

A RANDALL THOMPSON DISCOGRAPHY

by
Robert Skinner

This discography covers the commercial recordings of Randall Thompson's music, and is a revision of one issued by the Eda Kuhn Loeb Music Library, Harvard University, on the occasion of the composer's 80th birthday, 21 April 1979. "Semi-private" recordings (which included most church, school and choral festival discs) and non-commercial and non-processed materials are excluded, except for a few discs in which the composer took part. Thus some pieces, such as the Third Symphony, the one-act opera Solomon and Balkis and A Trip to Nahant, are not represented because the only existing recordings are tapes or instantaneous discs--many in the composer's own collection--that were never commercially available. Also omitted is what may have been the first recording of a Randall Thompson work, the song Velvet Shoes on the elusive Yaddo 8a (1937?).

The format of this discography follows to a great extent the one developed by J. F. Weber for his Discography Series. Arrangement is alphabetical by title, and then chronological by the date each performance was first issued. Following the main listing is an index by performer.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the individuals who have helped in the compilation of this discography beginning with the composer himself, Randall Thompson, and his Secretary, David Urrows. Others who have given assistance include: Michael Ochs and Elliot Forbes (Harvard), Stephen Fassett, David Hall (Rodgers and Hammerstein), Kathryn Talay (Indiana University), Ann Basart (Berkeley), Otto Luening, Richard Warren (Yale), Stephen Schlesinger (Guggenheim Memorial Foundation), Cornelia Drury (RCA), J.F. Weber, Tom Bridges (Princeton), Philip L. Miller, Rachel Frew (University of North Carolina), Ernie Gilbert and Susan Koscis (Columbia Masterworks), Gerald Gibson (LC), Giv Cornfield (Orion), Bessie Smith (Baylor), G. Dale (English Decca), Thomas Watkins (Columbia), William Curtis, Roger Melone, Robert Brown, Michael Gray, and Eric Hughes (BIRC).

Additional information is earnestly solicited for missing dates, places, and performers, incorrect information of any type, and for recordings--commercial, non-commercial or instantaneous--which have been overlooked. A supplement to this article is planned which will contain corrigenda and addenda as well as information on important non-commercial materials, including those in the composer's own collection which now resides at Harvard.

ALLELUIA (1940) mixed voices a cappella

1. Fleet Street Choir; T. B. Lawrence, conductor (rec. 11 August 1943)
78¹⁰: Decca (England) M541 (rel. November 1943, del. 1947)
2. Howard University Choir; Warner Lawson, conductor
33: Key 12 (rel. 1951?)
33: Voice of America VOA 3030
3. Vienna State Academy Chorus; Ferdinand Grossman, conductor (rec. April 1952 in the Mozartsaal of the Konzerthaus, Vienna)
33: Vox PL 7750/PLP 7750 (rel. 1952, del. 1956)
4. Wellington Schola Cantorum Choir; ---- Thompson, conductor
33: Argo (New Zealand) RG 115 (rel. 1956?)
5. Catawba College Choir; Robert Weaver, conductor
33: Music Library MLR 7085 (rel. 1957, del. 1973)
6. Harvard Glee Club; Radcliffe Choral Society; G. Wallace Woodworth, conductor (rec. 195- in Harvard's Sanders Theatre, Cambridge, Massachusetts)
33: Cambridge CRS 403 (rel. 1957)
7. Peloquin Choir; C. Alexander Peloquin, conductor
33: Gregorian Institute EL-19; also in set EL-100 (both rel. 1960, del. 1978)
8. Singing City Choir of Philadelphia; Elaine Brown, conductor (rec. at the RCA recording studios, New York City)
33: Fellowship Records FR 1/FS 1 (rel. 1961)
9. Harvard Glee Club; Radcliffe Choral Society; Randall Thompson, conductor (rec. 23 April 1965 in Harvard's Sanders Theatre, Cambridge, Massachusetts)
33: Harvard Glee Club FH-RT (rel. 1965)
10. Massed choruses from the first International University Choral Festival; G. Wallace Woodworth, conductor (rec. 26 September 1965 in Lincoln Center, New York City)
33: RCA LM 7043/LSC 7043 (rel. 1966, del. 1976)

11. Stanford University Choir; Harold C. Schmidt,
conductor (rec. 1962 in the Stanford Memorial Church,
Stanford, California)
33: Music Library MLR 6995-6996 (rel. 1967, del.
1973)
12. Louisville 4th Avenue Unitarian Methodist Church and St.
Mark's Episcopal Choirs;--- Ruy, conductor
33: Educo 4504 (rel. 197-)
13. Mastersingers of the San Antonio Symphony; Roger Melone,
conductor (rec. May 1977 in Temple Beth El, San
Antonio, Texas)
33: Telarc 5026 (rel. 1978)
33: Mixtur (Germany) TA 5026 (rel. 1978)

AMERICANA (1932) mixed voices with piano or orchestra

14. (#3 only: God's Bottles) Randolph Singers; David
Randolph, conductor
33: Concert Hall CHC 52 (rel. 1950, del. 1957)
15. University of Michigan Chamber Choir; members of the
University of Michigan Symphony Orchestra; Thomas
Hilbish, conductor (rec. 1977 in Hill Auditorium,
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor)
33: New World Records NW 219 (rel. 1977)

FROSTIANA (1959) women's, men's and mixed voices with
piano or orchestra

16. Harvard Glee Club; Radcliffe Choral Society; Harvard-
Radcliffe Orchestra; Randall Thompson, conductor
(rec. 23 April 1965 in Harvard's Sanders Theatre,
Cambridge, Massachusetts)
33: Harvard Glee Club FH-RT (rel. 1965)

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST (1958) mixed voices a cappella

17. The Mormon Tabernacle Choir; Jerold D. Ottley,
conductor (rec. 27-31 January 1976 in the Mormon
Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Utah)
33: Columbia M 34134 (rel. 1976)

LAST WORDS OF DAVID (1949) mixed or men's voices with
piano, orchestra or band

18. The Mormon Tabernacle Choir; Alexander Schreiner and Frank W. Asper, organ; Richard P. Condie, conductor
33: Columbia ML 5302/MS 6019 (rel. 6 October 1958)
19. West Point Chapel Choir; John A. Davis, Jr., conductor
33: Vox VX 25590/STVX 425.590 (rel. 1958, del. 1962)
20. Harvard Glee Club; Elliot Forbes, conductor (rec. 1961 on tour in Athens, Greece)
33: Carillon LP 122 (rel. 1962, del. 1970)
21. Walter Ehret Chorale; Edwin Flath, organ; Walter Ehret, conductor (rec. in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd, General Theological Seminary, New York City)
33: Golden Crest CR 4032/S 4032 (rel. 1962, del. 1976)
22. Rhapsody in White and the Baylor Bards; Martha Barkema, conductor
33: Austin 6241 (rel. 1963, del. 1974)
23. Harvard Glee Club; Radcliffe Choral Society; Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra; Randall Thompson, conductor (rec. 23 April 1965 in Harvard's Sanders Theatre, Cambridge, Massachusetts)
33: Harvard Glee Club FH-RT (rel. 1965)
24. Pontarddulais Male Choir; D. Hugh Jones, organ; Noel G. Davis, conductor
33: Pye (England) GGL 0427 (rel. 1968)

MASS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (1955-1956) soloists and a cappella
mixed voices

25. Harvard Glee Club; Radcliffe Choral Society; G. Wallace Woodworth, conductor (rec. in Harvard's Sanders Theatre, Cambridge, Massachusetts)
33: Cambridge CRS 403 (rel. 1957)

THE NATIVITY ACCORDING TO SAINT LUKE (1961) soloists, mixed voices, children's choir, with chamber orchestra

26. Soloists; chorus; and chamber orchestra of the Covenant Methodist Church, Evanston, Illinois; Randall Thompson, conductor (rec. 9 December 1962 in the Church)
33: Festival Arts Recordings S 2693-2695 (rel. 1963)

ODES OF HORACE

1. Quis Multa Gracilis Te (1924) men's voices a cappella
 2. Vitas Hinnuleo Me Similis, Chloë (1924) mixed voices a cappella
 3. O Venus, Regina Cnidi Paphique (1924) mixed voices a cappella
 4. O Fons Bandusiae, Splendidior Vitro (1924) mixed voices a cappella
 5. Montium Custos Memorumque (1924) mixed voices a cappella
 6. Felices Ter (1953) mixed voices a cappella
27. (#2,4,5, only) Vienna State Academy Chorus; Ferdinand Grossman, conductor (rec. April 1952 in the Mozartsaal of the Konzerthaus, Vienna)
33: Vox PL 7750/PLP 7750 (rel. 1952, del. 1956)
28. (#6 only) Stanford University Choir; Stanford Chorale; Harold C. Schmidt, conductor
33: Music Library MLR 7022 (rel. 1955, del. 1973)
29. (#2,4,5 only) Harvard Glee Club; Radcliffe Choral Society; Randall Thompson, conductor (rec. 23 April 1965 in Harvard's Sanders Theatre, Cambridge, Massachusetts)
33: Harvard Glee Club FH-RT (rel. 1965)
30. (#2 only) Harvard Glee Club; Radcliffe Choral Society; Elliot Forbes, conductor (rec. 25 September 1965 in Lincoln Center, New York City, at the First International University Choral Festival)
33: RCA LM 7043/LSC 7043 (rel. 1966, del. 1976)
31. (#6 only) King Chorale; Gordon King, conductor (rec. at All Saints' Episcopal Church, Ft. Worth, Texas)
33: Orion ORS 75205 (rel. 1976)

PEACEABLE KINGDOM (1936) mixed voices a cappella

32. Macalester Radio Singers; Hollis L. Johnson, conductor
78¹⁰: Schmitt Music Company Album MC-89546
(rel. 1949)
33. (#1 only: Say Ye To The Righteous) Wellington Schola
Cantorum; ---- Oliver, conductor
33: Argo (New Zealand) RG 115 (rel. 1956?)
34. San Jose State College A Cappella Choir; William
Erlendson, conductor
33: Music Library MLR 7065 (rel. 1957, del. 1973)
35. (#5 only: The Paper Reeds By The Brook) Washington
University Choir; Don Weiss, conductor
33: Aspen 1511 (rel. 1958, del. 1960)
36. (#4 only: Howl Ye) Gregg Smith Singers; Gregg Smith,
conductor
33: Verve MGV 2137/VS 6151 (rel. 1960, del. 1965)
37. Singing City Choir of Philadelphia; Elaine Brown,
conductor (rec. at the RCA recording studios, New
York City)
33: Fellowship Records FR 1/FS 1 (rel. 1961)
38. Whitehart Chorale; Lewis E. Whitehart, conductor
(rec. January 1964 in Bloomington, Illinois)
33: Lyrichord LL 124/LLST 7124 (rel. 1964)
39. Harvard Glee Club; Radcliffe Choral Society; Harvard-
Radcliffe Orchestra; Randall Thompson, conductor
(rec. 23 April 1965 in Harvard's Sanders Theatre,
Cambridge, Massachusetts)
33: Harvard Glee Club FH-RT (rel. 1965)
40. (#5 only: The Paper Reeds By The Brook) Brown-Pembroke
Choir; ---- Fidler, conductor
33: Brown 1000 (rel. 1970, del. 1975)
41. (#7,8 only: Have Ye Not Known, Ye Shall Have A Song)
Capital University Chapel Choir; Lewis E. Whitehart,
conductor (rec. 1972 in Columbus, Ohio)
33: Coronet 3018 (rel. 1973)

42. (#5 only: The Paper Reeds By The Brook) King Chorale;
Gordon King, conductor (rec. at All Saints' Episcopal
Church, Ft. Worth, Texas)
33: Orion ORS 75205 (rel. 1976)
43. Pepperdine University A Cappella Choir; Lawrence E.
McCommas, conductor (rec. May 1976 in Elkins
Auditorium, Pepperdine University, Malibu, California)
33: Orion ORS 76228 (rel. 1976)

PUERI HEBRAEORUM (1928) women's voices a cappella

44. University of North Carolina at Greensboro Choir;
Richard Cox, conductor (rec. March 1965)
33: Copeland Sound Studios CSS-554
45. Columbus Boychoir; ---- Bryant, conductor
33: Caedmon CBC 15

QUARTETS, STRINGS, NO. 1, D MINOR (1941)

46. Guilet Quartet
78¹²: Concert Hall C3/CH3/CHS3 {Matrix CHS 307-311}
(rel. 1949)
33 : Concert Hall CHS 1092 (rel. 1951, del. 1956)

REQUIEM (1957-1958) mixed voices a cappella

47. Harvard Glee Club; Radcliffe Choral Society; Elliot
Forbes, conductor (rec. 24 April 1959 in Harvard's
Sanders Theatre, Cambridge, Massachusetts)
33: Technichord TC 15-16 (rel. 1959)

SONG AFTER SUNDOWN (1935) piano

48. Jeanne Behrend (rec. 3 July 1940 in New York City)
78¹²: Victor 17912 in set VM-764 (rel. 1941)

SUITE, OBOE, CLARINET, AND VIOLA (1940)

49. Members of the Berkshire Ensemble (Louis Speyer, oboe; Pasquale Cardillo, clarinet; Joseph de Pasquale, viola)
33: Unicorn UNLP 1029/UNSR 2 (rel. 1956, del. 1959)
50. Peter Christ, oboe; David Atkins, clarinet; Alan de Veritch, viola (rec. November 1978 in the Music Hall, California State University, Los Angeles, California)
33: Crystal S321 (rel. 1979)

SYMPHONIES, NO. 1 (1929)

51. Utah Symphony; Maurice Abravental, conductor (rec. May 1978 in the Mormon Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Utah)
33: Angel S-37315 (rel. 1978)

SYMPHONIES, NO. 2 (1931)

52. Vienna Symphony Orchestra; Dean Dixon, conductor
33¹⁰: American Recording Society ARS 4 (rel. 1951)
33 : American Recording Society ARS 45 (rel. 1951)
33 : Desto D 406/DST 6406/6406E (rel. 1964)
- N.B. On the American Recording Society discs, the Vienna Symphony Orchestra is identified as being the American Recording Society Orchestra.

53. New York Philharmonic; Leonard Bernstein, conductor (rec. 22 October 1968 in Philharmonic Hall, New York City)
33: Columbia MS 7392 (rel. 1969, del. 1973)

TARANTELLA (1937) men's voices with piano or orchestra

54. Columbia University Glee Club; J. Bailey Harvey, conductor)
33: Carillon 117 (rel. 1961, del. 1970)

TESTAMENT OF FREEDOM (1943) men's voices with piano,
orchestra or band

55. University of Virginia Glee Club; Randall Thompson, piano; Steven D. Tuttle; conductor (rec. 13 April 1943 in the University of Virginia's Cabell Hall, Charlottesville)
78¹²: Columbia XP3333-3338 (rel. 1943)
N.B. This is a recording of the world premiere performance.
56. Harvard Glee Club; Boston Symphony Orchestra; Serge Koussevitzky, conductor (rec. 24 April 1945 in Symphony Hall, Boston)
78¹²: Victor set DM1054/M1054/VM1054 {Matrix 11-9176A-9178B} (rel. 1946)
57. Male Chorus of the Eastman School of Music; Eastman-Rochester Symphony Orchestra; Howard Hanson, conductor
33: Mercury MG 40000 (rel. 1952, del. 1957)
33: Mercury MG 50073 (rel. 1957, del. 1969)
33: Mercury Wing SRW 18113 (rel. 1969, del. 1970)
33: Eastman Rochester Archives ERA 1007 (rel. 1976)
58. (#3 only: We Fight Not For Glory) University of Pittsburgh Men's Glee Club; David G. Weiss, conductor (rec. November 1952 at the Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh, during the Pittsburgh International Contemporary Music Festival)
33: American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers CB 162 (rel. 1954)
59. (#1 only: The God Who Gave Us Life) West Point Chapel Choir; John A. Davis, conductor
33: Vox VX 25980/STVX 425.980 (rel. 1960, del. 1962)
60. (#2,3 only: We Have Counted The Cost, We Fight Not For Glory) West Point Glee Club; Major William Schempf, conductor
33: Vox VX 26240/STVX 426.240 (rel. 1960, del. 1962)
61. Pfeiffer College Concert Choir; Richard Brewer, conductor
33: Pfeiffer 8777 (rel. 1976)

62. Utah Chorale; Utah Symphony; Maurice Abravenal,
conductor (rec. May 1978 in the Mormon Tabernacle,
Salt Lake City, Utah)

33: Angel S-37315 (rel. 1978)

VELVET SHOES (1927) voice and piano

63. Povla Frijsh, soprano; Celius Dougherty, piano
(rec. 12 April 1940)

78¹⁰: Victor 2157 in set M-789 (rel. 1941, del.
1945)

33 : RCA Victor LCT 1158 (rel. 1955, del. 1957)

33 : Town Hall 002 (rel. 1961?)

33 : New World Records NW 247 (rel. 1976)

64. Phalen Tassie, soprano; (pianist unidentified on record)

33: Music Library MLR 7105 (rel. 1965, del. 1973)

65. Edith Lang, soprano; Gottfried Hempel, piano

33: Fan (Germany) 555112 (rel. 196-)

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