Photograph of the Edna White Quartet (1926), from Edna White Collection (2013 and 2017 deposits), Box 6, Folder 85 (CD of photos).
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DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Shelf location: M3B 2,1-2

Extent: 6 linear feet

Biographical Sketch

Edna White (1892-1992), a native of Stamford, Connecticut, began studying cornet with her father at age seven and played her first professional engagement at nine. Two years later she entered New York’s Institute of Musical Art (later the Julliard School) and switched from cornet to trumpet. She graduated in 1907 and embarked on a long professional career. White founded and performed with several brass groups: The Aida Quartet, The Gloria Trumpeters, The Edna White Trumpeters, and The Edna White Brass Quartet. During the 1920s she recorded for Edison and Columbia Records and was a featured performer on the Keith vaudeville circuit. She premiered works by George Antheil and Virgil Thomson, and her solo credits include performances with the Manhattan Symphony and the Rochester (NY) Park Band.

In 1949 Edna White played the first ever solo trumpet recital in Carnegie Hall; she returned in 1957 to present a final recital, “Farewell to My Trumpet.” She wrote a manual on trumpet technique and composed several works for trumpet, including *Suite for Trumpet and Orchestra* (1980). In addition to writing several volumes of poetry, she published a book about her vaudeville years, *The Night the Camel Sang* (1990). In private life she sometimes went by the name Edna White Chandler, using the name of her first husband, Myron Chandler, with whom she had her only child, Douglas Chandler.
The Ruth T. Watanabe Special Collections department thanks Susan Fleet for providing the biographical sketch of Edna White.

Provenance

The Edna White Collection was placed on deposit at the Sibley Music Library in February, 2003 by Susan Fleet, to whom Edna White’s heirs—Ret. Col. Edward White, Cynthia (White) Dixon and her husband Thomas Dixon—bequeathed White’s papers and effects. Edward and Cynthia are the children of H. (Herbert) Edward White, Edna’s only brother, and Ida (Bisbee) White, New England Conservatory graduate and trombonist in the Edna White Brass Quartet.

Scope and Content

The Edna White Collection comprises the professional and personal papers of the trumpeter, composer, and author Edna White (1892-1992). The bulk of the collection is divided between manuscripts of White’s musical compositions and literary works and recordings of performances by White and other artists. White’s career as a woman trumpeter — unusual at that time — is well documented in a series of articles spanning the years 1916-1992.

Restrictions and Use

Use of the collection is restricted to research purposes. As regards any reproduction of any of the contents, the provisions of the United States Copyright Law (1976) and its revisions do apply. The written permission of the Depositor must be obtained for citation and for photocopying.

Associations

The Edna White Collection is one of a growing body of performers’ collections held by the Ruth T. Watanabe Special Collections Department, including the papers of the pianist Malcolm Frager and the soprano Jan de Gaetani. Edna White had several connections to the Rochester area. Her several performances with the Rochester Park Band create a connection to local musical history, and thus to certain Sibley Music Library collections such as the papers of the Rochester-born violinist David Hochstein. In addition, Edna’s parents, Herbert J. White and Harriet White, lived in Rochester, NY for several years during the 1920s; Herbert was employed for a time by Eastman Kodak and later by the Northeast Electric Company. Finally, Edna White’s participation on the Keith-Albee vaudeville circuit bears associations that may be found among such scrapbook collections as those of Anna Walker Goss and Edith May Parks.
DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

The Edna White Collection is subdivided into four series: Sheet Music and Music Texts; Publicity; White’s Non-Music Writings; and Recordings. The series are further subdivided as described below.

**Series 1: Sheet Music and Music Texts**

This corpus of materials consists of music and text manuscripts and sketch materials of Edna White’s original compositions (Sub-series A and B), as well as of her several arrangements of other composers’ works (Sub-series C). In addition to her best-known work, the *Suite for Trumpet and Orchestra*, the series preserves materials for White’s two-act opera, *The Hills of Tennessee*; solo and choral songs; and compositions for solo and chamber instrumentalists.

The series also contains several dozen items from White’s performing library, both individual compositions and music anthologies (Sub-series D and E).

**Series 2: Publicity**

The following documents are subsumed under the rubric Publicity: articles about Edna White’s life and career (Sub-series A); journals and publications (Sub-series B); business papers from her association with Trumpet Productions (Sub-series C); and personal correspondence (Sub-series D).

**Series 3: White’s Non-Music Writings**

White’s diverse writings include shorter as well as longer works of fiction, non-fiction, and poetry. Prominently represented in this collection are *The Black Emancipator*, *The Night the Camel Sang*, “Is Our Civilization Vanishing,” “The Trumpet Shall Sound the Alarm,” and White’s collected poetry.

**Series 4: Sound recordings**

This series contains over 150 recordings, in either magnetic reel or audio-cassette format. The collection is diverse, including commercially-issued recordings of numerous other composers’ works, such as Artur Schnabel’s rendition of the Beethoven piano sonatas; live performances by Edna White and her ensembles; recordings of White’s compositions in performances by other artists; White’s professional recordings for the Edison company; and personal and professional interviews with White.
INVENTORY

Series 1: Sheet Music and Music Texts

Sub-series A: Music texts written/composed by Edna White

Box 1
folder 1 On Taming the Devil’s Tongue. c1982. Includes cassette tape.
folder 2 On Taming the Devil’s Tongue. c1982. Includes cassette tape.

Sub-series B: Music in manuscript by Edna White
folder 3 Suite for Trumpet and Orchestra. Reduction for trumpet and piano by S.L. Schaffner. Does not include solo part.
folder 4 Suite for Trumpet and Orchestra. Reduction for trumpet and piano by S.L. Schaffner. Facsimile, includes solo part.
folder 5 Suite for Trumpet and Orchestra. Full orchestral score, orchestrated by Stephen L. Schaffner.
folder 6 Suite for Trumpet and Orchestra. Sketches.
folder 7 Suite for Trumpet and Orchestra. Sketches.
folder 8 Composition sketchbook.
folder 9 Composition sketchbook.
folder 10 Composition sketchbook.
folder 11 Hills of Tennessee. Prologue, Act One, Scene One.
folder 12 Hills of Tennessee. Act One, Scene Two.
folder 13 Hills of Tennessee. Act One, Scene Three.
folder 14 Hills of Tennessee. Act Two, Scenes One and Two.
folder 15 Hills of Tennessee. Act Two, Scenes Three and Four.
Box 2

folder 1  Hills of Tennessee. Libretto.

folder 2  Hills of Tennessee. Libretto.

folder 3  Ananiasaurius, The. “#3 in Legends in Song of Pike County.” Written for Barry Clair Hill. For voice and piano.

folder 4  Charmaine. For solo piano. Sketch.

folder 5  Christmas Song. For voice. Sketch.

folder 6  Cloud, A. For voice and piano.

folder 7  Daughters of Uncle Sam. For voice and band. Piano reduction/sketch.

folder 8  Death of a Love. Voice and piano.


folder 10  Hymn to Greenfield. Voice and piano.

folder 11  Hymn to Pike County. Voice and piano.

folder 12  I’m a Stranger. For voice, sketch.

folder 13  I’m Glad That I’ve Been Born. For voice.

folder 14  I Never Dreamed. For voice and piano.

folder 15  I Wish People Would Love Me. For voice.

folder 16  Lady O’ Liberty: 100th Anniversary Song. For voice, sketch.

folder 17  Lamente. For voice.

folder 18  My America. For choir, SSATB.

folder 19  My America. For voice and piano, c1967.

folder 20  My Baby’s Feet. For voice and piano.

folder 21  Nel’s Song. For voice and piano.

folder 22  Night. For an unidentified quartet of instruments, SATB.
folder 23  *Patched Britches.* For voice.
folder 24  *Petite Poeme.* For trumpet quartet.
folder 25  *Pike County Polka, The.* For voice and piano, sketch.
folder 26  *Rainstorm in the Desert.* For voice and piano.
folder 27  *Regret.* For voice and piano, sketch.
folder 28  *Sleep.* For flute and piano.
folder 29  *Song of American Liberty.* For voice.
folder 30  *Sunset over the Mohawk Trail.* For trumpet and orchestra. Solo and some orchestra parts.
folder 31  *There’s Never Been Another.* For voice and piano.
folder 32  *There Was Our Love.* For voice and piano.
folder 33  *‘Till My Love Comes Home.* Lead sheet.
folder 34  *Unbroken Circle, The.* Hymn, SATB.
folder 35  *Untitled.* For solo instrument, treble clef.
folder 36  *Waterfall.* For voice and piano.
folder 37  *Welcome, Mighty Chief.* For voice and piano.
folder 38  *You’ll Never Be Sorry.* For voice.
folder 39  *Your Picture Smiles.* For voice.
folder 40  Composition sketches.
folder 41  Composition sketches.

*Sub-series C: Arrangements by Edna White*

folder 42  Arban, J.B. *Carnival of Venice.* For trumpet and piano. Handwritten copy.
folder 43  Debussy, Claude. *Clair de Lune.* For baritone solo and choir, SSAA.
folder 44  Godard. *Berceuse from “Jocelyn.”* For brass quartet.
folder 45  Luri, Herman. *Cool Tombs, The.* For choir, TTBB.
folder 46  Sandrich Jr., Mark. *How Do You Say It.* For voice and piano.
folder 48  *Danny Boy.* For solo piano.
folder 49  *Fiddle-Faddle.* For solo instrument, treble clef.
folder 50  *Lord’s Prayer, The.* For voice and organ or trumpet quintet.

*Sub-series D: Works by other composers*

**Box 3**

folder 4  Chandler, Douglas. Various manuscripts and sketches.
folder 5  Clarke, Herbert L. *Carnival of Venice.* New York: M. Witmark & Sons, c1912.
folder 11  Handel, G.F. *Let the Bright Seraphim.* For voice, trumpet and piano. From “Samson.”


folder 17  Rossini. *Inflammatus.* New York: Carl Fischer, c1912. For cornet and piano.


folder 22  Tschaikowsky, P. *Symphony VI: Pathétique.* For two pianos.


*Sub-series E: Music collections*


folder 27  *Heraldische Musik.* Verlag Gunther Wolff, c1931.
folder 28  **Klingend Spiel.** Ausberg: Herausgegeben von Fristz und Wilhelm Antoni, c1926.


folder 30  Sample parts of selected cornet solos. Boston: Oliver Ditson Company.

folder 31  vocal collection.

folder 32  vocal collection.

folder 33  unknown suite: padouana, gavotte and sarabande.

folder 34  choral octavos.

folder 35  choral octavos.

folder 36  popular sheet music.

folder 37  popular sheet music.

folder 38  sacred songs for voice and piano.

folder 39  sacred songs for voice and piano.

**Series 2: Publicity**

*Sub-series A: Articles*

folder 40  articles: 1916 – 1937 (12 documents)

folder 41  articles: 1959 – 1980 (12 documents)

folder 42  articles: 1982 – 1992 (6 documents)

folder 43  articles: no date (31 documents)

*Sub-series B: Journals and publications*

Box 4

folder 1  White Quartet brochure.

folder 3  “Phonogram”: August 1981 Vol. II No. 1
folder 4  Williams, Frederick P.  *Times as Reflected in the Victor Black Label Military Band Recordings* ...
folder 5  Williams, Frederick P.  *Willow Grove Park Concerts, 1896-1925: in five parts.*
folder 6  programs.
folder 7  International Trumpet Guild. 1983 Conference Program.
folder 8  Edison Phonograph Papers (see Edison recording)

*Sub-series C: Business papers*

folder 9  Trumpet Productions: business papers.
folder 10  Trumpet Productions: correspondence.
folder 11  Trumpet Productions: advertisements.
folder 12  Trumpet Productions: album notes.

Box 5

folder 1  professional contacts.

*Sub-series D: Personal papers*

Box 5

folder 2  local contacts.
folder 3  Correspondence, 1910’s – 1920’s (3 documents)
folder 4  Correspondence: 1930’s – 1950’s (14 documents)
folder 5  Correspondence: 1960’s (28 documents)
folder 6    Correspondence: 1970 – 1976 (8 documents)
folder 7    Correspondence: 1977 – 1979 (16 documents)
folder 8    Correspondence: 1980 – 1984 (29 documents)
folder 9    Correspondence: 1985 – 1987 (29 documents)
folder 10   Correspondence: no date (25 documents)

**Series 3: Non-music writings by Edna White**

Box 6

folder 1    *Black Emancipator, The.* Pages 1 – 100.
folder 4    *Night the Camel Sang, The.*
folder 5    *Night the Camel Sang, The.* Sketches and photos.

Box 7

folder 2    *Night the Camel Sang, The.* Sketches, chapters 8 – end.
folder 3    *Sauri.*
folder 4    *Sauri.* Sketches and writings.
folder 5    Chandler, Joyce. *America’s Prayer.*
folder 6    *Froth of Fact and Fantasy.*
folder 7    *Home Reporter.*
folder 8    *I Believe.*
folder 9    *I Believe.* Sketches.
folder 10  Is Our Civilization Vanishing?
folder 11  My Heart has Wings.
folder 12  My Heart has Wings.

Box 8
folder 1  Passing the Buck.
folder 2  Radar Pete Cameron.
folder 3  Stardust.
folder 4  Stardust. Sketches.
folder 5  Top Award.
folder 6  Trumpet Shall Sound the Alarm, The.
folder 7  Collected Poetry A – D.
folder 8  Collected Poetry E – I.
folder 9  Collected Poetry K – M.
folder 10  Collected Poetry N – S.
folder 11  Collected Poetry T – Z.
folder 13  sketchbook.

Box 9
envelope 1  Edna White and unidentified group.
envelope 2  Ed White.
envelope 3  Ed White and Ida Bisbee.
envelope 4  Ida Bisbee.
envelope 5  Ida Bisbee.
envelope 6  Ida Bisbee.
envelope 7  Ida Bisbee in Indianapolis, Indiana.
envelope 8  Ida Bisbee – pregnant.
envelope 9  Ida Bisbee and unidentified woman.
envelope 10  Ida Bisbee and unidentified woman in Indianapolis.
envelope 11  Karen and Jeff.
envelope 12  Scott.
envelope 13  unidentified building.
envelope 14  unidentified building.
envelope 15  unidentified group.
envelope 16  unidentified group – swimming.
envelope 17  unidentified women.
envelope 18  unidentified women.
envelope 19  Edna White.
envelope 20  unidentified children.
envelope 21  unidentified children.
envelope 22  unidentified man.
envelope 23  unidentified trumpeter.
envelope 24  unidentified woman.
folder 1  photocopied photographs.
folder 2  misc. writings.
folder 3  family papers.
Box 10

folder 1  
Sauri.

item 1  
photo album/scrapbook.

item 2  
photo album/scrapbook.

item 3  
poster for Edna White Quartet.

Series 4: Sound recordings

Box 11

item 1  

item 2  
Reel: LA Place: Trumpet Music

item 3  
Reel: Paella/Allen Trumpet Duets

item 4  

item 5  

item 6  
Reel: Edna White. Suite for Trumpet and Orchestra. Master Copy I.

item 7  

Box 12

item 1  
Reel: Harpsichord Sonatas by Scarlatti, Bach and Quantz.

item 2  

item 3  
Reel: Works by Beethoven, Chopin, Scarlatti, Couperin and Bach.

item 4  
Reel: Edna White: Civil War, Debutante, Blue Bells and Carnival of Venice.

item 5  
Reel: McInnis plays Goldberg Variations
item 6 Reel: André Bernard, trumpet. Works by Handel, Boehm, Rivier, Bruhns, Torelli, Jolivet, Bach and Telemann.

item 7 Cassette: Tutti Camarata presents “Let the Trumpets be Triumphant.”

item 8 Cassette: Mozart Concerti for Bassoon, Flute and Violin.

item 9 Cassette: Dinu Lipatti.

item 10 Cassette: “Xmas Music.”

Box 13


item 2 Reel: Edison Tone Tests (see Edison Papers)

item 3 Reel: Christmas ’75 Harpsichord Recital.

item 4 Reel: September 8, 1962. Pre Recital at Town Hall – Cindy, rerecorded from Larry Schultz tape.

item 5 Reel: G. Thomas and Edna White Chandler – Suitcase Blues.


Box 14

item 1 Reel: Bernard Poirier. Alice Tully Hall. October 21, 1978. 2nd half complete.

item 2 Reel: Pioneer Valley Symphony performs works of White, Hecker and Kodaly.

item 3 Reel: McInnis plays Goldberg Variations.

item 4 Cassette: Salvatore Cavallaro. Cathy Basic Van.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Cassette: various trumpet recordings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Cassette: Marshelle Coffman performs Hummel and Albrechtsberger.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Box 15</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Cassette: unknown.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Cassette: Edna White Trumpet Quartet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Cassette: Sylvia Marlowe and Joseph Payne. Harpsichord Hits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Cassette: Norman Weis to Edna White Chandler, Late 1977.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Cassette: A Collection of 45’s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Cassette: Boonce Tone and Edna and Torkam, forgotten.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Cassette: Fernand Valenti, harpsichord, performs Bach English Suites.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Cassette: Herbert Clarke cornet solos.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Cassette: Landowska performs Bach.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Cassette: Malcolm Hamilton, harpsichord, performas Bach.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Cassette: Pidge to Edna.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

item 20  Cassette: Rehearsal No. 2, Janet, and Edison Speech.

Box 16

item 1  Cassette: Edna and Torcum.

item 2  Cassette: Torkum Bezazzian.

item 3  Cassette: Torkum Bezazzian.

item 4  Cassette: Malvern to Edna, July 9, 1975.

item 5  Cassette: The Royal Trumpet by Edna White.

item 6  Cassette: Christmas, 1975.

item 7  Cassette: Edna White Collection. Ciccolini et al.


item 9  Cassette: Louis Davidson, Cleveland Orchestra. Symphonic Excerpts.

item 10  Cassette: Cathy Basic Van.


item 12  Cassette: Berton, practice and audition tape.

item 13  Cassette: various trumpet excerpts and solos.

item 14  Cassette: Tyson – Carnival of Venice.

item 15  Cassette: various trumpet performances.

item 16  Cassette: French Tradition.


item 18  Cassette: LaPlace and ITG Trumpeters.

item 19  Cassette: Duets from M. LaPlace.

Box 17

item 1  Cassette: Malcolm Hamilton, harpsichord, performs Bach.


item 3  Cassette: Works by Bach, Villa Lobos and Mozart.

item 4  Cassette: Wanda Landowska.

item 5  Cassette: Verdi – A Masked Ball Act III.

item 6  Cassette: Verdi – A Masked Ball Acts I and II.

item 7  Cassette: Four Concertos of the Neopolitan School.

item 8  Cassette: Fernando Valenti, harpsichord, performs Bach.


item 10 Cassette: Aunt Edna: Childrens Songs.


item 12 Cassette: White – *Suite for Solo Trumpet and Symphony Orchestra*. With the Pioneer Valley Symphony. Steven Schaffner, trumpet.


item 14 Cassette: Pidge Libby to Edna White and Berton’s Quartet.

item 15 Cassette: Life with my Trumpet by Edna White.

item 16 Cassette: French Cornetists.


item 18 Cassette: Edwin Fischer plays Bach.

item 19 Cassette: Glenn Gould plays Bach.
item 20  Cassette: Dinu Lipatti.

item 21  Cassette: Glenn Gould plays Bach.

Box 18


item 3  Cassette: An Evening of Country Music.

item 4  Cassette: Before and After Intensive Term

item 5  Cassette: An Evening of Country Music.


item 7  Cassette: Everywhere Red and Green.

item 8  Cassette: Winter is Here, Christmas is Near!

item 9  Cassette: Berkshire Choral Institute Presents “After the Hunt.”


item 11  Cassette: D’Anna Fortunato, mezzo soprano, performs Rossini, Mozart, Debussy, Duke and Granados.


item 13  Cassette: Merium Musices presents “The Italian ARS NOVA.”

item 14  Cassette: Robert Shaw: Glee Club Favorites.

item 15  Cassette: J.E. Köhler, organ, performs Bach.

item 16  Cassette: Monique Haas, piano, performs Debussy.

item 17  Cassette: Stereo Gong Orchestra presents: Gong Festival.

item 18  Cassette: Ketjak.

item 19  Cassette: Viv Murray and the Berkshire Big Band.
item 20  Cassette: Cindy, Age 22, Newton.
item 21  Cassette: Christmas, 1975.

Box 19

item 2  Cassette: Alleluia and Rejoice.
item 3  Cassette: Rejoice Mass, St. Petersburg, Florida.
item 8  Cassette: Works of Rachmaninoff, Mendelssohn and Schubert.
item 13 Cassette: Will Oakland’s 50th Anniversary.
item 14 Cassette: Letter from Pidge.
item 16  Cassette: Jim Walsh special WDBJ-TV and Malverns to Edna.


item 18  Cassette: Packer Collegiate Chorus and Poly Prep Glee Club present “Gloria in Excelsis Deo” by Antonio Vivaldi.


item 21  Cassette: Grace Choral Society presents “mostly” Brooklyn composers.

Box 20

item 1  Compact Disc: Terry Everson, trumpet. Performs Davies, Suderburg, Henderson, Casterede, Tull and Copland.

item 2  Cassette: Grace Church Choral Society presents Cantata 70 by Bach and Requiem by Mozart. December 1977.

item 3  Cassette: Berkshire Choral Institute presents Ein Deutsches Requiem by Brahms.

item 4  Cassette: Berkshire Choral Institute presents “Die Meistersinger: Act III, Scene 5” by Wagner and “Aida: Act II” by Verdi.

item 5  Cassette: Berkshire Choral Institute presents Mass in b minor by Bach.

item 6  Cassette: Berkshire Choral Institute presents Mass in b minor by Bach.

item 7  Cassette: Berkshire Choral Institute presents The Creation by Haydn.


item 10  Cassette: Berkshire Choral Institute presents The Creation by Haydn.


item 12  Cassette: Jack Stewart cooperative.
item 13  Cassette: Beethoven piano sonatas. Artur Schnabel, piano.

item 14  Cassette: Beethoven piano sonatas. Artur Schnabel, piano.

item 15  Cassette: Beethoven piano sonatas. Artur Schnabel, piano.

item 16  Cassette: Beethoven piano sonatas. Artur Schnabel, piano.

item 17  Cassette: Beethoven piano sonatas. Artur Schnabel, piano.

item 18  Cassette: Beethoven piano sonatas. Artur Schnabel, piano.
