



The New York Public Library Music Division

Guide to the

Ned Lebac papers

1920-1997

JPB 14-07

Compiled by Matthew Snyder, 2014

Summary

Creator: Lebac, Ned, 1899-1999

Title: Ned Lebac papers

Date: 1920-1997

Size: .25 linear feet (1 box)

Source: Donated by Jane Sherman Lebac in 1999.

Abstract: Ned Lebac (née Ned Levin, 1900-1999) was a composer who contributed to several Broadway revues between 1930 and 1942. The Ned Lebac papers, dating from 1920 to 1997, document Lebac's music career through scores, correspondence, performance programs, clippings, and a historical essay.

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Preferred citation: Ned Lebac papers, JPB 14-07. Music Division, The New York Public Library.

Processing note: Compiled by Matthew Snyder, 2014 Original order was maintained. Some content was rehoused in new folders.

Creator History

Ned Lebac (née Ned Levin, 1899-1999) was a composer of popular song. He attended City College of New York, where he began writing and presenting material with Edward Eliscu. As a professional, Lebac contributed to 14 revues from 1930 to 1942, including *Nine Fifteen Revue*, *Let's Play Fair*, *Garrick Gaieties*, *Sing for Your Supper* (written for the Federal Theatre Project), and *Of V We Sing*. His collaborators included Edward Eliscu, Billy Rose, Harold Rome, Allen Boretz, Robert Sour, and Joe Darion, among others. In 1940, he married the dancer and writer Jane Sherman. In the early 1940s, he retired from professional theater work and taught high school science. In the 1990s, Lebac and Sherman moved to the Lillian Booth Actors Home in Englewood, New Jersey, where Lebac resumed songwriting. He died on January 23rd, 1999.

Custodial History

Ned Lebac maintained the collection. His wife, Jane Sherman Lebac, donated it to the Music Division a few months after his death.

Scope and Content Note

The Ned Lebac papers, dating from 1920 to 1997, document Lebac's music career through scores, correspondence, performance programs, clippings, and a historical essay. The scores consist primarily of manuscript and published lead sheets or piano/vocal scores. They include songs written with lyricists Edward Eliscu, Joe Darion, Allen Boretz, Robert Sour, Joey Faye, and Billy Rose, some of which are from the revues Garrick Gaieties (1930) and Sing for Your Supper (1938). The manuscripts include lead sheets for which no lyrics were written, as well as lyrics by Joe Darion and Jane Sherman Lebac which were never set to music. They also hold Lebac's last completed composition, Attention Please (1996), with lyrics by Joey Faye, and an orchestration by Maurice Previn of the Lebac - Allen Boretz song Beauty (from Garrick Gaieties).

The remainder of the collection holds an essay by Lebac titled The Story of Sing for Your Supper (1981); a written list of Lebac's published songs; correspondence with Lebac's co-authors, publisher, and the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP) regarding songs, copyrights, and contracts; a letter from Ira Gershwin supporting Lebac's membership in ASCAP; performance programs; and clippings. The earliest program is for a satirical musical by Lebac and Edward Eliscu presented at City College of New York in 1920 (the program, which also contains clippings about the show, credits Lebac as Ned Levin). Other programs are for Nine Fifteen Revue (1930), Of V We Sing (1942), Sing for Your Supper (1939), and Let's Play Fair (1938).

Arrangement: All content formats are mixed together.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Clippings (information artifacts)
Commercial correspondence
Programs (documents)
Scores
Writings (document genre)

Occupations

Composers
Lyricists
Musicians

Subjects

Musicals

Geographic Names

New York (N.Y.)

Names

Boretz, Allen, 1900-1986
Darion, Joe, 1917-2001
Eliscu, Edward, 1902-1998
Faye, Joey
Rose, Billy, 1899-1966
Sherman, Jane, 1908-2010
Sour, Robert
Federal Theatre Project (New York, N.Y.)