**Introduction**

The primary objective of this project is to create a thematic catalogue of the works of the Saskatchewan composer Dr. David Kaplan (1923-2015) in order to produce a record and summary of his complete compositional works.

Dr. Kaplan began working at the College of Education at the University of Saskatchewan in 1960, and became a driving force behind the creation of an independent Department of Music in 1964. He served as the head of this department for nearly 20 years. Dr. Kaplan was also deeply involved in the music culture of Saskatoon, and Saskatchewan.

A thematic catalogue is a detailed catalogue, including a music incipit, that is “a powerful research and bibliographic tool.” (Brook and Viano, ix)

The project involved hand-searching primary and secondary sources to extract compositional details. These details were recorded and organized in order to allow researchers to learn more about Dr. Kaplan’s compositions.

**Data Collection**

The collection of compositions is from four main sources: the University of Saskatchewan Archives & Special Collections, the University Library Collection, Kaplan’s autobiography “Kaplan: The Well-Tempered Klezmer,” and Klezmer compositions on loan from Britton Urriecht.

The following information was collected from each piece:

- Title
- Instrumentation
- Tempo
- Score type
- # of pages
- Place of composition
- Date of Composition
- Premier performance
- Dedication
- Event written for
- Publication information
- Original MS location
- Printed and published copies location
- Additional information about documents relating to composition
- Information from autobiography
- Genre given to each piece by Kaplan
- Music incipit

**Work Flow**

- Collect data from Kaplan’s thematic catalogue
- Check data for accuracy and completeness
- Write incipits using Sibelius
- After checking the accuracy of the thematic catalogue, add data to collection
- Import all data into Endnote
- Collect references of primary sources in special collections
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**Challenges & Limitations**

- Legibility of handwritten manuscripts
- Determining whether they are original compositions or handwritten copies
- Kaplan has multiple aliases
- Compositions sometimes missing titles
- One piece in multiple locations
- Collection is organized according to Kaplan’s own organizational system. Reaching is difficult finding pieces and having to go through the collection multiple times
- Limited to the hours and space of the Archives & Special Collections

**Results**

- Of the total 506 compositions only 268 are dated. As a result the timeline only accounts for 52.9% of all the compositions currently recorded.
- Of the 506 pieces 195 are mentioned only in Kaplan: The Well-Tempered Klezmer and the physical compositions are missing.
- In the timeline there is a spike in the number of compositions in 1985. In 1985 Dr. Kaplan took a mini-sabbatical from January to work on two major projects: 1) studying university programs in the American Midwest; 2) writing compositions for young wind players. This sabbatical also accounts for the large percentage (19%) of compositions categorized as Wind Instrument Solos.
- Klezmer compositions make up 24% of the total compositions. Dr. Kaplan formed the Saskatoon Klezmer Band in the mid-1980s. Dr. Kaplan composed or arranged all of the compositions for the band, making a significant contribution to Klezmer music in the province. The large amount of compositions in this genre may also be due to what compositions we could find. Brian Urriecht, a member of the Klezmer Band, gave us access to his own collection of Klezmer Band compositions written by Kaplan.

**Discussion**

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**Conclusion**

There is not a comprehensive catalogue of Dr. Kaplan’s works. As the majority of Kaplan’s works have been previously uncatalogued this project facilitates access to Dr. Kaplan’s compositions for research and performance purposes. The project fills a gap in the research literature on music from Saskatchewan.

The next step will be publishing the thematic catalogue online to make the data more accessible.

**Tools & Resources**

- Sibelius, music notation software
- Endnote, bibliographic tool
- University of Saskatchewan Library Catalogue
- MG 282 – David Kaplan fonds finding aid

**References**


To learn more about David Kaplan and the collection:

http://library.usask.ca/music/kaplan

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