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**University of Memphis Libraries  
Special Collections Department**

126 Ned R. McWherter Library  
Memphis, TN 38152 - 3250  
Phone: (901) 678 - 2210  
E-mail: lib\_sc@memphis.edu

**Jack Abell collection**

**Title:** Jack Abell collection  
**Collection No:** MSS.288  
**Extent:** 0.25 cubic feet  
**Inclusive Dates:** 1979-1980

**Abstract:** The collection contains three scores, including two by Jack Abell, and a poster for the Fiddlers Convention held in Memphis in 1979.

**Donor:** Jack Abell, Memphis, Tennessee, April 1979.  
**Processed by:** Gerald Chaudron, 2015.  
**Access:** Open to all researchers.  
**Language:** English  
**Preferred Citation:** Jack Abell collection, Special Collections Department, University Libraries, University of Memphis.

**Publication date:** March 2015

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## Biographical information

Jack Paul Abell was born September 22, 1948 in Texas to Usher Abell but grew up in South Dakota with a brother Thomas. He was a veteran first-chair violist with the Memphis Symphony, having started with the orchestra in 1975, as well as a conductor, music teacher and publisher. Abell also taught at Memphis State University and Rhodes College, where he conducted the Rhodes College Civic Orchestra. One of his favorite projects was the Tennessee Summer Symphony, which he founded in 1991. The lanky, 6-foot-4, musician was regarded as one of the most talented string players in Memphis. He performed in Europe and in Latin America while a Peace Corps volunteer. He also played at the Santa Fe Opera, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Peninsula Music Festival, Chicago Little Symphony, Memphis Chamber Music Society and Opera Memphis. Abell composed, studied baroque music extensively, wrote articles on music, played studio sessions and ran a publishing firm called Ivory Palaces. When he died from cancer on July 28, 1993, he left a family which included his wife, Lydia D., two daughters, Jessica and Rosalind, and a son Peter.

Source: Obituary, *Commercial Appeal*, Memphis, Tenn., 1993 July 29.

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## Scope and contents

The collection contains three scores, two by Jack Abell and another featuring an arrangement by Dr. Walter Wade of Memphis State University, published by Abell's company, Ivory Palaces Music Publishing Company. There is also a poster for the Fiddlers Convention held in Memphis in May 1979.

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## Subject terms

Abell, Jack P., 1948-1993.  
Chorus scores.

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## Inventory

### Box 1

#### Folder

##### 1 Scores:

Abell, Jack, & Charles Wesley, "Lo! He Comes", Memphis: Ivory Palaces Music Publishing Company, 1979.

Abell, Jack, "Variations on a Shape for solo violin", Memphis: Ivory Palaces Music Publishing Company, 1979. Autographed.

“Two Anthems from the Sacred Harp”, arranged by Walter Wade for SATB Chorus,  
Memphis: Ivory Palaces Music Publishing Company, 1980.

**Oversize** Poster: “Memphis in May, Fiddlers Convention”, Tom Lee Park, Memphis, Tennessee,  
1979 May 4-5.