ATKINS, RUSSELL.
Russell Atkins collection, 1969-1997

Emory University
Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library
Atlanta, GA 30322
404-727-6887
rose.library@emory.edu

Descriptive Summary

**Creator:** Atkins, Russell.

**Title:** Russell Atkins collection, 1969-1997

**Call Number:** Manuscript Collection No. 1412

**Extent:** .25 linear feet (1 box)

**Abstract:** Collection of material relating to African American poet and composer Russell Atkins, including sheet music and event programs.

**Language:** Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

**Restrictions on Access**
Unrestricted access.

**Terms Governing Use and Reproduction**
Special restrictions apply: Printed or manuscript music in this collection that is still under copyright protection and is not in the Public Domain may not be photocopied or photographed. Researchers must provide written authorization from the copyright holder to request copies of these materials.

**Related Materials in Other Repositories**
Russell Atkins collection, Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library

**Source**

**Custodial History**
Provenance unknown.

**Citation**
[after identification of item(s)], Russell Atkins collection, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

*Emory Libraries provides copies of its finding aids for use only in research and private study. Copies supplied may not be copied for others or otherwise distributed without prior consent of the holding repository.*
Appraisal Note
Acquired by Collections Manager, Meaghan O'Riordan, as part of the Rose Library's holdings in African American culture and history.

Processing
Arranged and described at the item level by Sarah Quigley, August 2017.

Collection Description

Biographical Note
Russell Atkins, African American poet and composer, was born in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1926 and raised by his mother, grandmother, and aunt. He began taking piano lessons at age seven and later studied music at the Cleveland School of Arts and the Cleveland Institute of Music. He worked with the Karamu House, one of the oldest African American theaters in the United States. In 1950, Atkins co-founded Free Lance, a small press literary magazine dedicated to avant-garde writing. His books of poetry include *Phenomena* (1961), *Objects* (1963), *Heretofore* (1968), *Maleficum* (1971), and *Here In The* (1976). He has also written and produced what he calls "poetry in play forms," including *The Abortionist* (1954) and *The Corpse* (1954).

Scope and Content Note
The collection consists of material relating to Russell Atkins from 1969-1997 and included two programs from events honoring Atkins and four pieces of sheet music composed by Atkins. The pieces of sheet music are photocopies with some handwritten annotations by an unidentified person.

Arrangement Note
Arranged in alphabetical order.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Program, Poet's League of Greater Cleveland, First Annual Northern Ohio Literary Gala, 1997 April 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Program, &quot;A Tribute to the Genius of Russell Atkins,&quot; Karamu House (Cleveland, Ohio), 1971 October 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sheet music, &quot;The Abortionist: A Chamber Opera in One Act,&quot; circa 1985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sheet music, &quot;Objects II for Orchestra,&quot; undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Sheet music, &quot;Objects for Piano,&quot; 1969</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>