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Walter P. Reuther Library

# Guide to the Detroit Symphony Orchestra: Lila Challis Papers

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Description is written in: English.

Walter P. Reuther Library

5401 Cass Avenue

Detroit, MI 48202

URL: <https://reuther.wayne.edu>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Walter P. Reuther Library
<b>Creator:</b>	Challis, Lila
<b>Title:</b>	Detroit Symphony Orchestra: Lila Challis Papers
<b>ID:</b>	UP002864
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1945-1950
<b>Physical Description:</b>	.5 Linear Feet 1 MB
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .
<b>Abstract:</b>	This collection contains the sheet music for Lila Challis's composition for orchestra "The Water's Journey." The piece is in four movements: The Brook, The Lake at Dusk, The River, The Mighty Ocean. It is orchestrated for strings, woodwinds, brass, percussion and keyboards. The Detroit Symphony Orchestra performed this piece under the direction of C. Valter Poole, probably in the 1950s or 1960s. Challis (1908-2007) was a Detroit music teacher and composer, a graduate and faculty member of the Detroit Conservatory of Music.

### Preferred Citation

"Detroit Symphony Orchestra: Lila Challis Papers, Box 1, Folder [#], Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University"

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## Biographical / Historical

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Lila Marie Challis (1908-2007), a native of Michigan, lived for many years in Pontiac. Challis was a graduate of the Detroit Conservatory of Music and taught piano and music theory there for over 50 years. After the conservatory closed, she taught privately from a studio at the Park Shelton Apartments on Woodward Avenue in Detroit. Challis also composed music and directed concerts by her students. This collection comprises the sheet music for her composition "The Water's Journey," which was performed by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra under the direction of C. Valter Poole, probably in the 1950s or 1960s. The exact date of the composition is unknown. The hand-written manuscript was donated to the DSO by Challis's student and friend Eugene Fitzgerald.

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## Scope and Contents

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The collection is made up of the original, hand-written sheet music for the composition "The Water's Journey." Folders are in original order grouped by sections of the orchestra: individual strings, woodwinds, brass, percussion, keyboards/harp. It also includes one folder of biographical information about the composer, Lila Challis.

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## Arrangement

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Folders in this collection are in original order grouped by sections of the orchestra: individual strings, woodwinds, brass, percussion, keyboards/harp.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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### Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

## Conditions Governing Use

Refer to the Walter P. Reuther Library "Rules for Use of Archival Materials." Copyright is held by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Patrons are responsible for determining the appropriate use or reuse of materials.

## Immediate Source of Acquisition

The collection was deposited at the Walter P. Reuther Library by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra on January 8, 2019. Donated to the DSO by Challis's friend and student Eugene Fitzgerald in 2010.

## Processing Information

Originally processed by DSO archivist Cynthia Korolov. Minimally processed and finding aid written by Aimee Ergas on October 18, 2022.

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## Related Materials

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### Related Materials

Other collections included in the Detroit Symphony Orchestra Records at the Walter P. Reuther Library.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Music
- Performing Arts

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## Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Instances	
Lila Challis, biographical material, obituary; documents, clipping, various dates	Box 1	Folder 1

Guide to the Detroit Symphony Orchestra: Lila Challis Papers

"The Water's Journey," list of manuscript parts; document, undated	Box 1	Folder 2
"The Water's Journey," music manuscript, 1st violin part, 7 copies, undated	Box 1	Folder 3
"The Water's Journey," music manuscript, 2nd violin part, 7 copies, undated	Box 1	Folder 4
"The Water's Journey," music manuscript, viola part, 4 copies, undated	Box 1	Folder 5
"The Water's Journey," music manuscript, cello part, 4 copies, undated	Box 1	Folder 6
"The Water's Journey," music manuscript, bass part, 4 copies, undated	Box 1	Folder 7
"The Water's Journey," music manuscript, woodwind section, 5 parts, undated	Box 1	Folder 8
"The Water's Journey," music manuscript, brass section, 3 parts, undated	Box 1	Folder 9
"The Water's Journey," music manuscript, percussion section, 5 parts, undated	Box 1	Folder 10
"The Water's Journey," music manuscript, keyboard and harp, 3 parts, undated	Box 1	Folder 11