

Charles Tournemire Collection

Guides to Special Collections in the Music Division of the Library of Congress



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**Music Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
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Contact information:

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Collection Summary

Title: Charles Tournemire Collection

Span Dates: circa 1868-1962

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1900-1936)

Call No.: ML31.T68

Creator: Tournemire, Charles, 1870-1939

Extent: 67 items ; 9 containers ; 5.0 linear feet

Language: Collection material primarily in French

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

Abstract: Charles Tournemire was a French composer, organist, and teacher. The collection chiefly consists of holograph, manuscript and printed music by Tournemire and other composers. In addition, the collection contains librettos, a scrapbook, books and a journal.

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.

People

Tournemire, Charles, 1870-1939--Manuscripts.

Tournemire, Charles, 1870-1939.

Tournemire, Charles, 1870-1939.

Tournemire, Charles, 1870-1939. Sang de la sirène.

Tournemire, Charles, 1870-1939. Selections.

Subjects

Composers--France.

Music--Manuscripts--20th century.

Organists--France.

Administrative Information

Provenance

Gift; Alice Tournemire; 1998.

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Processing History

The Charles Tournemire Collection was processed in 1998. Nancy Seeger coded the finding aid for EAD format in 2011.

Transfers

Two books from the collection that bear Tournemire's signature have been transferred to the Library of Congress general collections. They are *La Bible d'Amiens* by Ruskin and *L'évolution divine du sphinx au Christ* by Schuré.

Copyright Status

Materials from the Charles Tournemire Collection 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 Charles Tournemire Collection is 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 to use or copying of materials may apply.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [item, date, container number], Charles Tournemire Collection, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Charles Tournemire, a composer, organist, and teacher, was born in Bordeaux, France, on Jan. 22, 1870. He was appointed organist of the church of St. Pierre in Bordeaux at the age of eleven. After studying at the Bordeaux Conservatoire, he transferred to the Paris Conservatoire at the age of sixteen, where he studied the piano with Bériot and harmony with Taudou. Around 1889, he joined César Franck's organ class and in 1891 Tournemire won first prize for organ in Charles-Marie Widor's class. After working briefly at Saint-Nicolas-du-Chardonnet, he succeeded Gabriel Pierné as organist at the Basilique Sainte Clotilde, a post he held for the rest of his life. Between 1900 and 1904 he composed his first five symphonies. He achieved his first major recognition as a composer when he won the concours musicale de la ville de Paris for his choral work *Le sang de la sirène* in 1904.

In 1908, Tournemire married the sister of the wife of Josephin "Sâr" Péladan, a French mystic who was the founder of the Ordre de Rose-Croix in Paris. Tournemire began immersing himself in nineteenth century French mystical writers, such as Hello, Huysmans, and Péladan. Beginning in the late 1920s, Tournemire increasingly withdrew from the musical establishment becoming heavily involved with not only mystical writers, but medieval architecture and early Christian spirituality.

Tournemire composed three more symphonies after the First World War, none of which were performed in his lifetime. In 1919, he became professor of chamber music at the Paris Conservatoire where he also taught organ improvisation. Tournemire was an influential teacher whose students included Maurice Duruflé, Jean Langlais, and Daniel Lesur, among others.

After 1921, many of his best compositions were written for the church. He wrote the immense *L'orgue mystique* (1927-1932) which was a cycle of fifty-one organ suites, one for every Sunday of the church year, each based on the appropriate plainsong. In 1931, Tournemire recorded five organ improvisations at Sainte Clotilde. These were later transcribed from the phonograph recordings by Maurice Duruflé and are among his best known works. His last composition was the opera *Il poverello di Assisi* (1937-1938) based on a text by "Sâr" Péladan.

The precise cause and date of his death are uncertain. He died at Arcachon around Nov. 4, 1939.

Scope and Content Note

The collection primarily consists of manuscript and printed music, but also includes librettos, a scrapbook, books, and one issue of a journal.

The music includes items by Tournemire and by other composers. The Tournemire materials include six holographs, including an arrangement for piano (four hands) of the *First symphony* by Raoul Moreau, three manuscripts, and eight printed scores. There are two additional Tournemire holographs, one is an arrangement of the sixth suite from Walther's *Hortulus chelicus*, and the other a transcription of Frescobaldi's *Toccata per l'Elevazione*. The printed scores by other composers include items from the *Ecole classique de l'Orgue* series, edited by A. Guilmant.

Additional materials include two librettos for Tournemire works, a lyric sheet of a poem by Verlaine, and a scrapbook entitled *Le sang de la sirène*, after Tournemire's prize-winning composition.

Six books came with the collection, four of which are annotated and one printed especially for Tournemire. Two books were transferred to the Library of Congress general collections (see "Transfers" above).

Organization of the Charles Tournemire Collection

The Charles Tournemire Collection is organized in five series:

- [Music, circa 1868-1962](#)
- [Librettos](#)
- [Scrapbook, 1904, 1909](#)
- [Books, circa 1899-1923](#)
- [Journal, 1928](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-7	<u>Music, circa 1868-1962, undated</u>
BOX 1-2, 4-6	<u>Music by Charles Tournemire, 1899-1962, undated</u> Original compositions, including manuscripts and printed scores, and arrangements and transcriptions. Arranged by opus number.
BOX 1, 3, 7	<u>Music by Other Composers, circa 1868-circa 1938, undated</u> Printed scores, including several from the series <i>Ecole classique de l'Orgue</i> . Arranged alphabetically by composer or title.
BOX 1, 8	<u>Librettos</u> Manuscript librettos and lyric sheet for compositions by Tournemire. Arranged by opus number.
BOX 1	<u>Scrapbook, 1904, 1909</u> Articles and correspondence about <i>Le sang de la sirène</i> , by Tournemire (1904).
BOX 8, 9	<u>Books, circa 1899-1923, undated</u> Two books were transferred to the Library of Congress general collections. Arranged alphabetically by author.
BOX 8	<u>Journal, 1928</u> Contains one issue.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-7	Music, circa 1868-1962, undated
BOX 1-2, 4-6	Music by Charles Tournemire, 1899-1962, undated Original compositions, including manuscripts and printed scores, and arrangements and transcriptions. Arranged by opus number. Manuscripts
BOX-FOLDER 2/1	1re Symphonie romantique, op. 18 bis Holograph in ink; 86 p. Arrangement for piano, four hands, by Raoul Moreau. According to Fauquet (p. 32) it was unfinished.
BOX-FOLDER 2/2	Poème [mystique] pour piano, op. 33 Manuscript in ink; 40 p. Dedicated "A madame Charles Tournemire." For information about other dedications, see Fauquet, p. 27.
BOX-FOLDER 4/1	(Chryséis) Les Dieux sont morts, drame lyrique, op. 42 (fragments for the concert performance) Holograph in ink, 122 p. At end: 1912. See Fauquet, p. 67.
BOX-FOLDER 2/3	La Légende de Tristan, op. 53 Manuscript in ink; 25 p. Vocal part for Iseut.
BOX-FOLDER 2/4	La Légende de Tristan, op. 53 Manuscript (holograph?) in ink; 6 p. Vocal part for Tristan. Incomplete.
BOX-FOLDER 2/5	Fantasia symphonique pour orgue, op. 64 Holograph in ink; 18 p. Dedicated to Marcel Dupré. At end: 25 Avril 1934. See Fauquet, p. 43.
BOX-FOLDER 2/6	Symphonie-choral d'orgue, op. 69 Holograph in ink; 44 p. At end: 22 Novembre 1935. See Fauquet, p. 48.
BOX-FOLDER 2/7	Symphonie sacrée pour orgue, op. 71 Holograph in ink, 44 p. At end: 15 Février 1936. See Fauquet, p. 48-49.
BOX-FOLDER 2/8	Deux fresques symphoniques sacrées pour orgue, op. 75 and op. 76 Holograph in ink, 14 + 23 p. At end: 4 Novembre 1938; 22 Février 1939. See Fauquet, p. 49-50.

Music, circa 1868-1962, undated

Container

Contents

Printed Music

- BOX-FOLDER 2/11** Pièce symphonique pour grand orgue, op. 16. Paris : Schola Cantorum, [1899]
Répertoire moderne de Musique vocale et d'Orgue, no. 17.
- BOX-FOLDER 2/12** Suite de Morceaux pour grand-orgue, op. 19 (Toccata, Interludes). Paris : Pérégally & Parvy, 1900
Toccata with annotations.
Interludes with the following dedication on the title page: "A Madame Juhel-Rénoy."
- BOX-FOLDER 2/13** Sagesse, poème pour chant et piano, op. 34. Lyon : Janin, 1921
- BOX-FOLDER 2/14** Triple choral pour orgue, op. 41. Lyon : Janin, 1912
With annotations.
- BOX-FOLDER 2/15** Triple choral pour orgue, op. 41. Paris : Schola Cantorum, Procure générale de musique, [1962]
Orgue et Liturgie, no. 54.
- BOX-FOLDER 1/1** Les Dieux sont morts, drame lyrique, op. 42. Paris : Choudens, 1921
Piano-vocal score
Title page and the end missing.
Annotations.
- BOX-FOLDER 2/16** Suite evocatrice pour grand orgue, op. 74. Paris : Bornemann, 1938
With annotations.
- BOX-FOLDER 5/1** L'orgue mystique, op. 55, 56, 57. Cycle de Noël, op. 55. Paris : Heugel, 1928-1930
- BOX 6** Cycle de Paques, op. 56. Paris : Heugel, 1928-1930
- BOX-FOLDER 5/2** Cycle après la Pentacôte, op. 57. I: No. 26-38. Paris : Heugel, 1928-1932
- BOX-FOLDER 5/3** Cycle après la Pentacôte, op. 57. II: No. 39-51. Paris : Heugel, 1934-1936
- Arrangements and Transcriptions**
- BOX-FOLDER 2/9** Walther, Johann Jakob. 6e suite de l'Hortulus chelicus, accompagnement arrangée par Ch. Tournemire, op. 13. Violin part.
Arranger's holograph in ink; [3] p.
The movements are not the same as the ones in the score (see Fauquet, p. 65).
Printed violin part, movements: Allemande and Gigue.
- BOX-FOLDER 2/10** Frescobaldi, Girolamo. Toccata per l'Elevazione
Manuscript in ink; [2] p.
Transcribed by Ch. Tournemire (?).

BOX 1, 3, 7

Music by Other Composers, circa 1868-circa 1938, undated

Printed scores, including several from the series *Ecole classique de l'Orgue*.
Arranged alphabetically by composer or title.

- BOX-FOLDER 3/1** Bach, Johann Sebastian. Chorals-Préludes, 1er Livre. Paris : Heugel, [19--]
Annotations pp. 14, 30-31.
- BOX-FOLDER 3/2** Bach, Johann Sebastian. Chorals-Préludes, 4er Livre. Paris : Heugel, [19--]
Annotations pp. 58-59.
- BOX-FOLDER 3/3** Bach, Johann Sebastian. Chorals-Préludes, 5e Livre. Paris : Heugel, [19--]
Annotations pp. 4-5, 41, 64.
- BOX-FOLDER 3/4** Buxtehude, Dietrich. Werke für orgel, v. 1. Leipzig : Breitkopf & Härtel, 1903-1904
Title page and introduction missing.
Annotated

Music, circa 1868-1962, undated

Container	Contents
BOX-FOLDER 3/5	Buxtehude, Dietrich. Werke für Orgel, v. 2. Leipzig : Breitkopf & Härtel, 1903-1904 Annotated.
BOX-FOLDER 1/4	Cabanilles, Iohannis. Opera omnia, vol. 1. Barcelona : Biblioteca de Catalunya, 1927 Inscribed by the editor Hygini Anglès to Ch. Tournemire, Paris, 4.3.1930. Annotations mainly pp. 41-43.
BOX-FOLDER 1/5	Cabanilles, Iohannis. Opera omnia, vol. 2. Barcelona : Institut d'estudis Catalans, Biblioteca de Catalunya, 1933 Inscribed by the editor Hygini Anglès to Ch. Tournemire, Barcelona, 15. XII. 1933.
BOX-FOLDER 1/6	Cabanilles, Iohannis. Opera omnia, vol. 3. Barcelona : Institut d'estudis Catalans, Biblioteca de Catalunya, 1936
BOX-FOLDER 3/6	Franck, Cèsar. 6 pièces d'orgue. Paris : Durand, 1868-1890? Missing pp. 79-90. Annotations pp. 57-67.
BOX-FOLDER 7/1	Frescobaldi, Girolamo. Fiori musicali. Paris : Senart, 1922
BOX-FOLDER 7/2	Frescobaldi, Girolamo. Sammlung von Orgelsätzen. Leipzig : Breikopf & Härtel, 1889?
BOX-FOLDER 7/3	Frescobaldi, Girolamo. Toccata XII. Paris : Hérelle, [19--]
BOX-FOLDER 7/4	Griguy, Nicolas de. Oeuvres d'orgue. London : Schott, 1904 Inscribed by the editor Alexandre Guilmant to Ch. Tournemire, 1906.
BOX-FOLDER 7/5	Liszt, Franz. Zwölf Kirchen-Chor-Gesänge mit Orgelbegleitung; no. 12: Pro Papa: Dominus conservet eum. Leipzig : C. F. Kahnt, [189-?]
BOX-FOLDER 7/6	Mathey, Paul. Ante et post praedicationem, op.2. Zwei Stücke für Orgel und Violine (ohne Obligatespedal), 2 v. Zürich ; Leipzig : Gebrüder Hug, 1938? Inscribed by the author to Ch. Tournemire, 1938.
BOX-FOLDER 7/7	Matthews, Edmund. Chorale prelude on "St. Mary" for the organ. London : Novello, 1933 Inscribed by the author to Ch. Tournemire, 1936.
BOX-FOLDER 7/8	Matthews, Edmund. Interlude on "Strength and Stay" for the organ. London : Novello, 1933 Inscribed by the author to Ch. Tournemire, 1936.
BOX-FOLDER 7/9	Ropartz, Joseph Guy. Intermède. Paris : Schola Cantorum, [189-?] <i>Répertoire moderne de Musique vocale et d'Orgue, no 4 bis.</i>
BOX-FOLDER 7/10	Ropartz, Joseph Guy. Sur un thème Breton. Paris : Schola Cantorum, 1900 Annotated. Items in the <i>Ecole classique de l'orgue/A. Guilmant</i> series:
BOX-FOLDER 7/11	Bruhns, Nicolas. Choral Nun komm, der heiden Heiland. Paris : Durand, circa 1900 Ecole classique de l'orgue/A. Guilmant; no.3.
BOX-FOLDER 7/12	Buxtehude, Dietrich. Fugue en Ut. Paris : Durand, circa 1900 Ecole classique de l'orgue/A. Guilmant; no.22. Annotated.
BOX-FOLDER 7/13	Buxtehude, Dietrich. Prélude et Fugue en La. Paris : Durand, circa 1900 Ecole classique de l'orgue/A. Guilmant; no.2. Annotated.
BOX-FOLDER 7/14	Frescobaldi, Girolamo. Fugue en Sol mineur. Paris : Durand, circa 1900 Ecole classique de l'orgue/A. Guilmant; no.70. Annotated.
BOX-FOLDER 7/15	Krebs, Johann Ludwig. Fugue en Sol. Paris : Durand, circa 1900 Ecole classique de l'orgue/A. Guilmant; no.15. Annotated.

Music, circa 1868-1962, undated

Container	Contents
BOX-FOLDER 7/16	Murschhauser, F. X. A. Praeambulum du 3e ton, Arpeggiata, Fuga. Paris : Durand, circa 1900 Ecole classique de l'orgue/A. Guilmant; no.16.
BOX-FOLDER 7/17	Scheidt, Samuel. Cantilena anglica fortunae. Paris : Durand, circa 1900 Ecole classique de l'orgue/A. Guilmant; no.14. Annotated.
BOX-FOLDER 7/18	Sweelinck, Jan Pieters. Fantasie en Ré mineur. Paris : Durand, circa 1900 Ecole classique de l'orgue/A. Guilmant; no.6. Annotated.
BOX-FOLDER 7/19	Walther, Johann Gottfried. Prélude et fugue en La majeur. Paris : Durand, circa 1900 Ecole classique de l'orgue/A. Guilmant; no.4. Title page missing. Annotated.
BOX-FOLDER 7/20	Concert historique d'orgue / revus par Alexandre Guilmant. Paris : Durand, 1889? Annotated.
BOX-FOLDER 7/21	Unidentified. Compositions for organ pp. 105-112. Plate number: A. G. 104. Annotated.
BOX 1, 8	Librettos Manuscript librettos and lyric sheet for compositions by Tournemire. Arranged by opus number.
BOX-FOLDER 8/3	Nittetis, tragédie lyrique en 3 actes et 7 tableaux, op. 30. Acte I. Holograph in ink; around 120 p.
BOX-FOLDER 8/4	Nittetis, tragédie lyrique en 3 actes et 7 tableaux, op. 30. Acte II. Holograph in ink; around 120 p.
BOX-FOLDER 8/5	Nittetis, tragédie lyrique en 3 actes et 7 tableaux, op. 30. Acte III. Holograph in ink; around 120 p.
BOX-FOLDER 1/3	Sagesse, op. 34; poem by Paul Verlaine Manuscript in ink; [1], 4 leaves
BOX-FOLDER 1/2	Trilogie Faust - Don Quichotte - Saint François d'Assise, op. 52 Holograph in ink; 16 + 25 + 14 leaves
BOX 1	Scrapbook, 1904, 1909 Articles and correspondence about <i>Le sang de la sirène</i> , by Tournemire (1904).
BOX-FOLDER 1/7	Le Sang de la Sirène (title on the cover), 1904, 1909 200 p. Articles on Tournemire's <i>Le sang de la sirène</i> , op. 27, 1904; pp. 1-29. Letters of congratulations, business cards, postcards, 1904 and 1909; pp. 30-99. Laid in: letter from 1909 (p. 83), printed report on the competition concours musicale de las ville de Paris, 1900-1903, Paris 1904.
BOX 8, 9	Books, circa 1899-1923, undated Two books were transferred to the Library of Congress general collections. Arranged alphabetically by author.

Books, circa 1899-1923, undated

Container	Contents
BOX-FOLDER 9/3	Bédier, Joseph. <i>Le roman de Tristan et Iseut</i> . Paris : L'Edition d'Art, 1914. At end of book: Exemplaire imprimé pour Charles Tournemire.
BOX-FOLDER 8/1	Emmerich, Anne-Catherine. <i>La douloureuse passion de Notre-seigneur Jésus-Christ</i> . Tournai : Casterman, [18--] Annotated.
BOX-FOLDER 9/2	Pauphilet, Albert. <i>La quête du Saint Graal</i> . Paris : Les éditions de la Sirène, 1923 Annotated.
BOX-FOLDER 9/3	Theocritus. <i>uvres complètes</i> de Théocrite. Paris : Garnier frères, 1899 Annotated.
BOX-FOLDER	Ruskin, John. <i>La Bible d'Amiens</i> . Paris : Société du mercure de France, 1904 Transferred to the Library of Congress general collections.
BOX-FOLDER	Schuré, Eduard. <i>L'évolution divine du sphinx au Christ</i> . Paris : Perrin, 1921 Transferred to the Library of Congress general collections.
BOX 8	Journal, 1928 Contains one issue.
BOX-FOLDER 8/2	Cahiers Rhodaniens. January 1928 Inscribed by Albert Pauphilet to Ch. Tournemire. Annotated.