

Jessy (J.L.) Reason (1878-1938)
Catalogue of works

1. Vocal Music

Suite of Four Songs for voice and piano (c.1907-08)

Words: E.Richardson

1. 'The Winds'
2. 'The Old Days'
3. 'Lend Me Your Wings'
4. 'The Cloud Boat'

Ink score, 16pp, ND

Notes: (i) there is also an additional ink score of 'The Old Days' for lower voice, 3pp, dated November 1907 (ii) similarly, another ink score for 'Lend Me Your Wings', 4pp, January 1908

'Echoes: Oh, gather me the Rose' - song for voice and piano (1908)

Words: W.E.Henley

Ink score, 6pp, May 1908 (2 copies)

Note: William Ernest Henley (1849-1903), most famous for his 1875 poem "Invictus"

'Les Etoiles' - song for voice and piano (1910)

Words: Sully Prudhomme*

Pencil score, 6pp, May 1910

*Note: * French poet and essayist (1839-1907) - he was the first winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1901*

'Summum Bonum' - song for voice and piano (1910; rev.1913)

Words: Robert Browning*

Pencil score, 3pp, May-July 1910; rev. March 1913

Ink score, 3pp, March 1913 (3 copies)

*Notes: *(i) English poet and playwright (1812-1889) - most famous for his children's poem "The Pied Piper of Hamelin"
(ii) the Latin title means "for the highest or the ultimate good"*

'A Bowl of Roses' - song for voice and piano (1910; rev.1913)

Words: W.E.Henley

Ink/Pencil score, 3pp, ND

Pencil score, 3pp, December 1910; rev. March 1913

'The Recall' - song for soprano, mezzo-soprano and piano (1912)

Words: Algernon Charles Swinburne*

Ink score, 8pp, March 1912

*Note: *English poet and critic (1837-1909) - the publication of his explicit "Poems and Ballads" in 1866 caused a sensation in the literary world*

Also arranged for two voices and orchestra (ND)

Instr: 2/2+2ca/2/2 - 2/0/3/0 - timp.hp. str

Ink and pencil scores, 17pp

'Roses' - song for voice and piano (1912)

Words: W.E.Henley

Ink score, 3pp, summer 1912 (2 copies)

'Henceforward' - song for voice and piano (1912)

Words: Elizabeth Browning* ('Sonnet from the Portuguese')

Ink score, 7pp, corrected August 29th, 1912

Pencil score (organ accompaniment), 9pp, ND

*Note: * Born in Durham in 1806 she married Robert Browning in 1846 - they lived in Italy until her death in 1861*

'All the breath and the bloom of the year' - song for voice and piano (1913)

Words: Robert Browning

Pencil score, March 1913, re-edited June 1913

'Midnight Musings' - song for voice and piano (1913)

Words: Peter Walker Nicholson

Ink and Pencil scores, 6pp, September 1913

'When You Are Old' - song for voice and piano (c.1914)

Words: W.E.Henley

Ink score, 11pp, ND

'Life is Bitter' - song for voice and piano (1914)

Words: W.E.Henley

Ink and Pencil scores, 6pp, November 1914

'The Ways of Death' - song for voice and piano (1914)

Words: W.E.Henley (1878)

Ink and Pencil scores, 7pp, December 1914

'The Shadow of Dawn' - song for voice and orchestra (c.1914)

Words; W.E.Henley (?)

Instr: 2/2+ca/2/2 - 0/2/3/0 - timp.hp.str.

Pencil score, 28pp

Pencil score (piano reduction), 7pp, ND

'Renunciation' - song for voice and piano (1915)

Words: Rabindranath Tagore*

Ink score, 2pp, December 1915 (3 copies)

*Note: *the Bengali polymath (1861-1941) who was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913*

Five Gitanjali (Song Offerings) for voice, harp and string orchestra (1915)

Words: Rabindranath Tagore

1. The song that I came to sing remains unsung to this day
2. If thou speakest not, I will fill my heart with thy silence and endure it
3. A moment's flash of lightning brings down a deeper gloom upon my sight
4. Now I am eager to die into the Deathless
5. In our Salutation to Thee

Pencil score, ...pp, November-December 1915

'Disillusion' - song for voice and piano (1916)

Words: Rabindranath Tagore
Ink score, 4pp, 1916 (2 copies)

Three Songs of Death for voice and piano (c.1916)

Words: Rabindranath Tagore (Three Gitanjali)
1. 'On the day when death will knock on thy door*
2. O thou, the last fulfilment of life
3. When I go from hence...

Ink score, 15pp,
Ink score, 9pp (voice part) (2 copies)
Ink score, 16pp (organ transcription)

Later arranged for voice and orchestra (ND)

Instr: 2/2+ca/2+bcl/2 - 4/1/3/0 - timp.str
Pencil score, 51pp (final and fair copies)
Pencil score, 4pp (short score)

'When the Lotus Bloomed' - song for voice and piano (c.1916)

Words: Rabindranath Tagore (Gitanjali No.20)
Pencil score, 5pp, ND
Ink score, 4pp, ND (2 copies)

'Rapture - My Heart the bird of the Wilderness' - song for voice and piano (1916)

Words: Rabindranath Tagore
Ink and Pencil scores, 5pp, March 1916

Verses from an old Birthday book - song for voice and piano (1936)

Dedication: 'To Alice'

Ink score, 2pp, 1936

Note: the title page includes the line "wherein my name was written in 18.." This may well have been Jesse Reason's last completed composition

'Towards the Light' - song for voice and piano (ND)

Words: Hector Bolitho
Dedication: 'To Agnes'
Ink score, 5pp (2 copies)

'Let me Dream of Love' - song for voice and piano (ND)

Words: Selwyn Turnage (?)
Dedication: 'For Muriel'
Ink score, 5pp (2 copies)

'The Songsters are my Messengers' - song for voice and piano (ND)

Words: Lawrence Kellie
Ink score, 3pp
Pencil score, 4pp

'Ecstasy' - song for voice and piano (ND)

Words: Eric Mackay*
Ink score, 5pp

*Note: *poet, writer and singer (1835-1898), the half-brother of Marie Corelli*

'The Echo of a Song' - song for voice and piano (ND)

Prose Rhythm: Fiona MacLeod*

Written for Muriel Lawrence Kellie

Ink score, 7pp

*Note: * the pseudonym of William Sharp (1855-1905) the Scottish writer and poet, notable for his play 'The Immortal Hour' which later formed the libretto for the 1914 opera by Rutland Boughton*

'Dawn' - song for voice and piano (ND)

Words: Fiona MacLeod

Ink and Pencil scores, 4pp

'Yet for me Life's morning radiance' - song for baritone voice and violin (ND)

Ink score, 2pp

A Mon Amie tendre - song for voice and piano (ND)

Pencil score, 6pp

Tagore Suite, for voice and orchestra (ND)

Words: Rabindranath Tagore (Three Gitanjali)

1. Have you not heard the silent steps?
2. The same stream of Life
3. Thy Sunbeam comes upon this earth
4. Thus it is that Thy joy in me is so Full
5. When the heart is hard and parched

Instr: 2/0/2/2/ - 4/0/0/0 - cel.hp.str

Pencil scores (final and fair copies)

Three Songs of Light, for soprano voice and orchestra (ND)

Words; Rabindranath Tagore (Three Gitanjali)

1. Thou art the sky, Thou art the rest as well
2. Light My Light!
3. Yes, I know..this is Thy Love

Instr: 2/2+ca/2+bcl/2 - 4/0/0/0 - hp.cel. str.

Pencil score, 65pp (final and fair copies)

2.Choral Music

Psalm LXII for 2-part chorus (ND)

Ink score, 2pp

'To be sung in a boat at Sunset' for SATB chorus (ND)

Words: Rabindranath Tagore

Ink score, 2pp

Ink score, 2pp (parts)

'Songs of Sorrow' for chorus and orchestra (ND - unfinished)

Pencil scores (2)

'The Golden Tides' for mixed chorus and string orchestra (ND)

Pencil score, 13pp (short score)

'Malini' for soprano, mixed chorus and chamber ensemble (ND, probably 1920s)

Words: Rabindranath Tagore

Dur: 55' (Act 1); 45' (Act 2)

Instr: double string quartet, double bass obligato, harp, mandoline, piano and percussion (2 Oriental drums, triangle, tambourine, cymbals and gong)

Pencil score, 209pp

Ink score (17 sets of voice/instrumental parts)

Ink score, 104pp (Act 1); 118pp (Act 2)

Ink score, 6pp and 5pp (Part songs from Act 1 in short score) Typewritten script, 17pp (complete play)

Typewritten script, 12pp (Supriya's part) and 10pp (Kemanka's part)

Notes: There was evidently plans for a first performance - an encouraging letter dated March 24th (no year) to a "Mrs Grove" from Jesse Reason's teacher, Eugene Goossens, makes interesting reading:

"My pupil, Mrs Reason, tells me that you are interested in her fantasy 'Malini' and that there is even a prospect of your considering it for production. I have seen the work in question and consider it would lend itself very effectively to performance. It seems to me a very spiritual work with a great deal of sincerity and atmosphere and (musically speaking) thoroughly sound and interesting.

I consider it would be very enterprising on your part to assist in its production, and though I cannot speak of it from the dramatic standpoint with any authority, I can vouch for its intrinsically musical qualities...."

3. Chamber music

Two Pieces for violin and piano (1914)

[1. Cloud 2. Sunshine]

Ink score, 17pp, January 1914

Ink score (violin part), 6pp

'Darkness' for cello and piano (1914)

Ink score, 3pp, May 1914 (2 copies)

Ink score (cello part), 2pp, ND (2 copies)

Fragment for violin and piano (1914)

Pencil score, 1pp (incomplete)

Note: The fragment is headed 'remembered from a waking dream - thinking of a picture in the National Gallery "The Annunciation" - a vision of what was in the painter's mind, April 12th 1914'

'For Violin and Piano' (Andante in four keys) (ND)

Pencil score, 6pp

Ink score, 3pp (incomplete)

Ink and Pencil scores, 2pp (violin part)

Piece for viola and piano (1916)

Ink score, 1pp, February 1916

'The Secret' for violin and piano (ND)

Pencil score, 9pp

Ink score, 2pp (violin part)

Note: the violinist is instructed to be heard but not seen and that "no mention should be made of the violin on the programme"

Study in Fifths for solo violin (1915)

Ink score, 1pp, September 1915

"Martyn's First Violin Piece" - for violin and piano (1916)

Written for her second son, Philip Martin Reason, born February 1907, probably as a birthday present

Ink score, 1pp, February 1916

'Sorrow' for cello (or viola) and piano (1917)

Ink score, 4pp, February 1917 (2 copies)

Ink score, (cello part), 2pp, February 1917 (2 copies)

Ink score (viola part), 2pp

String Quartet No.1 (1917)

Ink score, (parts only) March 1917

String Quartet No.2 (1919)

Ink score and parts

'Poeme (Pensée) sans Paroles' for cello and piano (1920)

Pencil score, 17pp, January 1920

Pencil score, 4pp

Meditation for viola and piano (ND)

Ink score, 11pp,

Ink score (viola part), 3pp

Untitled Piece for solo violin in E minor (ND)

Ink score, 4pp

'Lute Players' Dreams' for string quartet (1924?)

Ink score, 17pp

Ink score (4 parts) 8pp

Three Poems for violin and piano (ND)

Music based on three poems by Fiona Macleod

1. I know a pale place, a haunted valley of defeated dreams.

2. The Rainbow, rising with vast unbroken sweep.

3. Dreams and visions run past laughing, with starry eyes.

Ink and Pencil scores, 23pp

Pencil scores (violin part), 6pp

4. Piano/Organ Music

Piano Sonata (1916)

Ink score, 20pp, June 1916

Five Landscapes for piano (1917)

1. The Road across the Hills

2. Forest Shades

3. Dewdrops

4. The Solitary Place

5. The Sunlit Stream

Ink score, 31pp, 1917

Symphonic Poem for organ (1920)

Ink score, 14pp, June 1920 (2 copies)

'Asterisks' - Three Pieces for piano (ND)

Ink score, 10pp (2 copies)

Notes: music suggested by an unfinished poem by Rupert Brooke

(Untitled) Piece for solo piano (ND)

Pencil score, 5pp

5. Orchestral music

Lament for orchestra (1917)

Instr: 2/1 +ca/2/1 - 4/2/3/0 - timp. hp. str.

Ink score, 30pp (December 1917)

Pencil score, 30pp (fair copy)

'The Pilgrim' for orchestra (1922)

Instr: 3/3+ca/2+bcl/2+cbsn - 4/3/3/0 - timp.perc. hp.cel. str

Pencil score, 82pp, 'score begun April 3rd 1922'

Pencil score (short score)19pp

'The Echo from the Further Shore' - tone poem for orchestra (1932)

Instr: 1/1+ca/1/2 - 2/2/3/0 - cel. pno.hp.str

Pencil score, 38pp

6. Arrangements

Ernest Chausson: 'Chanson Perpetuels'

violin obligato part (ND)

Ink score, 2pp

Scriabin: Poem No.1 Op.44

arranged for viola and piano (ND)

Ink score, 2pp

Ysaye: 'Reverie'

arranged for solo violin (ND)

Ink score, 1pp (2 copies)

Vieuxtemps: Adagio Religioso (from Concerto No.4 for violin and orchestra)

arranged in short score (ND)

Pencil score, 10pp

Edward MacDowell: 'From an Indian Lodge'

arranged for piano and string ensemble (ND)

Ink/Pencil score, 2pp

Ink score, 1pp (solo violin part)

Rebikov: 'Les Faux du Soir'

for violin and piano (ND)

Ink/Pencil score, 3pp

Ink score, 1pp (solo violin part)

Rebikov: 'La Mere pres du Berceau'

for violin (or viola) and piano (ND)

Ink/Pencil score, 2pp

Ink score, 1pp (solo violin/viola parts)

Stravinsky: Berceuse ('L'Oiseau de Fer')

for violin, viola and piano (ND)

Ink score, 2pp

Ink score, 2pp (solo viola part)

Cyril Scott: 'The Garden of Soul Sympathy'

arranged for solo violin (ND)

Ink score, 2pp

Eugene Goossens; String Quartet 'By the Tarn' Op.15 No.1

arranged for viola and piano (ND)

Ink score, 7pp

Ink score (viola part) , 2pp

Max Bruch: Romance (opening bars)

solo viola part (ND)

Ink score, 1pp

Grieg: Oisillon

arranged for solo violin (ND)

Pencil score; 1pp

7.Dramatic works

'The Shrine'

a play with music (ND c.1930s)

In a foreword Jesse Reason writes;

" This play began in a vivid dream from which I woke at a critical point. Nevertheless, I seemed to know what would have followed as well as what lay before the remembered part of the dream."

Typewritten script , 102pp

'Tragic Landscape' (Fiona MacLeod)

scenario for a play with music (ND)

Pencil script, 1pp

'The Lamp'

scenario for a play with music (ND)

Pencil script, 4p