

J. Victor Bergquist Collection
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Finding aid prepared by Gail A. Wolfson

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James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library

May 21, 2012

300 Nicollet Mall

Minneapolis, MN, 55401

612-543-8200

specialcoll@hclib.org

Table of Contents

<u>Summary Information</u>	3
<u>Biography</u>	4
<u>Collection Description</u>	4
<u>Controlled Access Headings</u>	5
<u>General Collection Resources</u>	5
<u>Collection Inventory</u>	6

Summary Information

Repository	James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library
Creator - Author	Bergquist, J. Victor (John Victor)
Title	J. Victor Bergquist Collection
Date	1877-1935
Extent	1.04 Linear feet
Language	English

Biography

John Victor Bergquist (May 18, 1877 – February 26, 1935) was born in St. Peter, MN and received a Bachelor of Music from Gustavus Adolphus College in 1895 at age 18. Serving as the organist of Augustana Lutheran Church in Minneapolis for four years, Bergquist also studied with Gustavus Johnson, a leading Minneapolis composer-pianist and taught in the Johnson School of Music.

In 1900 Bergquist went to Berlin for advanced training and moved to Paris in 1902 for additional study. Bergquist returned to Minneapolis in 1903 and reassumed his post as organist at Augustana Lutheran Church. In addition, Bergquist joined Gustavus Adolphus College as principal of the piano department, directed the male chorus of United Church Seminary and served as organist of the Apollo Club. While at Augustana Lutheran Church, Bergquist produced a major oratorio each year. His oratorio Golgotha was performed by a chorus of 200 and the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra in 1906.

In 1912, Bergquist left Minneapolis to head up the Music Conservatory at Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois. Bergquist and Dr. E.W. Olson received a commission to produce a musical work for 1917, the 400th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. Their Reformation Cantata was performed at Rock Island, Illinois

Returning to Minneapolis in 1918, Bergquist assumed multiple musical roles including teaching organ, piano and composition at the MacPhail School, serving as Assistant Supervisor of Music in the Minneapolis Public Schools and as Dean of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. From 1922-1929, Bergquist was the organist and choir director of Central Lutheran Church.

Bergquist composed more than 30 works, including sacred music, piano, organ, and choral music. He was particularly dedicated to church music and music for youth.

Married to Emilia Elvira Johnson in 1905, Bergquist had four children.

Source: J. Victor Bergquist, Finding Joy in Music, by Robert Tallant Laudon, (Professor Emeritus of Musicology, University of Minnesota), 2002.

Collection Description

One box of 7 manuscripts of music scores by composer J. Victor Berquist.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library May 21, 2012

Controlled Access Headings

Subject(s)

- Choral conductors -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis.
 - Composers -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis.
 - Music -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis.
 - Musicals.
 - Organists -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis.
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General Collection Resources

Title(s)

- Golgotha Zgr 499b1 (Putnam Classification - Adult Reference Music Score)
- Reformationskantat Zgr 409b2 (Putnam Classification) (Adult Reference Music Score)

Collection Inventory

	Box	Folder
Clippings	1	1
		Box
Golgotha; Oratorio (orchestral manuscript) 1877-1935		1
General note		
Per Robert Tallant Laudon article, work was written in 1905 and published in 1907. Soloist parts are in Swedish. Orchestral score and 24 instrumental parts.		
Golgotha; Oratorio (Instrumental parts) 1877-1935		1
Julkantat, Christmas Cantata 1877-1935		1
General note		
Text by Dr. A. Bergin. Orchestral score and 12 instrumental parts. Includes newspaper clippings on performances.		
Reformationskanta; Reformation Cantata (Instrumental parts) 1917		1
Reformationskantat; Reformation Cantata (original manuscript) 1917		1

General note

Text by Ernst W. Olson. Includes original manuscript score, 34 instrumental parts and printed score published by Augustana Book Concern (Rock Island, IL). Text in English and Swedish.

Reformationskanta; Reformation Cantata (published score) 1917

1

General note

Published score from Augustana Book Concern, Rock Island, Illinois, 1917.

Sonata No. V in D Minor for Organ 1877-1935

1

General note

Inscribed "To my Friend Hugo Goodwin," organist of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Minneapolis.