A Guide to the

ALBERT KAVANAH COLLECTION, 1932–1980

Fisk University Archives

Processed by Uzoma O. Miller, Archival Assistant
February 2006
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE
As of February 2006, Albert Kavanah has not been identified. It is unclear how
the collection was attained.

SCOPE AND CONTENT
The Albert Kavanah Collection contains two boxes, and consists of eight series.
This collection includes Clippings, Invitations, Post Cards, Programs, Promotional,
Publications, Requests/ Solicitation and Miscellaneous items regarding activity within
the artistic world, primarily in Cleveland, Ohio and New York, New York. Artists such
as Marian Anderson, Katherine Dunham, Natalie Leota Henderson, Caterina Jarboro,
Howard Roberts, and Fred Thomas; organizations such as the National Association of
Negro Musicians; legendary concert halls like Carnegie Hall and Radio City Music Hall;
production companies like Karamu House and copies of such publications as Playbill and
Organ Institute Quarterly all make the Albert Kavanah Collection extremely valuable to
researchers interested in musical performances and dramatic interpretations in Cleveland
and New York from the 1930s to 1980.

Series I: Clippings
The Clippings series consists of Cleveland newspaper coverage of popular

Series II: Invitations
The Invitations series holds personal and organizational requests of time to
attend a recital or professional meeting.

Series III: Post Cards
The Post Cards series consists of two cards: one of the Robinson Family, a 1970s
Public Broadcasting television series with a young and aspiring Howard Rollins; and the
other of New York City’s Temple Emanu-el [sic], founded in 1845.

Series IV: Programs
The Programs series represents the largest portion of the collection and consists
of five subseries: civic organization annuals; convocations; music; obsequies; and
testimonials. The civic organization annuals and convocations subseries are arranged
alphabetically by organization or institution name. The music subseries is organized
alphabetically by name of the venue holding the respective event. The obsequies
subseries contains programs of Rev. Alfred Isaac and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King,
Jr.’s memorial services in Atlanta, Georgia on April 9, 1968. The testimonials subseries
is arranged alphabetically by institution or individual who is being recognized and/or
honored.

Series V: Promotional
The Promotional series contains brochures and flyers designed to promote an
entertainer’s art, production company’s services or organization’s programming
initiatives. They are arranged alphabetically.
Series VI: Publications

The Publications series is arranged alphabetically and holds copies of American Guild of Organists Quarterly; Fine Arts; New; Organ Institute Quarterly; The Open Door; The Playbill; The Worker Musician; and This is Opera. The years 1932–1978 are covered in non consecutive years.

Series VII: Requests/ Solicitation

The Requests/ Solicitation series consist of donation requests from the United Negro College Fund/ Inter-Alumni Council and the Women’s Civic League respectively.

Series VIII: Miscellaneous

The Miscellaneous series contains the last two remaining documents that did not fall within one of the previous series. A copy of Giuseppe Verdi’s musical score, “Libretto,” composed in 1792, is held with the original Italian, French and German lyrics and English translations. An unidentified choir photograph appears in this series as well.
BOX LIST

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Series II: Invitations

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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Joint Conventions, 1952</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Recital for Walker, Bryant Coleridge, 1945</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>United Negro College Fund Convocation Committee, 1956</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>United Negro College Fund Inter-Alumni Council, 1956</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Women’s Civic League, 1974</td>
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Series III: Postcards

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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Temple Emanu-el [sic]; The Robinson Family, n.d.</td>
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Series IV: Programs

Civic Organization Annuals Subseries

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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Iota Phi Lambda, 1973</td>
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<td>Phillis Wheatley Association, 1975</td>
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Convocation Subseries

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<td>Central State University, 1970</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Ferris State College, 1965</td>
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Music Subseries

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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Academy of Music, 1955, 1977</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Antioch Baptist Church, 1944, 1961</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Baldwin-Wallace Conservatory, 1956</td>
</tr>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Blanch R. Halle Theatre, 1967</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Carnegie Hall, 1951, 1957, 1959</td>
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26 Cathedral of Saint John the Devine, n.d.
27 Central Presbyterian Church, n.d.
28 Cleveland Music Hall, 1950
29 Cleveland Play House, 1964
30 College Auditorium, 1955
31 Euclid Avenue Baptist Church, 1948—1949
32 Euclid Avenue Baptist Church, 1952
33 Finney Memorial Chapel, 1956
34 First Methodist Church, 1946, 1955
35 Fisk Union Church, 1961
37 Harlem Boy’s Club, 1948
38 Hotel Statler Ballroom, 1951
39 Irvine Auditorium, 1952
40 John Simpson Junior High School, 1955
42 Kimball Hall, 1944
43 Lane Metropolitan C.M.E. Church, 1972
44 Masonic Auditorium, 1966
45 Metropolitan Community Church, 1963
46 Mother A.M.E. Zion Church, 1949
47 Mount Calvary Methodist Church, 1957
48 Mount Calvary Methodist Church, n.d.
49 Mount Sinai Baptist Church
50 Mount Zion Baptist Church, 1959
51 Mount Zion Congregational Church, 1956
52 Mount Zion Congregational Church, 1963
53 Mount Zion Congregational Church, 1975
54 Music Hall, 1955—1956
55 New York Times Hall, 1958
56 Old Stone Church, 1955—1956
57 Olivet Institutional Baptist Church, 1966
58 Opera House, 1967
59 Park Synagogue, 1967
60 Phillis Wheatley Association, 1963
62 Radio City Music Hall, 1955
63 Riverside Church, 1956

1 Samuel J. Green Junior High School, 1954
2 Saint Johns A.M.E. Church, n.d.
3 Saint Mark Methodist Church, 1963
4 Saint Marks Presbyterian Church, 1955
5 Saint Paul’s Chapel, 1956
6 Saint Timothy Missionary Baptist Church, 1964
Salem Methodist Church, 1949
Severance Hall, 1949
Severance Hall, 1950—1951
Severance Hall, 1955—1956
Severance Hall, 1965—1966
Severance Hall, 1968
South Shore United Methodist Church, 1976
The Town Hall, 1948, 1951, 1952
Warner Concert Hall, 1946
Wendell Phillips High School, 1948
Werner Methodist Church, 1954
WHK Auditorium, 1970
Unidentified, 1956
Unidentified, n.d.

**Obsequies Subseries**

Ebenezer Baptist Church, 1968; Union Baptist Church, n.d.

**Testimonials Subseries**

Bell, Myrtle J., 1966
Burke, Lillian W., 1978
Ellison, Nolen M., 1974
Freedom Fund Dinner, 1965
Hunter, Jane Edna, 1978
Stokes, Louis, 1969
Thomas, Roxie Alvilda, 1977
Wiggins, Pauline A., 1958

**Series V: Promotional**

Dunham, Katherine, n.d.
Hines, Theodore, 1952
Mozart's Sandrina, n.d.
National Opera Ebony, 1976
Talladega College, n.d.
Titus, Maxine, n.d.

**Series VI: Publications**

*Fine Arts*, 1973
*New*, 1971
*Organ Institute Quarterly*, 1952, 1956, 1957
*The Open Door*, 1953, 1978
Series VII: Requests/ Solicitation
United Negro College Fund/ Inter- Alumni Council, n.d.
Women’s Civic League, n.d.

Series VIII: Miscellaneous
Lyrics to “Libretto,” by Giuseppe Verdi, n.d.
Unidentified Choir Photograph signed by Hampton Barker, Sr., n.d.