

*UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA*



The University Archives  
and Records Center

A Guide to the  
Harl McDonald, 1899 - 1955  
Recordings, 1937 - 1944

2 Linear ft.

UPT50 McD675

Prepared by Theresa R. Snyder  
1996

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**PROVENANCE**

Douglas Dickson was the original owner of these phonographic albums. The University Archives received them as a transfer from the Music Library in April of 1993.

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Harl McDonald, 1899-1955, studied music under Vernon Spencer, Ernest Douglass, and Zielinski. He was appointed a lecturer at the University of Pennsylvania in 1927 and enjoyed other appointments at the University including the Director of the Music Department and Director of the University's Choral Society and the Pennsylvania Glee Club. In addition to his administrative duties with the University, McDonald composed numerous musical works and served on the Board of Directors of the Philadelphia Orchestra Association.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

The collection largely consists of recordings of music conducted by McDonald. These included "Missa pro Defunctis", "Magnificat", "Requiem", Suite "From Childhood," and other selections. There are introductory programs, a musical score, and three letters, 1944, from McDonald to Douglas Dickson.

"Missa pro Defunctis", written in the late sixteenth to earlyseventeenth century, is "founded on Gregorian subject matter which is freely developed" and is essentially ecclesiastical in style. At the time of this recording, under the direction of McDonald, the University Choral Society, 200 voices strong, had become well known as an adjunct to the Philadelphia Orchestra.

Carl Philip Emanuel Bach composed the "Magnificat", or canticle of the Blessed Virgin, in 1749 for the private library of Frederick the Great. McDonald conducted the music for the recordings in this collection from the original Bach manuscript.

The Mozart "Requiem" was composed in 1791, the last year of the composer's life. The recording program gives a brief overview of the controversy during the 1920s over authorship of the full score.

Harl McDonald's Suite "From Childhood" for Harp and Orchestra was composed in 1940 and dedicated to Edna Phillips after she requested an enlargement of the existing repertory for harp and full orchestra. Eugene Ormandy gave it its first full performance in Philadelphia on January 17, 1941 with Edna Phillips at the harp. The work combines English nursery rhymes and everlasting folk - melodies.

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**INVENTORY**

**Printed materials**

Box 1    FF 1                      Programs , music, and letters, 1937-1944

**Musical recordings**

Album #1: A University of Pennsylvania Choral Society Program

Disc 1

A. "Missa Pro Defunctis" (Mass for the Dead):  
Introduction

B. "Missa Pro Defunctis" (Mass for the  
Dead): Gradual

Disc 2

A. "Missa Pro Defunctis"(Mass for the  
Dead): Communion

B. "Missa Pro Defunctis" (Mass for the  
Dead): Conclusion and Kyrie Eleison

Disc 3

A. "O Bone Jesu"

B. "Quaerite Primum"

Box 1

**Musical recordings**

Album #1: A University of Pennsylvania Choral Society Program(cont.)

Disc 4

A. Lament from "Dido and Aeneas"

B. "Ave Maria"

Album #2: A University of Pennsylvania Choral Society Program,  
[1936]: "Magnificat" (Bach)

Disc 1

A. Part 1

B. Part 2

Disc 2

A. Part 3

B. Concluded

Album #3: A University of Pennsylvania Choral Society Program:  
"Requiem Mass" (Mozart)

Disc 1

A. Kyrie Eleison

B. Afternam

Disc 2

A. Dies Irae and Tuba Mirum, First part.

B. Tuba Mirum, conclusion and Rex Tremendae

C. Tuba Mirum, conclusion and RexTremendae

Disc 3

A. Domine Jesu Christe

B. Hostias

Box 1

**Musical recordings**

Album #3: A University of Pennsylvania Choral Society Program:  
"Requiem Mass" (Mozart)(cont.)

Disc 4

A. Sanctus and Benedictus

B. Benedictus, concluded

Disc 5

A. Cum Sanctus

B. Agnus Dei and Lux Aeterna

Box 2

Album #4: Harl McDonald's Suite "From Childhood" for Harp and  
Orchestra

Disc 1

A. First Movement: Allegro moderato, Part One

B. First Movement: Allegro moderato, concluded

Disc 2

A. Second Movement: Molto moderato, Part One

B. Second Movement: Molto moderato,  
concluded

Disc 3

A. Third Movement: Allegro moderato ma  
vigorosamente, Part One

B. Third Movement: Allegro moderato ma  
vigorosamente, concluded

**Harl McDonald**  
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**Inventory**

Box 2

**Musical recordings**

Album #5: University of Pennsylvania Choral Society Program:  
Harl McDonald's "Songs of Conquest"(cont.)

Disc 1

A. The Breadth and Extent of Man's  
Empire

B. Complaint Against the Bitterness of Solitude;  
and The Declaration for Increase of  
Understanding Among the People of the World

Disc 2

A. The Exaltation of Man in His Migration and  
in Surrounding Natural Barriers

B. Day is Done

Album #6: "MacDonald Selections"

Disc 1

Cakewalk (received broken, discarded 4/23/93)

Disc 2

A. Rhumba form Rhumba Symphony

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