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## **Catalogue of some Dame Ethel Smyth music manuscripts**

**Date range of material: Composed probably between 1860-1890**

Durham University Library  
November 2016

## Contents

Preface .....	iii
Introduction .....	1
Catalogue of material:	
Music.....	2

## Preface

### Creation of catalogue

Typescript list 1987. Scanned/OCR/rekeyed RIH 1996, SGML RIH August 1996.

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## Introduction

*Collection title:* Dame Ethel Smyth music manuscripts

*Reference code:* GB-0033-SMY

*Dates of creation:* Composed probably between 1860-1890

*Extent:* 1 box

*Repository:* Durham University Library, Archives and Special Collections

*Creator:* Dame Ethel Smyth (1858-1944)

*Language of material:* English

## Content

Autograph scores, with instrumental parts in some cases, of three early chamber works (String trio in D major, Piano trio in D minor, and String quartet in C minor) dating from Dame Ethel Smyth's Leipzig student period.

## Biographical history

Ethel Mary Smyth (1858-1944) was one of the more notable figures in English musical life during the earlier part of the twentieth century; as well as being probably the first Englishwoman to achieve fame as a composer, she wrote several autobiographical books, was a supporter of the Women's Suffrage Movement (for whom she composed the *March of the Women*), and was generally recognised as a forceful personality.

Her wish to follow a musical career met with considerable family opposition, but she overcame this and began her full-time musical training by enrolling as a student at the Leipzig Conservatory in 1877. Soon afterwards she chose instead to take private tuition from Heinrich von Herzogenberg, and she spent much of her time on the continent during the following decade or so. Some of her early chamber music was publicly performed in Germany around this time, and her works began to be played in this country from 1890 onwards.

Her first major English success came with the performance of the *Mass in D* at the Albert Hall in January 1893, and she went on to compose several operas and choral works as well as smaller pieces. She received the honorary degree of DMus. from Durham University in 1910, and was created DBE in 1922.

## Accession details

Presented from the composer's estate.

## Form of citation

The form of citation should be GB-0033-SMY, or the collection title Dame Ethel Smyth music manuscripts, and the *reference number*.

To order items in the searchroom, use the collection reference code(s), derived by removing the repository code (GB-0033-), followed by the reference number. Citing the section of the finding aid is useful.

## Bibliography

*The new Grove dictionary of music and musicians*, (ed. S. Sadie), (London, 1980) v.17, pp.425-6.

*Ethel Smyth, a biography*, St. John, Christopher (pseudonym, i.e. C. Marshall): London, (1959).

"Ethel Smyth's prentice work", Dale, Kathleen, *Music and Letters* 30 (1949) pp.329-336.

Related material (elsewhere)

British Library, London

Many of Dame Ethel Smyth's autograph manuscripts are now in the sequence BL Add. MSS. 45934-45950, 46857-46863 and 49196.

## Music

### 1 Between 1878 and 1884

*String trio in D major* for violin, viola and 'cello

Autograph copy, in ink, of full score.

Four movements, *Allegro, Allegretto grazioso, Adagio, Allegro molto*.

Enclosed within a brown paper wrapper bearing a 2d. English postage stamp, postmarked 4 - 4 - [18]88, and endorsed "Mr. Saunders 50 New Bond St. W. For Miss Smyth".

At head of first movement: 'Streich trio Hauptmanstr. 5 Smyth.

Dale suggests composed between 1861 and 1888 (Dale, p.330), but Marquardt in her edition narrows this to 1878-1884.

Size: 270 x 170 mm

31 leaves (contemporary ink pagination, 1-62)

Printed ed. B. Marquardt, 2008 (Furore Edition 10042, ISMN: M-50182-042-9). Preface available online at <http://www.anima-inventrix-berlin.de/documents/vorwort.pdf>.

### 2a Dated at end Aug. 25th. [18]80

*Piano trio in D minor*, for Piano, violin and 'cello.

Autograph copy, in pencil, of full score.

Four movements, *Allegro*, [slow movement] *Scherzo* and *trio, Allegro vivace*.

The extensive alterations suggest that this is a working draft; the whole of the original p.4 and parts of p.6 and p.13 have been cancelled, and a different version pasted over.

Size: 340 x 265 mm.

26 leaves (contemporary pencil pagination 1-33, 33 [bis], 34-50) with front grey wrapper)

Note: This Trio received its first public performance on 30 August, 1985, in a concert by the Mirecourt Trio (Kenneth Goldsmith, violin; Terry King, cello; John Jensen, piano) in the Herrick Chapel of Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa. The performance was based on this manuscript. A recording, presented by the Trio, is located with the ms as item 2d.

Printed: Robertson Publications (catalogue number 95499)

Recording: CDE 84286 Ethel Smyth, *Impressions that Remain*; Chagall Trio.

### 2b

*Violin part*

Autograph copy, in ink, incorporating alterations and corrections.

Included with this are 4 leaves (unpaginated, 2 wholly blank except for ruled staves) containing a section of a violin part from a chamber work, not apparently this one, ending F minor.

Size: 340 x 265 mm.

6 leaves (contemporary ink pagination [1]-12, 12 [bis], 13)

### 2c

*'Cello part*

Autograph copy, in ink, incorporating alterations and corrections.

Size: 340 x 265 mm.

8 leaves (contemporary ink pagination, [1]-15)

3a Dated at end 27 April [18]81

*String quartet in C minor*

Autograph copy, in ink, of full score.

Four movements (with two different 2nd movements): *Allegro*, *Andante* (based on the hymn tune "Horbury" by J.B. Dykes) cancelled and replaced by *Adagio*, *Scherzo* and *trio*, *Allegro*.

At head of first movement: "Ethel Smyth Salomonstr 19 Leipzig".

The extensive alterations suggest that this is a working draft.

The bottom portion of the final leaf, below the end of the score, is lacking. The original version of the final page of the *Andante* is pasted over with a later version, itself subsequently cancelled with the rest of the movement).

The third movement of this quartet is now in the Ethel Smyth ms collection at the British Library, Add. MS. 46858/3 (in whose catalogue it is said to be the same as the 2nd movement of the String Quartet in E flat).

20 leaves, grey front wrapper (contemporary ink and pencil pagination 1-10, [4 unpaginated pages], 11-35. The cancelled *Andante* occupies the 4 unpaginated pages.

3b

*Set of parts* (3bi-iv, Violin 1 and 2, Viola, 'Cello).

Autograph copy in ink, incorporating alterations and corrections.

The second movement is the rejected *Andante* from 3a.

*Size*: 335 x 255mm.

32 leaves (8 to each part) in grey wrapper

3b, v

Additional bifolium marked "Cello Adagio", containing the 'Cello part of a quartet (?) slow movement in C minor.

Identified in 2012 by Bettina Marquardt as belonging to the string quartet in E flat, (British Library MS Add 46859 [Ethel Smyth Collection Vol XX, fol. 1-31]).

1f

3c

*Set of parts*

As in 3b above, a contemporary neater copy in another hand, not including the draft 'cello adagio.

*Size*: 360 x 270 mm.

25 leaves (6, 6, 7 and 6)