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.
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.
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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.
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f. 90   Stay at home papa.
f. 108  Stop the sun, stop the moon.
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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 something 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.

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.

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<td>My Rose of the ghetto. Words by Donaghey and Burkhardt, music by Ben. M. Jerome.</td>
<td>[n.p.]: Chas. K. Harris, c1911</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Honky tonky monkey rag. Words and music by Chris Smith. Chicago: Thompson and Co.</td>
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<td>Chicago: Thompson and Co.</td>
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<td>You'll never know the good fellow I've been ('till I've gone away). By Jack Coogan. Chicago: Will Rossiter,</td>
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<td>The submarine swing. Words by Marvin Lee, music by Bert Peters. Chicago: Marvin Lee,</td>
<td>c1912</td>
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<td>I've been feeding the chickens (the new excuse). Words by Marvin Lee, music by Leo Friedman; arranged by Bert Peters. Chicago: Marvin Lee,</td>
<td>I've been feeding the chickens (the new excuse). Words by Marvin Lee, music by Leo Friedman; arranged by Bert Peters. Chicago: Marvin Lee,</td>
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<td>77</td>
<td>Daddy, I love you more and more each day. Lyric by Sophie Tucker, music by Fred Strasser. New York: Jerome H. Remick and Co.</td>
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<td>New York: Jerome H. Remick and Co.,</td>
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<td>When the war breaks out in Mexico I'm going to go to Montreal. Words by J. Brandon Walsh, music by Ernest Breuer. Chicago:</td>
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<td>89</td>
<td>You for me in the summertimetime. Words and music by Roy Ingraham. New York: Parke, Daniels and Friedman,</td>
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<td>Ev'ry day, or I want you every day. By Shelton Brooks. Chicago:</td>
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<td>(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:</td>
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<td>Chicago: Will Rossiter,.</td>
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Series 2: Presentation copy of published songs (cont.)