

# Nathan Lupu Collection

## Florida State University Music Library Special Collections

**Nathan Lupu** (1906–2000) was an American composer who trained in Chicago from 1928-1935 with Danish-born composer and theorist Thorvald Otterström. He composed actively during this period and assisted Otterström with his 1935 manual *A Theory of Modulation*. Lupu then spent the remainder of his professional life working as a draftsman for Bethlehem Steel, during which time he stopped composing. He retired to Boynton Beach, Florida in 1967, resumed composing, and studied piano under the late Florida Atlantic University professor Raul Spivak in order to refine his piano technique. Lupu's *Improvisation in G Minor*, which he dedicated to Spivak, was selected by the Bicentennial Committee of the Performing Arts to be played on American public radio stations during the 1976 celebration. Lupu's music is tonal and lyrical, yet heavily chromatic and adventuresome in its use of harmony; it constantly weaves and shifts from one harmony or key to the next. It is clear that Otterström's theories, which sought to greatly expand possibilities for modulation and harmonic exploration, had a profound effect on Lupu. The Nathan Lupu Collection contains the original manuscripts of his 25 known compositions (written almost exclusively for solo piano), manuscripts and exercises on theory, published works by Thorvald Otterström, and biographical material about Nathan Lupu.

### Contents:

Over 97 items, including manuscripts, exercises, books and support documentation  
3 document boxes, 3 linear feet

Box 1: Compositions and Exercises

Box 2: Published Works and Collection Background Notes

Box 3: Manuscripts of Published Manuals and Performance Audio Cassette Tape

Notes for finding aid:

Ms = manuscript

n.d. = no date

[bracketed words] = archivist addition

## BOX 1: Compositions and Exercises

- Folder 1
1. *Concert Etude in E Major: An Adventure in Modulation*, June 5, 1930, ms, 7 p., with partial pencil fingering, bass stems down
  2. *Concert Etude in E Major: An Adventure in Modulation*, June 5, 1930, ms copy dated June 16, 1930, 7 p., first page title is *Etude: An Exercise in Modulation*, bass stems down
  3. *Concert Etude in E Major: An Adventure in Modulation*, June 5, 1930, photocopy dated June 16, 1930, 7 p., first page title is *Etude: An Exercise in Modulation*, ms. cover says "Bass Fixed", bass stems up
- Folder 2
1. *Concert Etude in C Minor*, September 15, 1931, ms, 6 p.
  2. *Concert Etude in C Minor*, n.d., ms, 6 p., no markings
  3. [*Concert Etude in C Minor*], n.d., onionskin, 6 p.
- Folder 3
1. *Fugue in G Minor (3 voice)*, March 28, 1932, ms, 4 p., with fingering
  2. *Fugue in G Minor (3 voice)*, March 28, 1932, ms, 4 p., different formatting
  3. *Fugue in G Minor (3 voice)*, March 28, 1932, ms, 4 p., formatting of item 2 and with pencil notations on p. 4
  4. *Fugue in G Minor (3 voice)*, n.d., photocopy of Item 3, 4 p., and with letters showing voice entrances
- Folder 4
- Concert Etude in E-flat Minor: A Story in Sound*, September 12, 1932 c1989, ms, 6 p., with partial pencil fingering
- Folder 5
1. *Concert Etude in E-flat Minor: An Adventure in Modulation*, March 20, 1933 c1989, ms, 4 p., with fingering
  2. [*Concert Etude in E-flat Minor: An Adventure in Modulation*], n.d., onionskin, 4 p., no markings
  3. *Concert Etude in E-flat Minor: An Study in Modulation*, March 20, 1933 c1989, photocopy, 4 p., with fingering
- Folder 6
1. *Pastorale in F Major*, May 8, 1933, ms, 1 p.
  2. *Pastorale in F Major*, variation, n.d., ms, 1 p., with fingering
- Folder 7
- Song Without Words*, May 22, 1933, ms, 1 p.
- Folder 8
1. *Prelude in C Major*, June 26, 1933, photocopy, 2 p., with fingering

2. *Prelude*, June 26, 1933, photocopy, 2 p., with fingering
- Folder 9      *Scherzo in C Major*, October 9, 1933, ms, 2 p., with fingering
- Folder 10     1. *Concert Etude in B-flat Major: An Adventure in Sixths*, November 20, 1933, ms, 5 p., with fingering
2. *Concert Etude in B-flat Major: An Adventure in Sixths*, c1989, photocopy, 5 p., with fingering, pen additions and redactions
3. *Concert Etude in B-flat Major: A Study in Sixths*, November 20, 1933, photocopy, 5 p., with slightly different fingering
- Folder 11     *Nocturne in F-sharp Major*, March 5, 1934, [dedicated] to Regina Miniati, photocopy, 5 p.
- Folder 12     1. *Concert Etude in D-flat Major: An Adventure in Modulation*, May 7, 1934, ms, 6 p.
2. *Concert Etude in D-flat Major: An Adventure in Modulation*, May 7, 1934, photocopy, 6 p., with fingering
- Folder 13     *Nocturne in A-flat Major*, November 1934, ms, 6 p., with fingering
- Folder 14     1. *Fugue in E Minor*, February 1935, ms, 7 p., with alternate ending in pencil
2. *Fugue in E Minor*, n.d., photocopy, 5 p., reformatted and without alternate ending
- Folder 15     1. *Impromptu in F Minor*, February 5, 1960, ms, 7 p., with fingering and a few additional tempo markings
2. *Impromptu in F Minor*, February 5, 1960, ms, 7 p., with fingering
- Folder 16     *Canticle for a Dying Saint*, November, 1960, ms, 2 p., song, lyrics by Donna Dickey Guyer
- Folder 17     1. *Etude in G Major: An Adventure in Thirds*, November 1970 c1989, ms, 5 pp, with fingering with correction at end
2. *Etude in G Major: An Adventure in Thirds*, November 1970 c1989, ms, 5 pp, with fingering with final ending, faster tempo marking, "original final copy" in pencil on cover
- Folder 18     1. *Sonata for Violin and Piano in C Major*, November 15, 1972, revised November 22, 1974, ms. 12 p.
2. *Sonata*, by Nina Leslie [struck], ms. copy, 4 p.
3. *Sonata*, by Nathaniel Wolf [struck], ms. copy, 3 p.
4. *Sonatina for Violin and Piano*, photocopy, 12 p., with fingering

5. *Sonata for Violin and Piano*, violin, ms, 5 p.
6. *3rd Movement of Sonata for Piano and Violin* [reduced for piano], n.d., ms, without tempo markings
- Folder 19
1. *Improvisation in G Minor dedicated to Raul Spivak*, March 1974, c1975, ms, 6 p., with fingering
  2. *Improvisation in G Minor dedicated to Raul Spivak*, March 1974, c1975, ms copy, 6 p., with fingering, less markings
- Folder 20
1. *Fantasy in F Major: An Adventure in Fourths*, August 1974, ms, 9 p., with partial pencil fingering
  2. *Fantasy in F Major: An Adventure in Fourths*, August 1974, ms copy, 9 p., with pencil fingerings and additional tempo markings
  3. *Fantasy in F Major: An Adventure in Fourths*, August 1974 c1989, photocopy, 9 p., with tempo change
  4. *Fantasy in F Major: An Adventure in Fourths*, August 1974 c1975, photocopy, 9 p., no tempo marking
- Folder 21
1. *Prelude in B-flat Major*, January 1975, c1978, signed and dedicated Mrs. John W. Morton, ms, 2 p.
  2. *Prelude in B-flat Major*, January 1975, c1978, signed and dedicated Mrs. John W. Morton, ms. copy, 2 p.
- Folder 22
- Improvisation in G Major*, October 1976, ms, 8 p., with fingering
- Folder 23
- Prelude in A-flat Major*, n.d., incomplete ms, 2 p.
- Folder 24
- Fugues (for Piano) in D Minor, G Minor and E Minor, n.d., ms, 12 p., anthology
- Folder 25
1. [*Fugue in D Minor, in Lupu's hand*], n.d., ms, 7 p.
  2. [*Incomplete fugue in Lupu's hand*], n.d., ms, 2 p.
- Folder 26
1. *Fugue in G Minor for string orchestra*, n.d., photocopy, 6 p.
  2. *Fugue in G Minor [arr. for strings]* parts: violin I, violin II, viola, cello, bass, five items all undated, onionskin except bass photocopy, 1-2 p. each
- Folder 27
- Canones Diversi* [Johann Sebastian Bach, hand copy by Lupu with possible 3-part arrangement], n.d., ms, 16 p.

- Folder 28     *The Evening Star* by Wagner [arr. for string quartet], score and parts (cello part missing), n.d., ms, 5 p.
- Folder 29     *Fuga* [composed by Yetta Wexler, Summer 1929], hand copy by Lupu, December 12, 1929, ms, 3 p.
- Folder 30     1. Lesson Examples (4-Part), April 1-May 30, 1930, ms, 14 p., with corrections in red  
2. [Lessons], April 8-October 7, 1930, ms, 14 p., with corrections in red  
3. [Chord modulation studies and lessons], December 9, 1930-April 17, 1933, ms, 23 p.  
4. Modulation Thru All 12 Tonalities, n.d., ms, 1 p.
- Folder 31     [Chord progression exercises]
- Folder 32     [Chord progression exercises], tablets
- Folder 33     [Compositional sketches]
- Folder 34     [First Music Writing], ms., 3 childhood pieces, title per envelope

## BOX 2: Published Works and Collection Background Notes

- Folder 1      1. [*History of the Negro Spiritual*], author either Lupu or Otterström, title from envelope, 2 editions
2. *Bibliography of the Negro* [at the] John Crearar Library
3. *An Anti-Bellum Sermon* by Paul Laurence Dunbar
- Folder 2      Otterström, Theovald. *Trabel On: Burlesque March for Piano from American Negro Suite*. Chicago: Lyon & Healy, 1917. 1 printed music score (4 p.), 34 cm.
- Folder 3      Otterström, Thorvald. *24 Præludien für Kalvier*. Kopenhagen: Friis, 1904. Printed music, 4 vols., 33 cm.
- Folder 4      Otterström, Thorvald. *24 Fugen für Klavier*. Kopenhagen: Friis, 1909. Printed music, 4 vols., 34 cm.
- Folder 5      Otterström, Thorvald. *Konzert-Etüden für Klavier*. Kopenhagen & Leipzig: Wilhelm Hansen, 1907. Printed music, 6 vols., 34 cm.
- Folder 6      Otterström, Thorvald. *Wiegenlied: Berceuse Lullaby für Klavier*. Leipzig: Jul. Heinr. Zimmermann, 1912. 1 printed music score (7 p.), 33 cm.
- Folder 7      Otterström, Thorvald. *Braending en cykus kaerligheds-sange = Brandung: Liebeslieder = Breakers: Love-songs*. Kobenhavn: Peder Friis, 1907. 1 printed music score (39 p.), 34 cm., cover inscribed in German.
- Folder 8      Otterström, Thorvald. *Canon, Choral and Fuge für grosses Orchester*. Berlin: W. Sulzbach (Peter Limbach), 1930. 1 printed music score, (45 p.), 33 cm.
- Folder 9      Otterström, Thorvald. *Beiträge zur Theorie = Contributions to Theory*. Berlin: W. Sulzbach (Peter Limbach), 1930. [Inscribed and dated June 24, 1930 by Otterström]
- Folder 10     Otterström, Thorvald. *A Theory of Modulation = Eine Modulationstheorie*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1935. [Appendices by Nathan Lupu and Ernest Bloomfield Zeisler.]
- Folder 11     1. *A Theory of Modulation = Eine Modulationstheorie*. By Otterström, Thorvald. [Advertisement for book, 4 p., 4 copies]
2. Advertisements for works by Otterström (3)
- Folder 12     Otterström, Thorvald. *Manual of Harmony*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1941. [Exercises with explanation, 118 p.]

- Folder 13 Otterström, Thorvald. Key to Manual of Harmony. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1941. [Exercises only, 63 p., 2 copies.]
- Folder 14
1. Collection and content notes
  2. Biographical information for Nathan Lupu and Thorvald Otterström.
  3. Nathan Lupu performance programs and newspaper clippings.
- Folder 15 Speech by Nathan Lupu on the language of music, 3 editions
- Folder 16 Photographs of Thorvald Otterström (3), Nathan Lupu (1), Regina and Roberta Lupu with Gillian and Richard Davis and William Miller (2, with negatives)

### Box 3: Manuscripts of Published Manuals and Performance Audio Cassette Tape

Item	Audio cassette tape, 90 minutes, one side recorded: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Dr. Beverly Norton playing Nathan Lupu's <i>Improvisation in G Minor</i></li><li>2. Nathan Lupu playing his <i>Prelude in B<math>\flat</math>, Prelude in C Major, Etude in 3rds, Improvisation in G Minor</i></li><li>3. Kyle Adams playing Nathan Lupu's <i>Etude in C Minor, Fantasy in F Major, Adventures in 4ths</i>.</li></ol>
Folder 1	[Untitled typeset and handwritten manuscript which appears to correspond with <i>Manual of Harmony</i> , scores appear to be in Lupu's hand, n.d., 105 p., 30 cm]
Folder 2	<i>Five and Six-part Exercises on cadences by B. Ziehn, arranged by Thorvald Otterstrom</i> . [Colophon states: Manual Finished March 26, 1930, signed by Nathan Lupu. Scores appear to be in Lupu's hand], 36 p., 30 cm.
Folder 3	<i>Solutions to Five and Six part Exercises on Cadences by B. Ziehn, arranged by Thorvald Otterstrom</i> . [Colophon states: Manual Finished December 10, 1931, copied from Original. Scores appear to be in Lupu's hand], 22 p., 30 cm.
Folder 4	<i>Solutions to "Thirty Lessons in Elementary Harmony" by Thorvald Otterstrom</i> . [Last page states: Manual finished November 8, 1931, copied from the original. Scores appear to be in Lupu's hand], 51 p., 30 cm.
Folder 5	<i>Thirty-six Lessons in Canon by Thorvald Otterstrom</i> . [Colophon states: Manual finished November 11, 1931, copied from original. Scores appear to be in Lupu's hand], 18 p., 30 cm.
Folder 6	<i>Solutions to "Thirty-six Lessons in Canon" by Thorvald Otterstrom</i> . [Colophon states: Manual finished June 5, 1933, copied from original. Scores appear to be in Lupu's hand], 60 p., 30 cm.
Folder 7	<i>Eighty-five Exercises in figuration by Thorvald Otterstrom</i> . [Colophon states: Manual finished February 10, 1932, copied from original. Scores appear to be in Lupu's hand], 7 p., 30 cm.
Folder 8	<i>Solutions to Eighty-five Exercises in Figuration by Thorvald Otterstrom</i> . [Colophon states: Manual finished February 5, 1932, copied from original. Scores appear to be in Lupu's hand], 44 p., 30 cm.