

## **MSS 066: Henry T. Abley**

**Dates:** 1949-1994

**Extent:**

32 cm textual records  
2 cm published materials

**Biography:**

Henry T. Abley, also often known as Harry, was an organist, choirmaster and composer, born in 1917 in Knighton, Wales. He studied at Trinity College of Music, London. He had fellowships at that college, and the London College of Music, and was an Associate of the Royal College of Organists.

He emigrated to Canada in the late 50s and worked as the organist at St. Luke's Cathedral in Sault Ste Marie, ON from 1957-1959. From 1961-1967 he worked as the organist at First Baptist Church in Lethbridge, Alberta. Subsequently he worked as an organist and choirmaster at St. John's Cathedral in Saskatoon, SK from 1968-1977, then at Third Avenue United Church also in Saskatoon, SK from 1979-1985. His last engagement as organist and choirmaster was at Church of the Advent in Montreal from 1985 until his death in 1994.

He was a recitalist known especially in Germany during the 70s and 80s, where he performed frequently in East and West Berlin, Bremen, Norden; as well as Geneva, Switzerland and Oxford and Cambridge, England. He excelled in music of the German School, but was also a fine exponent of Franck, Liszt, and 20th-century composers Olivier Messiaen and Jehan Alain. Abley was also a composer of mainly sacred works, and his large output occasioned a 1981 concert in Saskatoon composed entirely of his music.

**Custodial History:**

Following Henry Abley's death in 1994, these materials were passed to his son, Mark Abley. Mark donated the collection to the University of Saskatchewan Archives and Special Collections in 2001.

**Scope and Content:**

The collection includes original hand-written musical scores; photocopies, mimeographs and fax copies of original scores (often with hand-written notes or annotations) composed by Abley; lyric sheets; printed scores – some on a home-printer and coil-bound. In addition to the original musical compositions, this fonds contains memorabilia and information about Henry Abley, his career, recitals and performances such as: newspaper clippings, information pamphlets, CBC radio programme information, choir contact lists, articles and scores written about/by Canadian[colleagues], concert

programmes, personal and professional correspondence, church programs and newspaper clippings related to his career.

**Source of Supplied Title:** Title based upon the author and content of the records.

**Arrangement Note:** Personal correspondence has been removed from original location in the front flap of the binder in file 26, and placed in file 56, which is closed until June 2040. Apart from this, original order has been maintained.

**Language note:** Material is largely written music, primarily in English with some Latin and French interspersed.

**Restrictions note:** One file of closed materials (until June 2040) is included. This is marked on file, in finding aid, and on box. This information is restricted as per Saskatchewan privacy legislation.

**Accruals note:** No further accruals are expected.

## Henry T. Abley: Finding Aid

### Box 1

1. Meditation (1949) ms
2. A Psalm Rhapsody on Psalm 119 (1963) ms, 5 copies (2 with ms annotations)  
Prelude on Psalm 119 (n.d.) 1 copy
3. Petit Rhapsodie : Rhapsody under the stars (1968) ms; 1 photocopy  
Revised (1980) 4 photocopied
4. Two Songs: The Night Has a Thousand Eyes, and At Night (1969) 1 copy of each
5. These Things Shall Be (1970) ms; 7 copies
6. A Prayer of Dedication (1971) ms; 3 copies
7. Fanfare – Processional (1970) ms; 4 copies
8. Lobe Den Herren (1970) 4 copies
9. The Mass of St. Kateri (Catherine): (17<sup>th</sup> C) of the Mohawks (1973) 2 copies
10. Short Setting for the Holy Eucharist (1973) 1 copy
11. Missa Brevis (1973) 2 copies
  - 11a. Jubilate Deo (part of the missa brevis) (1973) ms; 19 copies
  - 11b. Hail, True Body, Born of Mary (included in the missa brevis although dated later) (1976) 4 copies
12. Credo (1974) ms; 1 copy, 1 incomplete copy
13. The Canticle Mirabilis (1975) ms; 8 copies
14. Behold Now, Praise... (1976) 1 ms; 5 copies
15. Childrens Suite
  1. A Tune for Two (n.d.) 2 original; 5 copies
  2. A Merry Dance (1977) 1 ms; 6 copies
  3. Siciliano (n.d.) 2 copies
  4. Childrens March (n.d.) ms; 2 copies
16. The Song of a Graceful Heart (1977) 2 copies
17. Pieces for Children
  1. La petite ballerine (1980) 2 copies
  2. Marche Joyeuse (1981) 1 original
  3. Chelsea Reach (1981) 1 photocopy
  4. Gavotte Française (1981) 1 photocopy
  5. The Russian Doll (n.d.) 1 original
  6. A Morning Stroll (1981) 1 original
  7. Conversation Piece (1981) 1 original
  8. Bouncing Ball (1981) 1 original
18. Music Comes (1981) 3 copies
19. Untitled (1981) 1 copy
20. Huron Indian Carol (1982) ms; 4 copies
21. Springtime Waltz (1982) 1 copy
22. The Flower Carol (1983) 3 copies
23. Love Came Down at Christmas (1983) 3 copies
24. Fanfare for Palm Sunday (1984) 7 copies
25. Legend: A Fantasy on two Plainsong Themes (1986) ms; 1 copy (misc. copies)

26. Music for the Holy Eucharist (Book of Alternative Services) (1987) ms; 1 copy; misc copies

*\*\* note that personal correspondence has been removed from the front of this binder according to privacy law.*

27. A People's Mass: music for the Holy Eucharist (book of alternative Services) (1987) ms; 1 booklet (version of the above)

28. Adam Lay Ybounden (1987) ms; 3 copies

29. Temple of God's Holy Spirit (1988) ms; 7 copies

30. What Is This Lovely Fragrance? (1989) ms; 4 copies

31. Prayer of Alcuin of York (1989) 2 copies

32. Tomorrow Shall be my Dancing Day (1990) ms; 4 copies

33. Rejoice in the Lord (1992) ms; 1 photocopy; 1 booklet

34. Ye Servants of God (1992) ms; 3 copies

## **Box 2 (Undated material) ACCESS RESTRICTIONS**

35. Alleluya, hearts to heaven (n.d.) ms

36. Additional Chants (n.d.) 6 copies; plus misc. copies

37. A Child's Christmas Carol (n.d.) 4 copies

38. Clairvaux: For Hymn no. 249 (n.d.) ms; 9 copies

39. An Easter Chorale/A Morning Chorale (n.d.) 3 copies

40. Flocks in pastures green abiding (alto line by HTA) (n.d.) 6 printed copies, 1 with ms additions by HTA; 5 copies; 6 incomplete copies

41. From Glory to Glory Advancing (n.d.) ms; 5 copies; 1 with ms annotations

42. Fugue in the Style of Hindemith (n.d.) ms

43. God the Father's Only Son (n.d.) 1 ms; 3 copies

44. A Harvest Chorale (n.d.) ms; 5 copies

45. How firm a Foundation (n.d.) 3 copies

46. I'll walk with God (n.d.) 1 copy

47. King Eternal (n.d.) 2 copies

48. Now let the heavens be joyful (n.d.) 1 printed copy with notes by HTA; 3 copy

49. O Jesu, Blessed Lord (n.d.) 2 copies

50. O Jesu, Joy of Loving Hearts (n.d.) ms; 13 copies

51. O Kind Creator (n.d.) ms; 3 copies

52. These Things shall Be (n.d.) 2 copies

53. Music written and are by others

54. Programs for church services and secular concerts

55. Misc. Programs for other performers; orders of service

56. Personal Correspondence. **ACCESS RESTRICTED UNTIL June, 2040**