.</p>	no date
b. 3, f. 6-9	<p>Cantata No. 3: The Execution <i>13 items</i></p> <p>Holograph signed, in pencil, for soprano, tenor, chorus of 4 alto voices, and chamber orchestra.</p> <p>Holograph signed, in ink, of above.</p> <p>Photocopy of above.</p> <p>Holograph signed, in ink, rehearsal reduction for 2 pianos.</p> <p>Holograph signed, in ink, vocal parts, orchestra reduction, 5 copies, in part, photocopies.</p> <p>Holograph signed, in ink, parts.</p> <p>Photocopies of above.</p> <p>Holograph in ink and pencil, sketch.</p> <p>Holograph and typescript, synopsis of scenes.</p>	1961
b. 4, f. 1-3	<p>Stravaganza I <i>10 items</i></p> <p>Holograph signed, in ink, for trombone and orchestra.</p> <p>Holograph signed, in ink, for trombone and orchestra, revised version, 2 copies.</p> <p>Holograph signed, in ink, piano reduction.</p> <p>Holograph signed, in ink, solo trombone part, 3 copies, in part, photocopies.</p> <p>Holograph signed, in ink, parts.</p> <p>Manuscript in ink, parts, some duplicates, in part, photocopies.</p> <p>Holograph in pencil, sketches.</p>	1961

b. 4, f. 4	Berceuse for Ann and Child <i>3 items</i> Holograph signed, in ink, score. Parts, 2 copies, in part, photocopies.	1962 Jan 3
b. 4, f. 5	Choreographies <i>3 items</i> Photocopy of holograph signed, a concerto for oboe and orchestra, score. Holograph in ink and pencil, sketch of movement I. Holograph in ink and pencil, sketch of movements I and II.	1962
b. 4, f. 6-7	Psalm 23 <i>6 items</i> Holograph signed, in ink, for chorus (SATB) and piano. Photocopy of above. Holograph signed)in pencil, for chorus (SATB) and orchestra, score. Photocopy of above.	1962-1964
b. 4, f. 6-7	Chorale, Introduction and Psalm Holograph signed, in ink, for chorus (SATB) and orchestra, score [his Psalm 23] Holograph, in part, signed, in part photocopies, parts.	
b. 5, f. 1-3	French Suite for Small Orchestra <i>5 items</i> Holograph signed, in ink, score. Photocopy of above. Holograph in ink, in part, signed, in part, photocopies, parts. Some duplicates. Holograph in pencil, score. Photocopy of holograph of score.	1964
b. 5, f. 4	Cantata No. 4: The Queen's Marie <i>3 items</i> Holograph in ink, score, incomplete. Photocopy of above. Holograph in pencil, sketch.	no date
b. 5, f. 5	Composition exercises <i>16 items</i> Holographs in ink and pencil.	no date
b. 5, f. 6	Joanna <i>2 items</i> Holograph in ink, synopsis of opera in 3 acts. Holograph in ink and pencil, various sketches.	no date

b. 5, f. 7	Psalm 100 <i>1 item</i> Holograph in pencil, sketch.	no date
b. 5, f. 8	Quartet for Woodwinds <i>1 item</i> Photocopy of score.	no date
b. 5, f. 9	Sketches <i>1 item</i> Holographs in ink and pencil, various sketches.	no date
b. 5, f. 10	String Quartet No. 2 <i>1 item</i> Photocopy of score.	no date
b. 5, f. 11	Theme and Variations <i>1 item</i> For woodwind quintet, photocopy of parts.	no date
b. 5, f. 12	Various sketched and libretti <i>16 items</i> In part, holographs in ink and pencil.	no date
b. 6	Tapes of performances of selected musical works of Duane A. Davidson. <i>5 items</i>	
b. 6	Jazz Implications U.S. Naval Academy Band, Lt. John R, Bledsoe, USN, conductor, 7.5 IPS.	1977 Feb 24-25
b. 6	Instrumental works Piano sonata, String Quartet No. 1, Sonatina for Oboe and Piano, Sonata for Trombone and Piano, 7,5 IPS, 2 copies.	
b. 6	Choral works Chorale and Psalm 23, Madrigal, Cantata No. 1, Cantata No. 2, 2 copies.	

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Cantatas, Secular -- Scores  
Composers -- Correspondence  
Music -- United States -- 20th Century  
Piano music  
Songs  
String quartets -- Scores

### **Names**

Davidson, Duane A. (Duane Andrew), 1934-1964  
Porter, Quincy, 1897-1966