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DESCRIPTION OF COLLECTION

Accession no. 2007/8/14

Shelf location: C3B 7,6

Physical extent: 1.3 linear feet

Biographical sketch

Rebecca Lelia “Betty” Ryan [née Kinard] was born on October 21, 1917, in Louisiana. She began a career as a child performer at the age of two, and, throughout her childhood, she sang, played the piano, and acted professionally under the stage names “Betty Collier” and “Betty Lee.” When she was a little older, her family moved to Houston, where Betty began attending dramatic workshops. She spent a brief time in Hollywood before settling in New York as a young adult, where she earned a living as a song plugger.

At the age of seventeen, she quit show business, went into cosmetology, and settled down with her husband, Eddie Ryan, who was in the real estate business. Several years later, when their son Edward “Russell” Ryan was preparing to enter high school, the family moved to upstate New York (Hilton). When her husband died at the age of 77, Betty moved to Rochester to be closer to her son, who, at the time, was working as a firefighter with the Rochester Fire Department.

Mrs. Ryan passed away on November 20, 2018, at the age of 101.

Provenance

The collection was the gift of Betty Ryan and was received by the Sibley Music Library on October 22, 1999.

Scope and content note

The collection is comprised of more than 500 unique items of popular sheet music, most of which dates from the early 1930s. The bulk of the sheet music is scored for voice and accompaniment, most often piano.

Restrictions and use

There are no restrictions on use of the collection. The provisions of the United States Copyright Law (1976) and its revisions apply in each instance of reproduction and performance. For all items published in 1923 or later, obtaining copyright clearance is a necessary prerequisite before requests for reproductions will be granted.
**Associations**

Several collections of popular sheet music are available in the Ruth T. Watanabe Special Collections.

The largest and most prominent collection is the U.S. Sheet Music Collection, which contains more than 100,000 pieces of sheet music published in the United States dating from the late 18th century to the early 20th century. Of particular relevance is Sub-group III of the U.S. Sheet Music Collection, which is comprised of a variety of popular music forms including selections from musical productions and motion pictures.

In addition, the Charlotte Stafford Collection and Burke Sheet Music Collection contain popular sheet music, both vocal and instrumental, the bulk dating from the early 20th century. The James W. Phillips Collection is comprised of nearly 3,000 items of sheet music dating from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, most of which is music of a popular vein, namely songs for voice and piano from musical theatre, revues, motion pictures, and other productions. The World War II Sheet Music Collection consists of over 500 items of popular sheet music published during the years of World War II relating to the war or general patriotism. The Sam Forman Dance Orchestra Collection contains full and partial sets of performance parts for nearly 200 popular compositions, the bulk of either French or Spanish origin, published between 1910 and 1960.
DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

The series that comprises this collection consists exclusively of sheet music, predominantly for voice and piano. Most of the music dates from 1933–1935, presumably from Mrs. Ryan’s career as a song plugger in New York City. Accordingly, the majority of the items are “professional copies” or “advance artist copies” (i.e., complimentary copies of piano/vocal sheet music, generally issued without covers or illustrations, that were distributed to song pluggers and other professional artists to promote the song). A few items are also accompanied by instrumental parts from arrangements for voice and big band or other ensemble accompaniment.

The music in the collection has been arranged alphabetically by title. According to standard filing conventions, the first principal keyword is the determining factor; definite and indefinite articles are disregarded. Likewise, initial subheadings (i.e., text placed in parentheses before the main title) have been disregarded for the purposes of alphabetization and arrangement.
INVENTORY

Box 1

Folder 1 (A–Am; 11 items)


- Stamp on front cover: “Complimentary—not to be sold.”


- Instrumental parts: piano, 1st violins (A & B), 2nd violin, viola, tenor banjo, cello, bass, flute, 1st clarinet, 1st alto sax, 2nd tenor sax, 3rd alto sax, horns in F, 1st and 2nd trumpet in B-flat, trombone, and drums.


Folder 2 (An–As; 10 items)


- Accompanied by typescript lyric sheet “Female Chorus on ‘And Then Some,’” distributed by Famous Music Corp. 1 page.

- Instrumental parts: piano, 1st violin (A & B), violin C, 2nd violin, viola, cello, flute, 1st and 2nd B-flat clarinet, oboe, bassoon, 1st alto sax, 2nd tenor sax, 3rd alto sax, 1st horns in F, 2nd and 3rd B-flat trumpets, 1st and 2nd trombone, guitar or banjo, bass, and drums.


- Instrumental parts: piano, 1st violins (A, B & C), 1st alto sax, 2nd tenor sax, 3rd alto sax, tenor banjo (guitar), cello, bass, horns in F, flute, 1st B-flat clarinet, 1st and 2nd B-flat trumpet, 1st trombone, and drums.

Folder 3 (Be; 9 items)


- Instrumental parts: piano, violins (A, B & C), 1st alto sax, 2nd tenor sax, 3rd alto sax, 1st and 2nd B-flat trumpet, trombone, cello, banjo (or guitar), bass, and drums.

- Stamp on front cover: “Complimentary—not to be sold.”


- Instrumental parts: piano, 1st violins (A, B and C), 1st alto sax, 2nd tenor sax, 3rd alto sax, 1st and 2nd B-flat trumpet, trombone, cello, guitar, bass, and drums.


Folder 4 (Bl–By; 9 items)


- Instrumental parts: flute; 1st clarinet in B-flat; 1st, 2nd and 3rd sax; 1st and 2nd trumpet in B-flat; trombone; 1st violin (1st and 2nd stand); cello; bass; tenor banjo; piano; and drums.
- Piano part affixed to manuscript paper with coda in ink.


- Instrumental parts (incomplete): piano, 2nd tenor sax.


Folder 5 (C; 22 items)


- Stamp on front cover: “Complimentary—not to be sold.”


- Instrumental parts: piano; violin A, B & C; 1st alto sax; 2nd tenor sax; 3rd alto sax; 4th baritone sax; 1st, 2nd & 3rd B-flat trumpet; 1st and 2nd trombone; guitar; bass; and drums.


- Accompanied by typescript lyrics. 1 page.


Folder 6 (D; 24 items)


“Dancing the Viennese.” From the Paramount picture All the King’s Horses. For voice and piano. Words and music by Sam Coslow. Professional copy. New York: Famous Music Corp., 1935.

   - Stamp on front cover: “Complimentary—not to be sold.”


“Did She Ask For Me?” For voice and piano. [Composer and lyricist not named.] New York: Remick Music Corp., 1934.
   - Sheet music consists of manuscript facsimile piano/vocal score.


   - Stamp on front cover: “Complimetary.”


- Instrumental parts: piano, 1st violin (A & B), 2nd tenor sax, 3rd alto sax, 1st and 2nd B-flat trumpet, 1st trombone, bass, and drums.


- Illustrated cover.


- Sheet music consists of manuscript facsimile piano/vocal score with typescript lyrics.


- Instrumental parts: piano, 1st violins (A & B), 2nd violin, viola, flute, 1st clarinet in B-flat, 1st alto sax, 2nd tenor sax, 3rd alto sax, 1st and 2nd B-flat trumpet, horns in F, trombone, banjo, cello, bass, and drums.


- Stamp on front cover: “Complimentary—not to be sold.”


- Instrumental parts: violin B & C; 1st alto sax; 2nd tenor sax; 3rd alto sax; 4th baritone sax; 1st, 2nd and 3rd B-flat trumpet; 1st and 2nd trombone; guitar; bass; and drums.


Folder 8  (F; 16 items)


   - Stamp on front cover: “Eddie Richmond, 54 W. Randolph St., Chicago, IL.”


- Stamp on first page of score: “Complimentary—not to be sold.”


“From the Top of Your Head (To the Tip of Your Toes).” From the Paramount picture Two for Tonight. For voice and piano. Lyric and music by Mack Gordon and Harry Revel. Professional copy. [s.l.]: Crawford Music Corp., 1935.

“From the Top of Your Head (To the Tip of Your Toes).” From the Paramount picture Two for Tonight. Big band arrangement by Charles Hathaway. Lyric and music by Mack Gordon and Harry Revel. [s.l.]: Crawford Music Corp., 1935.
- Instrumental parts: piano, 1st violin (A, B & C); 1st alto sax; 2nd tenor sax; 3rd alto sax; 4th baritone sax; 1st, 2nd and 3rd B-flat trumpet; 1st and 2nd trombone; guitar; bass; and drums.


- Copy 1 features illustrated art deco cover.
- Copy 2 labeled “Professional copy” (consists of sheet music without cover).


- Instrumental parts: piano; flute; clarinet in B-flat, 1st and 3rd alto sax; 2nd tenor sax; 4th baritone sax; 1st, 2nd and 3rd trumpet in B-flat; 1st and 2nd trombone; 1st violin A, B, and C; viola; cello; guitar; bass; and drums.

Folder 10 (Ha; 18 items)


“Hands Across the Table.” Unattributed arrangement for big band. [Music by Jean Delettre. Lyrics by Mitchell Parish.] Ink manuscript in unidentified hand.

- Instrumental parts: piano, 1st sax, 2nd sax (B-flat tenor), 3rd sax, 1st trumpet, 2nd trumpet, 1st trombone, violin, banjo, bass, and drums.


   - Instrumental parts: piano, 1st violins (A, B & C), 1st alto sax, 2nd tenor sax, 1st and 2nd B-flat trumpet, trombone, tenor guitar or banjo, bass, and drums.


   - Illustrated art deco cover.
   - Stamp on front cover: “Complimentary.”

   - Stamp on front cover: “Complimentary—not to be sold.”

   - Illustrated art deco cover.

   - Piano part only, possibly from incomplete big band arrangement. Lyrics written over music on first page of part (pencil).


   - Instrumental parts: piano, 1st sax, 2nd sax, 3rd sax, 1st trumpet, 2nd trumpet, trombone, 1st violin, banjo, bass, and drums.

- Instrumental parts: piano, 1st and 2nd violin, viola, cello, 1st alto sax, 2nd tenor sax, 3rd alto sax, flute, 1st B-flat clarinet, 1st and 2nd B-flat trumpet, 1st trombone, guitar, bass, and drums.

- Stamp on first page of score: “The Song Hit from the Hawaiian Islands.”

Folder 11 (He–Hu; 13 items)


- Stamp on front cover: “Complimentary—not to be sold.”


**Box 2**

Folder 1 (I ain’t–I wonder; 19 items)


Folder 2 (I’d–I’ll; 18 items)


- Stamp on front cover: “From the library of Jesse Cowan Studios Chicago.”


Folder 3 (I’m–Image; 14 items)


“I’m a Hundred Percent for You.” Unattributed arrangement for big band. [Words and music by Ben Oakland, Mitchell Parish, and Irving Mills.] Ink manuscript in unidentified hand.
- Instrumental parts: piano, 1st violin, banjo, 1st E-flat alto sax, 2nd B-flat tenor sax, 3rd E-flat alto sax, 1st trumpet in B-flat, 2nd trumpet in B-flat, 1st trombone, bass, drums.


Folder 4  (In–It happens; 14 items)


- Instrumental parts: piano, 1st E-flat alto sax, tenor sax, 3rd E-flat alto sax, 1st trumpet in B-flat, 2nd trumpet in B-flat, 1st trombone, 1st violin (2 copies), banjo, bass, drums.

Folder 5 (It looks–I’ve; 14 items)


   - Instrumental parts: piano; 1st violin (2 copies); cello, bass, and horns in F; 1st alto sax and tenor sax; 3rd alto sax and banjo; 1st trumpet and 2nd trumpet; trombone and drums.


Folder 6 (J; 8 items)


“Judy.” Unattributed big band arrangement. [By Hoagy Carmichael and Sammy Lerner.] Ink manuscript in unidentified hand.
   - Instrumental parts: piano, 1st alto sax, 2nd tenor sax, 3rd alto sax, 1st trumpet, 2nd trumpet, trombone, violin, banjo, bass.
   - Accompanied by drum part from published big band arrangement (New York: Southern Music Publishing Co. Inc., 1934), affixed to blank manuscript paper.


Folder 7 (K; 4 items)


- Instrumental parts: piano, 1st violin (2 copies), banjo, 1st alto saxophone, 2nd tenor saxophone, 3rd alto saxophone, 1st trumpet, 2nd trumpet, trombone, bass, drums.
- Instrumental parts enclosed in decorative cover/title page.

“A King Can Do No Wrong.” From the Paramount picture All the King’s Horses. For voice and piano. Words and music by Sam Coslow. Professional copy. New York: Famous Music Corp., 1935.


Folder 8 (La–Li; 17 items)


“A Little Angel Told Me So.” From the Paramount picture One Hour Late. For voice and piano. Words and music by Sam Coslow. New York: Famous Music Corp., 1934.


- Illustrated art deco cover.


Folder 9 (Loa–Lou; 14 items)


- Instrumental parts: piano, 1st violins (A & B); 2nd violin, viola, and tenor banjo; cello and bass; flute and 1st clarinet in B-flat; 1st alto sax and 2nd tenor sax; horns in F and 3rd alto sax; 1st trumpet and 2nd trumpet; trombone and drums.


- Stamp on first page of part: “Dave Gordon, Pacific Coast Rep… Los Angeles, Calif.”

Folder 10 (Love; 14 items)


- Instrumental parts: piano (3 copies), 1st violin A, 1st violin B, 1st violin C, 1st B-flat clarinet, 1st alto sax, 2nd tenor sax, 3rd alto sax, 1st B-flat trumpet, 2nd B-flat trumpet, trombone, banjo, cello, bass, drums.


- Stamp on front cover: “Complimentary—not to be sold.”


Folder 11 (Ma–Mo; 14 items)


- Instrumental parts: piano, violin A, violin B and violin C, drums and 1st trombone, 2nd trombone and 1st B-flat trumpet, 3rd B-flat trumpet and cello, 2nd B-flat trumpet and 1st saxophone (alto), 2nd saxophone (tenor) and 3rd saxophone (alto), 4th saxophone (baritone), guitar, bass.


- Illustrated art deco cover.


- Instrumental parts: piano; violin A, violin B, and violin C; 1st alto sax and 2nd tenor sax; 3rd alto sax and 1st trombone; 1st B-flat trumpet and 2nd B-flat trumpet; guitar, 3rd B-flat trumpet, and violin A; bass, 4th baritone sax, drums, and 2nd trombone.
- Instrumental parts: piano, 1st violins (A & B), 1st violin (C), cello, flute, 1st clarinet in B-flat, 1st alto sax, 2nd tenor sax, 3rd alto sax, 1st trumpet in B-flat, 2nd trumpet in B-flat, 3rd trumpet in B-flat, trombone, bass.


- Stamp on first page of score: “Complimentary—not to be sold.”

Folder 12 (Mu–My; 13 items)


“My Own.” For voice and piano. Words and music by Little Jack Little, Dave Oppenheim, and Ira Schuster. [Professional copy; consists of sheet music without cover.] New York: M. Witmark & Sons, 1933. 2 copies.
   - Copy 1 labeled “Professional copy.”


“My Valley of Memories.” For voice and piano. By Al Opler and Bob Miller. [Professional copy; consists of sheet music without cover.] New York: Bob Miller, 1933.

Folder 13 (N: 11 items)


Folder 14 (O; 9 items)


   - Stamp on first page of score: “Advance copy—not to be sold.”


“Plain Old Me.” For voice and piano. Words and music by Tony Romano, Morey Amsterdam, and Larry Crosby. Professional copy. [s.l.]: Crawford Music, 1935.


- Instrumental parts: piano, 1st violins A and B (2 copies), violin C and 1st alto sax, 2nd tenor sax and 3rd alto sax, 1st trumpet and 2nd trumpet, 1st trombone and tenor guitar or banjo; bass and drums.


“Put on an Old Pair of Shoes.” For voice and piano. By Mr. & Mrs. Billy Hill. [Professional copy; consists of sheet music without cover.] New York: Shapiro, Bernstein & Co., 1935.


**Box 3**

Folder 1 (R; 17 items)


Folder 2   (Sa–Sh; 14 items)


“Send Me Your Kisses (Mail or Phone Your Kisses To Me).” For voice and piano. Music by Ernest Shonfield. Words by Fred Sutherland. Professional copy. Chicago: Fred Sutherland, 1933.


- Instrumental parts: piano, 1st violins A and B (2 copies), violin C, 1st alto sax, 2nd tenor sax and 3rd alto sax, 1st trumpet and 2nd trumpet, trombone and drums, banjo or guitar, bass, drums.


“Sittin’ Around on Sunday.” Unattributed piano part. [Music by Fred E. Ahlert. Lyric by Joe Young.] Ink manuscript in unidentified hand.


Folder 4 (St–Sw; 23 items)


- Instrumental parts: piano, 1st violin, 2nd violin and viola, cello and bass, flute, 1st clarinet, alto sax, tenor sax, B-flat trumpet, trombone, banjo, drums.

- Instrumental parts: piano, violin A, violin B, sax I (alto), sax II (tenor), sax III (alto), trumpet I, trumpet II, trombone, banjo, bass, drum.


- Instrumental parts: piano; 1st violins (A-B); 1st violin C and tenor banjo; 1st alto sax and 2nd tenor sax; 1st trumpet and 2nd trumpet; 3rd alto sax and 3rd trumpet; 1st trombone and 2nd trombone; cello, bass, and drums.


“(Do You Intend To-Put An End To) A Sweet Beginning Like This.” For voice and piano. Music by Fred E. Ahlert. Lyric by Joe Young. Professional copy. New York: Leo Feist Inc., 1935. 2 copies.

“(Do You Intend To-Put An End To) A Sweet Beginning Like This.” Transposition of piano part (in the key of D). [Music by Fred E. Ahlert. Lyric by Joe Young.] Ink manuscript in unidentified hand.


Folder 5 (Ta–Te; 10 items)


“Take the Ache from My Heart (Fox-Trot Ballad).” For voice and piano. Words and music by Howard Johnson and Harry Kogen. [Professional copy; consists of sheet music without cover.] New York: Joe Davis Inc., 1935. 2 copies.


- Instrumental parts: piano, banjo, violin A, violin B, 1st alto sax, 2nd tenor sax, 3rd alto sax, 1st B-flat trumpet, trombone.
- Accompanied by drum part from published big band arrangement by F. Henri Klickmann (New York: Harms Inc., 1934), affixed to blank manuscript paper.


“Tell Me To-Night.” From *Be Mine Tonight*. For voice and piano. Music by Mischa Spoliansky, English words by Frank Eyton; from the German of Marcellus Schiffer. [Professional copy; consists of sheet music without cover.] [New York]: Harms Inc., 1933. 2 copies.

Folder 6 (Th; 17 items)


- Instrumental parts: piano; 1st violin A-B (2 copies); 1st violin C; 2nd violin and viola; cello and flute; 1st clarinet and 2nd clarinet; 1st alto sax and 2nd tenor sax; 3rd alto sax and banjo; oboe, bassoon, bass, and horns in F; 1st trumpet and 2nd trumpet; trombone and drums.


- Instrumental parts: piano; 1st violin A-B (2 copies); 1st violin C and tenor banjo; bass and 1st alto sax; 2nd tenor sax and 3rd alto sax; 1st trumpet and 2nd trumpet; 1st trombone and drums.


[Box 3, Folder 6, cont.]


Folder 7 (Ti–Tw: 21 items)


- Manuscript facsimile.


- Manuscript facsimile imprint, with publisher’s advertisement on back cover.


- Stamp on front cover of score: “Sample Copy.”


“Twilight in Sweetheart Lane (Waltz Song).” For voice and piano. Words and music by Howard Johnson and Joe Davis. [Professional copy; consists of sheet music without cover.] New York: Joe Davis Inc., 1935. 2 copies.

“Two for Tonight.” From the Paramount picture *Two for Tonight*. For voice and piano. Lyric and music by Mack Gordon and Harry Revel. Professional copy. [s.l.]: Crawford music, 1935.


- Instrumental parts: piano; 1st violins (A & B); 2nd violin, viola, and 3rd alto sax; 1st alto sax and 2nd tenor sax; flute and tenor banjo; cello, 1st clarinet, bass, and horns in F; 1st trumpet and 2nd trumpet; trombone and drums.

Folder 8 (U–V; 2 items)


Folder 9 (Wa–We; 8 items)


- Copy 2 consists of sheet music without cover [Professional copy].


Folder 10 (What; 12 items)


Folder 11 (When–Why; 24 items)


“Why Do They Call It Gay Paree?” From the Paramount picture Paris in Spring. For voice and piano. Lyric and music by Mack Gordon and Harry Revel. Professional copy. [s.l.]: Crawford Music Corp., 1935.


- Instrumental part: piano; 1st violin A-B (2 copies); 1st violin C; 2nd violin, viola, oboe, and bassoon; 1st alto sax; 2nd tenor sax; 3rd alto sax; cello and flute; 1st clarinet, bass, and 2nd clarinet; horns in F and drums; 1st trumpet and 2nd trumpet; 3rd trumpet and banjo; trombone and 2nd trombone.


- Manuscript facsimile.

Folder 13 (Y; 20 items)


- Instrumental parts: piano; violin A; violin B; 1st alto sax; 2nd tenor sax; 3rd alto sax; 1st trumpet; trombone; banjo; drums.


- Copy 1 labeled “First edition.”
- Copy 2 consists of sheet music without cover [Professional copy].


- Instrumental parts: piano; 1st violins (A-B); 2nd violin, viola, and 3rd alto sax; 1st alto sax and 2nd tenor sax; cello, 1st clarinet, bass, and horns in F; 1st trumpet and 2nd trumpet; tenor banjo and flute; 1st trombone and drums.


Folder 14 (Unidentified collections; 2 items)

Two booklets containing instrumental parts to 16 songs. Includes booklet for B-flat instruments and booklet for E-flat instruments. [s.l.: s.n., s.d]. Plate no. 41456. Missing covers.

Songs included:
“Don’t You Know I Care” (Duke Ellington and Mack David
“Flamingo” (Ed Anderson and Ted Grouya)
“I Let A Song Go Out Of My Heart” (Duke Ellington, Irving Mills, Henry Nemo, and John Redmond)
“I’m Gonna Go Fishin’” (Peggy Lee and Duke Ellington)
“I’m Just a Lucky So-and-So” (Duke Ellington and Mack David)
“Lush Life” (Billy Strayhorn)
“Mood Indigo” (Duke Ellington, Irving Mills, and Albany Bigard)
“Moon Mist” (Mercer Ellington)
“Perdido” (H. J. Lengsfelder, Ervin Drake, and Juan Tizol)
“Ring Dem Bells” (Duke Ellington and Irving Mills)
“Satin Doll” (Billy Strayhorn, Duke Ellington, and Johnny Mercer)
“Soda Fountain Rag” (Edward Duke Ellington)
“Sophisticated Lady” (Duke Ellington, Irving Mills, and Mitchell Parish)
“Take Love Easy” (John Latouche and Duke Ellington)
[Box 3, Folder 14, cont.]

“Take the “A” Train” (Billy Strayhorn)
“Things Ain’t What They Used To Be” (Ted Persons and Mercer Ellington)

Folder 15 (Unidentified excerpt; 1 item)

Unidentified excerpt from piano book [includes exercises and examples of boogie-woogie bass patterns]. [s.l.: s.n., s.d.]. Missing cover; includes pages 3-6 only.