



The New York Public Library
Music Division

Guide to the

Sophie Tucker collection of performance material

19--

JPB 81-7

Processed by Music Division staff.

Summary

Creator: Tucker, Sophie, 1884-1966

Title: Sophie Tucker collection of performance material

Date: 19--

Source: The Sophie Tucker Collection was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Bert Tucker to the Billy Rose Theatre Collection. Musical materials were separated and given to the Music Division.

Abstract: The Sophie Tucker Collection contains materials used in performance of her songs and acts.

Access: Some collections held by the Dance, Music, Recorded Sound, and Theatre Divisions at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts are held off-site and must be requested in advance. Please check the collection records in **the NYPL's online catalog** for detailed location information. For general guidance about requesting offsite materials, please consult:
<https://www.nypl.org/about/locations/lpa/requesting-archival-materials>

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Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by Music Division staff; machine-readable finding aid created by Robert Kosovsky. Preliminary processing completed.

Creator History

Sophia (or Sonia) Kalish-Abuza was born January 13, 1884 in transit between Russia and Poland. By the age of 10 she was already a singing waitress in her father's cafe in Hartford, Connecticut. In 1906 she moved to New York City to work at waitressing, then in burlesque, vaudeville and cabaret. Through an early marriage (the first of three), she acquired the name of "Tuck" which she later modified into the name "Tucker." She played a small part in the Ziegfeld Follies of 1909, which paved the way for more

substantial exposure. In 1911 she made her first recordings, including her signature number, *Some of these days*. By the 1920s she had already proclaimed herself "the last of the red hot mamas" and frequently sung songs of a risqué nature. In 1929 Sophie Tucker made her movie debut in the film *Honky Tonk*. She appeared in several more films up through 1944, as well as in various stage shows, cabarets, and on tour. Through television appearances in her later years such as the *Ed Sullivan Show*, she was able to maintain her stage presence, trading in the risqué songs for those commenting and reflecting on the nature of old age and youthful spirit. Sophie Tucker died in New York City on February 9, 1966.

Scope and Content Note

The Sophie Tucker Collection consists of songs performed by Tucker and is organized in two series. The first series is the more significant of the two and contains material which was personally arranged for Tucker. Each folder of material can contain a typescript of lyrics, manuscript instrumental parts, manuscript scores, piano accompaniments, and published sheet music. Sometimes items include special lyrics and musical passages. The second series is a bound presentation copy of songs in published sheet music that were sung by Tucker and have her image on the covers. This collection was assembled by pianist Tommy Ferris and presented to Tucker in 1953, on the occasion of her fiftieth anniversary in show business.

Arrangement: Works in Series 1 are arranged alphabetically by title. Works in Series 2 are arranged chronologically.

Key Terms

Names

Tucker, Sophie, 1884-1966
American Music Collection

Container List

Series 1: Manuscript performance materials

- f. 170 *After he's out of the army.*
- f. 75 *After the ball.*
- f. 197 *After you've gone.*
- f. 77 *Aggravatin' papa.*
- f. 78 *Ain't she sweet?*
- f. 104 *Alabama jubilee.*
- f. 54 *Alabamy blacksheep.*
- f. 79 *Alice blue gown.*
- f. 73 *Anniversary dialogue (Sophie and Ted).*
- f. 127 *At the Yiddish wedding jubilee.*
- f. 7 *Atom bomb.*
- f. 214 *Baby your mother.*
- f. 48 *Be my little baby bumble bee.*
- f. 38 *Best man.*
- f. 81 *Big boy.*
- f. 220 *The bigger the army and navy the better the loving will be.*
- f. 136 *Blue skies.*
- f. 49 *The Broadway blues.*
- f. 192 *Broadway USA opening.*
- f. 105 *Broken-hearted clown.*
- f. 103 *Brother, can you spare a dime?*
- f. 47 *Brown skin.*
- f. 174 *Can can.*
- f. 178 *Charley my boy.*
- f. 163 *Cheek to cheek.*
- f. 57 *Come on home.*
- f. 44 *Could I? I certainly could.*
- f. 55 *Crazy words - crazy tune.*
- f. 175 *Dapper Dan.*
- f. 128 *The Dardanella blues.*
- f. 168 *The Darktown Strutter's ball.*
- f. 41 *Dear old Southland.*
- f. 18 *Diary.*
- f. 217 *Didn't cha mother tell you nothin'?*
- f. 129 *Dixie is Dixie once more.*
- f. 151 *Does she love me? Positively-absolutely.*
- f. 40 *Don't cry, little girl, don't cry.*
- f. 198 *Don't forget the little things.*

Series 1: Manuscript performance materials (cont.)

- f. 95 *Don't stop the world for me.*
- f. 52 *Down among the sheltering palms.*
- f. 231 *Dreaming.*
- f. 14 *Drum number.*
By Blanche Merrill.
- f. 25 *Eleven-thirty Saturday night.*
- f. 180 *Everybody's doing it now.*
- f. 50 *Everybody loves my baby.*
- f. 115 *Ev'ry day.*
- f. 177 *Fat girl.*
- f. 134 *Finklebaum is playing at the playhouse.*
- f. 64 *Fooling myself I'm happy with somebody else.*
- f. 84 *Fooling with the other woman's man.*
- f. 94 *Forty-second Street.*
- f. 45 *The French trot.*
- f. 32 *The Freudian calypso.*
- f. 187 *G.I. Joe.*
- f. 185 *Golden jubilee dinner speeches.*
- f. 61 *Granny.*
- f. 219 *Gus Edwards medley.*
- f. 15 *H' ya duchess!*
- f. 211 *Handfull of stars.*
- f. 155 *Harry, Sophie, and Joe.*
- f. 17 *He took it away fro me.*
- f. 100 *He's a good man to have around.*
- f. 36 *High brown blues.*
- f. 102 *Hotel Astor.*
- f. 67 *How do the old gals do it?*
- f. 20 *How many times.*
- f. 83 *How ya' doing in the love department.*
- f. 6 *How ya gonna keep 'em down on the farm?*
- f. 28 *I ain't got nobody.*
- f. 2 *I ain't got nobody much and nobody cares for me.*
- f. 29 *I ain't givin' nothin' away.*
- f. 117 *I ain't go nobody to love.*
- f. 130 *I ain't takin' orders from no one.*
- f. 176 *I cried for you.*
- f. 11 *I don't want to get thin.*
- f. 116 *I had a good man but I lost him.*
- f. 126 *I had the craziest dream.*
- f. 189 *I love Paducah.*

Series 1: Manuscript performance materials (cont.)

- f. 68 *I may be growing older every day.*
See also: *I'm having more fun since I'm sixty .*
- f. 183 *I never can think of the words.*
- f. 120 *I used to love you but it's all over now.*
- f. 122 *I was a Florodora baby.*
- f. 27 *I wonder who's dancing with you tonight.*
- f. 3 *I'd climb the highest mountain if I knew I'd find you.*
- f. 124 *I'd love to be a baby again.*
- f. 184 *If I had my life to live over.*
- f. 9 *If I had you.*
- f. 202 *If you knew Susie.*
- f. 216 *I'll be the meanest gal in town.*
Also includes: *I'll be the meanest man in town.*
- f. 206 *I'm a lover.*
- f. 24 *I'm trying to teach my sweet papa right from wrong.*
- f. 132 *I'm an international sweetheart.*
- f. 194 *I'm as modern as tomorrow (... and as old as yesterday).*
- f. 213 *I'm bigger and better than ever.*
- f. 93 *I'm doing what I'm doing for love.*
- f. 96 *I'm getting ready to play in outer space.*
- f. 226 *I'm getting ready to play in outer space.*
- f. 69 *I'm having more fun since I'm sixty.*
- f. 30 *I'm one of the boys.*
- f. 182 *I'm sorry I made you cry.*
- f. 161 *I'm the girl who didn't marry dear old dad.*
- f. 133 *I'm the last of the red hot mamas.*
- f. 101 *Imagine my embarrassment.*
- f. 156 *Isle of Capri.*
- f. 5 *It all depends on you.*
- f. 98 *It takes a good woman to keep a good man at home.*
- f. 201 *It's gonna take a red-hot mama.*
- f. 4 *It's within your power.*
- f. 125 *I've been feeding the chickens.*
- f. 123 *I've found my sweetheart Sally.*
- f. 218 *I've got a man[?]*
- f. 118 *I've got a yen yen for my old Kentucky home.*
- f. 21 *Ja-da.*
- f. 46 *The jazz dance.*
- f. 166 *Jealousy.*
- f. 19 *Johnny Doughboy found a rose in Ireland.*
- f. 131 *Just a girl that men forget.*
- f. 74 *Kiss me, my honey, kiss me.*

Series 1: Manuscript performance materials (cont.)

- f. 162 *The lady in red.*
- f. 89 *The last time I saw Paris.*
- f. 157 *The laziest girl in town.*
- f. 147 *Learning.*
- f. 173 *Letters.*
- f. 59 *Living in the U.S.A.*
- f. 137 *Louisville Lou.*
- f. 158 *Lullaby of Broadway.*
- f. 99 *Mama goes where papa goes.*
- f. 146 *Mammy's chocolate soldier.*
- f. 70 *Mammy's little coal black rose.*
- f. 91 *The man I love.*
- f. 87 *Max from the income tax.*
- f. 86 *Max, relax!*
- f. 208 *May you always.*
- f. 31 *Medley.*
- f. 138 *Meet me tonight in Dreamland.*
- f. 107 *My blue heaven.*
- f. 188 *My daddy begins.*
- f. 154 *My fifty golden years.*
- f. 139 *My honey's back.*
- f. 76 *My little girl.*
- f. 71 *My mammy.*
- f. 224 *My mother's Sabbath candles.*
- f. 169 *Myron.*
- f. 229 *Navy yard.*
- f. 35 *A new deal for the red hot mamas.*
- f. 190 *No two people.*
- f. 88 *Nobody loves a fat girl.*
- f. 26 *Now I'm in love.*
- f. 56 *Oh! Harry! Harry!*
- f. 65 *Oh how I hate that fellow Nathan.*
- f. 193 *Oh Himiny.*
- f. 195 *Oh, you beautiful doll.*
- f. 172 *Ohio.*
- f. 143 *The one I love.*
- f. 212 *Opening.*
- f. 12 *Opening song.*
- f. 141 *Percolatin' papa.*
- f. 13 *Picadilly flower girls.*
- f. 39 *Pistol packin' mama.*

Series 1: Manuscript performance materials (cont.)

- f. 221 *Play ball.*
- f. 42 *Pretty baby.*
- f. 196 *Pretty thing medley.*
- f. 106 *Put your arms around me honey.*
- f. 119 *Ration my passion.*
- f. 140 *Real estate papa.*
- f. 114 *Red hot mama.*
- f. 210 *Red hot mama (boogie).*
- f. 199 *Remembering time.*
- f. 203 *Rock-a-bye your baby.*
- f. 113 *Rock-a-bye your baby with a Dixie melody.*
- f. 205 *Routine/Lewis-Tucker.*
- f. 112 *Row-row-Rosie.*
- f. 222 *School days.*
- f. 135 *Shapiro and I aren't married.*
- f. 37 *She don't wanna.*
- f. 23 *Since you whispered "I love you".*
- f. 110 *Somebody's wrong.*
- f. 111 *The song is ended.*
- f. 82 *Sophie Tucker medley, 1952.*
- f. 97 *The Sophie Tucker School for red hot mamas.*
- f. 167 *The Sophie Tucker Tour.*
- f. 164 *Sophie Tucker Town.*
- f. 181 *Sophie Tucker's little lover pills.*
- f. 90 *Stay at home papa.*
- f. 108 *Stop the sun, stop the moon.*
- f. 34 *Sugar.*
- f. 144 *Sunday, Monday or always.*
- f. 51 *Sweet cookie mine.*
- f. 109 *Sweet Georgia Brown.*
- f. 43 *Swinging Annie Laurie through the rye.*
- f. 63 *Taking the steps to Russia.*
- f. 33 *That mesmerizing Mendelssohn tune.*
- f. 92 *The old gang of mine.*
- f. 165 *That's something to be thankful for.*
- f. 149 *That's what heaven means to me.*
- f. 186 *There'll always be a red hot mama.*
- f. 80 *There'll be some changes made.*
- f. 152 *There's a blue ridge round my heart, Virginia.*
- f. 145 *There's a girl in the heart of Maryland.*
- f. 121 *There's company in the parlor.*

Series 1: Manuscript performance materials (cont.)

- f. 153 *There's no business like that certain business.*
- f. 209 *There's only a few of us left.*
- f. 60 *There's plenty of everything now.*
- f. 160 *There's somerthing Spanish in my eyes.*
- f. 215 *They have never changed that thing called love.*
- f. 53 *They're never too young or too old.*
- f. 207 *They've been the rage for five decades.*
- f. 62 *To the U.S.A. from the U.S.S.R.*
- f. 142 *Together.*
- f. 225 *Traveling men are traveling again.*
- f. 148 *Tuck me to sleep in my old 'Tucky home.*
- f. 223 *Tucker 'n Lewis together.*
- f. 22 *Twelve o'clock at night.*
- f. 10 *U.S.O. music.*
- f. 58 *Vamping Sal/The Sheba of Georgia.*
- f. 85 *When the red, red robin comes bob, bob, bobbin' along.*
- f. 8 *When you were a tulip.*
- f. 230 *When you're living too fast and loving too fast.*
- f. 228 *Who needs to be young and beautiful.*
- f. 150 *Who wants 'em tall, dark and handsome.*
- f. 191 *Whole world.*
- f. 179 *Why not re-model your romance (and why not improve on your love).*
- f. 159 *Words without music.*
- f. 16 *You are the ideal of my dreams.*
- f. 200 *You can't deep-freeze a red-hot mama.*
- f. 66 *You can't ever change a memory.*
- f. 204 *You made me love you.*
- f. 227 *You too can be a red hot mama.*
- f. 72 *You're in Kentucky, sure as you're born.*
- f. 171 *You're only as good as your last kiss.*

Classmark: *MP
(U.S.) Sophie
Tucker

Series 2: Presentation copy of published songs

On the occasion of Sophie Tucker's fiftieth anniversary in show business in 1953, pianist Tommy Ferris presented to her a bound copy of sheet music with which she had been associated. All sheet music covers include a photograph of Tucker. They are bound and arranged chronologically.

- p. 1 *Just because I let you call me Baby Lamb (Don't pull the wool down over my eyes). Words by Felix Feist, music by Joel P. Corin. New York: Leo Feist, c1909*
- p. 7 *Some of these days. By Shelton Brooks. Chicago: Will Rossiter, c1910*
See also version on page 197.
- p. 15 *The grizzly bear. Words by Irving Berlin, music by George Botsford. New York: Ted Snyder Co., c1910*

Series 2: Presentation copy of published songs (cont.)

- p. 21 *My Rose of the ghetto. Words by Donaghey and Burkhardt, music by Ben. M. Jerome. [n.p.]: Chas. K. Harris, c1911*
From the musical comedy *Louisiana Lou*.
- p. 27 *Honky tonky monkey rag. Words and music by Chris Smith. Chicago: Thompson and Co., c1911*
- p. 33 *The dying rag. Words by Irving Berlin, music by Bernie Adler. New York: Ted Snyder Co., c1911*
- p. 39 *You'll never know the good fellow I've been ('till I've gone away). By Jack Coogan. Chicago: Will Rossiter, c1911*
- p. 45 *The submarine swing. Words by Marvin Lee, music by Bert Peters. Chicago: Marvin Lee, Words by Marvin Lee, music by Bert Peters. Chicago: Marvin Lee, c1912*
- p. 51 *I've been feeding the chickens (the new excuse). Words by Marvin Lee, music by Leo Friedman; arranged by Bert Peters. Chicago: Marvin Lee, I've been feeding the chickens (the new excuse). Words by Marvin Lee, music by Leo Friedman; arranged by Bert Peters. Chicago: Marvin Lee, c1912*
- p. 57 *I can't get enough of your love, or or (I can't get enough of it). Words by George White, music by Billy Gaston. Chicago: Will Rossiter, c1913*
- p. 65 *Floating down the river ('cause it's moonlight now in Dixieland). Words by Roger Lewis, music by James White. Chicago: Will Rossiter, c1913*
- p. 71 *You're a great big blue eyed baby. Words and music by A. Seymour Brown. New York: Jerome H. Remick and Co., c1913*
- p. 77 *Daddy, I love you more and more each day. Lyric by Sophie Tucker, music by Fred Strasser. New York: Jerome H. Remick and Co., c1914*
- p. 83 *When the war breaks out in Mexico I'm going to go to Montreal. Words by J. Brandon Walsh, music by Ernest Breuer. Chicago: Will Rossiter, c1914*
- p. 89 *You for me in the summertime. Words and music by Roy Ingraham. New York: Parke, Daniels and Friedman, c1915*
- p. 95 *America, I love you. Words by Edgar Leslie, music by Archie Gottler. New York: Kalmar and Puck Music Co., c1915*
- p. 101 *Rolling stones (all come rolling home again). Words by Edgar Leslie, music by Archie Gottler. New York: Kalmar, Puck and Abrahams, c1916*
- p. 105 *Hawaiian butterfly. Wordes by Geo. A. Little, music by Billy Baskette and Joseph Santly. New York: Leo Feist, c1917*
- p. 109 *Sweet cookie mine. Lyric by Jack Frost, music by Clarence M. Jones. Chicago: Frank K. Root, c1917*
- p. 113 *Ev'ry day, or I want you every day. By Shelton Brooks. Chicago: Will Rossiter, c1918*
- p. 117 *Mammy's chocolate soldier. Words by Sidney D. Mitchell, music by Archie Gottler. New York: Waterson, Berlin, and Snyder, c1918*
- p. 121 *Ev'rybody shimmies now. Lyric by Eugene West, music by Joe Gold and Edmund J. Porray. New York: Chas. K. Harris, c1918*
- p. 125 *You'll see the day. By Bud Green, Charlie Pierce, and Ted Fio Rito. New York: Al Piantadosi and Co., c1920*
"Sung with great success in *Shubert Gaieties of 1919*."
- p. 131 *(I've got the blues) but I'm just too mean to cry. Lyric by Mitchell Parish and Eleanor Young, music by Harry D. Squires. New York: Joe Morris Music, c1921*

Series 2: Presentation copy of published songs (cont.)

- p. 137 *I'm free, single, disengaged, looking for someone to love. Words by Charles Tyus, music by Effie Tyus. Chicago: Ted Browne Music,. c1921*
- p. 143 *Lovin' Sam (the sheik of Alabam). Words by Jack Yellen, music by Milton Ager. New York: Ager, Yellen and Bornstein,. c1922*
- p. 149 *Sombodys wrong. By Henry I. Marshall, Raymond Egan, and Richard A. Whiting. New York: Jerome H. Remick,. c1923*
- p. 155 *Stay home, little girl, stay home. By Lew Brown and James F. Hanley. New York: Shapiro, Bernstein and Co.,. c1923*
- p. 161 *Everybody loves my baby but my baby don't love nobody but me. Words and music by Spencer Williams and Jack Palmer. New York: Clarence Williams,. c1924*
Sung by Sophie Tucker in Earl Carroll's *Vanities*.
- p. 167 *So is your old lady. Lyric by Al Dubin, music by Joe Burke. New York: Jack Mills, Inc.,. c1924*
- p. 173 *I can't get over a girl (loving a boy like me). Lyrics by Harry Ruskin, music by Martin Broones. New York: Shapiro, Bernstein and Co.,. c1926*
Performed in the musical show *Rufus Le Maire's Affairs*.
- p. 179 *Forgive me. Words by Jack Yellen, music by Milton Ager. New York: Ager, Yellen, and Bornstein,. c1927*
- p. 185 *No one. Words and music by Roy Henderson and Jack Chapman. Chicago: Henderson, Kelly and Myers,. c1927*
- p. 191 *Does she love me? Positively-Absolutely. Words and music by Sam Coslow and Jean Herbert. New York: De Sylva, Brown and Henderson,. c1927*
- p. 197 *Some of these days. By Shelton Brooks. Chicago: Will Rossiter,. c1922*
Cover contains scenes from the motion picture *Honky tonk*. See also earlier edition on page 7.