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DESCRIPTION OF COLLECTION

Shelf location: M3A 7,1-2

Extent: 3 linear feet

Provenance

The collection of materials now known as the Sam Forman Dance Orchestra Collection was originally owned by Jeno Bartal, a Hungarian-born cellist who settled in New York City. Although Bartal originally made a living performing classical music at receptions and in restaurants, he later formed an ensemble, Jeno Bartal and His Orchestra, and expanded into popular dance music. The group performed at weddings and other events of the city’s high-society set, held in such venues as the Waldorf and the Plaza Hotels.

When the Bartal ensemble disbanded, Bartal himself (who died ca. 1980) gave his extensive music collection to Sam Forman. Forman further distributed parts of the collection among other friends and colleagues, but kept several dozen items for himself. In 1987, the remainder of the collection passed to Forman’s widow after his death. Soon afterward, Mrs. Forman gave the collection to the couple’s grandson, Peter Silberman, In 1999, Mr. Silberman, at that time a Ph.D. candidate at the Eastman School of Music and now a professor of music at Ithaca College, donated the collection to the Sibley Music Library with the request that it be named the Sam Forman Dance Orchestra Collection in honor of his late grandfather.

Biographical sketch

Sam Forman (1912-1987) was born in New York City, where he remained a lifelong resident. Music had been a part of his family for several generations. His father played both the violin and drums and had made his living accompanying silent films. His grandfather had been a musician in Russia, from whence the family emigrated in the early years of the 20th century.

In childhood Sam Forman began his musical training on the piano, at which he showed great promise, but his piano studies were cut short by a shooting accident that maimed his right hand. Unable to practice the piano thereafter, the drums became his instrument of choice, and he went on to study under Saul Goodman, who became a member of the New York Philharmonic in 1928.

From the late 1920s until his retirement in the late 1970s, Mr. Forman performed as a drummer with numerous prominent dance bands and orchestras, including the Lester Lanin Orchestra and Jeno Bartal and His Orchestra. He also served as music librarian for the Bartal Orchestra. During the World War II years Mr. Forman worked for several radio stations which maintained their own live house bands. He played on the Five Star Final which was broadcast
over WMCA (Manhattan) and also performed with Merle Pitt and his Five Shades of Blue, a jazz ensemble. He was also a relief drummer for the Palace Theater in New York City during the rebirth of vaudeville, as well as relief drummer at several upscale nightclubs, including the “Ruban Bleu” and the “Versailles”. Rather than seeking steady work in the nightclubs or in the pit bands of Broadway or vaudeville, Mr. Forman preferred the free-lance/club date environment, with the variety of venues and different circles of people and varied types of music that this offered.

Mr. Forman died in New York City and was survived by his wife, his three daughters, and his six grandchildren. Through his talent, industry, and hard work he had had the good fortune to fulfill his ambition of making his living solely by his greatest passion—music.

**Scope and content note**

The Sam Forman Dance Orchestra Collection contains full and partial sets of performance parts for nearly 200 popular compositions published between 1910 and 1960. The sets were used by Jeno Bartal and his orchestra during their New York City performances. Most of the imprints are French or Spanish in origin.

**Restrictions on use**

No restrictions have been placed on the use of the Sam Forman Dance Orchestra Collection, save for those applicable under the United States Copyright Law (1976) and its revisions.

**Associations**

Elsewhere in the Ruth T. Watanabe Special Collections, the Carl Dengler Collection comprises the materials of Rochester bandleader Carl Dengler (1914-2006), whose career as an ensemble director was roughly contemporary with those of Jeno Bartal and Sam Forman.
DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

Series 1: Instrumental part sets

This series contains sets of instrumental parts for songs of primarily French or Spanish origin, organized alphabetically by title of song.
INVENTORY

Series 1: Instrumental Part Sets

Box 1


folder 3  Concina, C. *Ah Dalila! (L’omino dei Palloncini)*. Publisher and date unknown. Three parts: tenor saxophone, 2 trumpets/clarinets, and guitar/bass. Verso of tenor and trumpet/clarinet parts contains *Carriole et Mandoline (O Ciucciariello)* by Nino Oliviero.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Composer/Arranger</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Parts Present</th>
<th>Verso Contains</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Fontenoy, Marc</td>
<td><em>Bella musica</em></td>
<td>Paul Beuscher, Paris</td>
<td>1951</td>
<td>1st &amp; 3rd alto saxophone, 2nd tenor saxophone, trombone/cello, 1st &amp; 2nd trumpet, contrabass, violin/accordion/guitar, vocal, piano/conductor.</td>
<td><em>Pret moi tonneau</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Chapi, R.</td>
<td><em>A bunch of roses</em></td>
<td>Edward B. Marks, New York</td>
<td>1932</td>
<td>1st clarinet, 1st trumpet, trombone, bass, and piano.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Ledru, Jack</td>
<td><em>C'est pour vous</em></td>
<td>Paul Beuscher, Paris</td>
<td>1954</td>
<td>1st alto sax., 2nd tenor sax., 3rd alto sax., 1st/2nd trumpets, trombone, piano, bass/guitar, violin/accordion, and vocals.</td>
<td><em>J'aime chaque fois</em> by Ledru</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Padilla, Jose</td>
<td><em>Ca...c'est Paris!</em></td>
<td>Salabert, Paris</td>
<td>1927</td>
<td>2 1st violins, bass, cornets, 3rd trombone, 1st alto saxophone, 2nd alto saxophone, tenor saxophone.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


folder 27  Chevaliers. Publication information unknown. Two parts present: 2 trumpet. Verso of each contains *Bale eured.*


folder 38  Freire, R. *Doce Cascabeles (Fais trotter ta mule)*. Publication information unknown. Two parts present: trumpets/clarinets, trombone/cello. Verso of each contains *Frascuelo* by E.L. Juarranz.


Box 2


folder 5  Folies Bergere Medley. Publication information unknown. Eight parts present: 1st alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, 3rd alto saxophone, 1st trumpet, trombone, piano, bass, drums. Verso of each (except drums) contains *La Barbe a Ton Ton*.


folder 8  *French Memories (Melodies)*. Publication information unknown. Six parts present: 1st alto saxophone, 2nd tenor saxophone, 3rd alto saxophone, 1st trumpet, bass, piano.


folder 12  *Les Gars de la Marine*. Publication information unknown. Five parts present: 1st alto saxophone, 1st trumpet, bass, piano, 1st violin.

folder 13  *Gavotte No. 1*. Publication information unknown. Eight parts present: 1st-4th clarinet, 1st trumpet, trombone, piano, bass.


folder 31  Madelon. Publication information unknown. Eight parts present: 1st alto saxophone, 2nd tenor saxophone, 3rd alto saxophone, 1st trumpet, trombone, bass, drums, piano.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Composition</th>
<th>Arranger</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Parts Present</th>
<th>Instrumentation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Yvain, Maurice, orch. F. Barre.</td>
<td>Mon Homme</td>
<td>Paris: Francis Salabert</td>
<td>1920</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Melody alto saxophone, 2nd tenor saxophone, 3rd alto saxophone, 1st cornet, trombone, bass, piano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Porter, Cole.</td>
<td>Montmart</td>
<td>Publication information unknown.</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1st alto saxophone, 2nd tenor saxophone, 3rd alto saxophone, 1st trumpet, trombone, bass, piano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Malando, A., arr. George Snowhill.</td>
<td>Noche de estrellas</td>
<td>Edward B. Marks</td>
<td>1954</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1st alto saxophone, 2nd tenor saxophone, 3rd alto saxophone, 1st trumpet, guitar, drums, bass</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


folder 14  *Paree*. Publication information unknown.  Eight parts present: 1st alto saxophone, 2nd tenor saxophone, 3rd alto saxophone, 1st trumpet, trombone, bass, drums, piano.

folder 15  *Paris c'est du champagne*. Publication information unknown.  Eight parts present: 1st alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, 3rd alto saxophone, 1st trumpet, trombone, piano, bass, drums. Verso of each contains (except drums) *Un petit coup par ci*.


folder 18  *Le Pere de la Victoire*. Publication information unknown.  Seven parts present: 1st alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, 3rd alto saxophone, 1st trumpet, trombone, bass, piano. Verso of each contains *Ah le Petit vin Blanc*.


folder 22  *Petite Tonkinoise*. Seven parts present: 1st alto saxophone, 2nd tenor saxophone, 3rd alto saxophone, 1st trumpet, trombone, piano, bass.


folder 25  *Phi-Phi*. Publication information unknown. Five parts present: 1st alto saxophone, 2nd tenor saxophone, 3rd alto saxophone, 1st trumpet, 2nd trumpet.


Box 4


folder 3  *Printemps d'Alsace*. Publication information unknown. Three parts present: 2nd tenor saxophone, 3rd alto saxophone, trombone.


folder 5  *Quai de Bercy*. Publication information unknown. Nine parts present: 1st & 3rd alto saxophone, 2nd tenor saxophone, 1st trumpet, 2nd trumpet, piano, 1st violin, accordion, bass.

folder 6  *Quand tu Reverras ton Village*. Publication information unknown. Seven parts present: 1st & 3rd alto saxophone, 2nd tenor saxophone, 1st & 2nd trumpet, trombone, accordion.


folder 17  *A la St. Medard*. Publication information unknown. Ten parts present: 1st & 3rd alto saxophone, 2nd & 4th tenor saxophone, 1st & 2nd trumpet, trombone, piano, accordion, bass.


folder 20  *Les Sirenes*. Publication information unknown. Seven parts present: 1st & 3rd alto saxophone, 2nd tenor, 1st trumpet, trombone, bass, piano.


folder 23  *Sous les Ponts de Paris*. Publication information unknown. Three parts present: 1st & 3rd alto saxophone, tenor saxophone.


Box 5


folder 5  *Toujours ou Jamais*. Publication information unknown. Eight parts present: 1st & 3rd alto saxophone, 2nd tenor saxophone, 1st trumpet, trombone, piano, drums, bass.

folder 6  *La Traviata*. Publication information unknown. Four parts present: 1st alto saxophone, 1st trumpet, bass, piano.


folder 10  Borel-Clerc, Charles. *...Tu verras Montmartre!*. Paris: Borel-Clerc, 1922. Five parts present: 1st/2nd trombone, piano/conductor, bass, 2 1st violin.


folder 16  *Valentine*. Publication information unknown. Eight parts present: 1st & 3rd alto saxophone, 2nd tenor saxophone, 1st trumpet, trombone, drums, bass, piano.


folder 19  *Varsoviana*. Publication information unknown. Five parts present: 1st & 3rd alto saxophone, 2nd tenor, 1st trumpet, trombone.


