



The New York Public Library
Music Division

Guide to the

Rick Besoyan papers, Additions

1942-1979

JPB 15-71

Compiled by Susan M. Kline, 2015

Summary

Creator: Besoyan, Rick

Title: Rick Besoyan papers, Additions

Date: 1942-1979

Size: 5.56 linear feet (19 boxes)

Source: Donated by Howard Barker, 2015.

Abstract: The Rick Besoyan papers (1942-1979) document Besoyan's songwriting career and are primarily comprised of scripts, sheet music, and sound recordings.

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>

Conditions Governing Access:

Sound recordings are currently unavailable pending digitization.

Conditions Governing Use: For permission to publish, contact the Chief, Music Division, New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

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Creator History

Richard Besoyan (1924-1970) was an American songwriter. Born in California in 1924, Besoyan served

in World War II with the United States Army Infantry. After the war, Besoyan joined the California-based Bredon-Savoy Light Opera Company as a performer. Besoyan then moved to New York City and was later approached to write a revue for the Showplace nightclub. This piece, *In Your Hat*, later evolved into the musical *Little Mary Sunshine* which opened off-Broadway in 1959. Besoyan went on to write the book, music, and lyrics for *The Student Gypsy* or *The Prince of Liederkrantz*, which opened on Broadway in 1963. The following year Besoyan's *Babes in the Wood* was produced off-Broadway. Richard Besoyan died in Sayville, Long Island in 1970.

Scope and Content Note

The Rick Besoyan papers date from 1942 to 1979 and document Besoyan's songwriting career. While the majority of the collection pertains to his most well-known productions (*Little Mary Sunshine*, *Babes in the Wood*, and *The Student Gypsy*), there is material related to over a dozen other works, including his unproduced musical version of Paul Gallico's novel *Mrs. Arris Goes to Paris*.

In addition to scripts, sheet music, and sound recordings for specific productions, the collection also contains lyric ideas, unidentified sheet music, and unused themes, as well as a small grouping of material related to his estate.

Arrangement: The collection is primarily arranged by production title.

Key Terms

Occupations

Dramatists
Lyricists

Subjects

Musicals

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Scores
Scripts
Sheet music

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 *The ABCs of Musical Instruments*
- b. 1 f. 2-4 *April in the Air* 1947
At Your Service
 - b. 17 1944-1945
- b. 15 f. 1-4 1947
- b. 1 f. 5-6 1947
- b. 1 f. 7 *Autumn Nocturne*
Babes in the Wood
- b. 5 f. 1-4 1964
- b. 8 f. 1-4 1964
- b. 9 1964
- b. 14 f. 1-7 1964
Arnold Goland.
- b. 19 1964
Sound Recordings
 - 1975
origsr.234260
Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.
 - 1975
origsr.234294
Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.
 - Master 1975
origsr.234292
Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.
- b. 1 f. 8 *Broadway Family*
Dream Girl
- b. 2 f. 1-3 circa 1950s-1960s
- b. 15 f. 5 1963
- b. 7 f. 1-9 Estate 1965-1979
- b. 1 f. 9 *Foot-Loose and Fancy* 1947
- b. 1 f. 10 *High and Dry* 1942
In Your Hat
- b. 10 f. 1-5 circa 1956-1957
Sound Recordings
 - Good for Nothin' Me / J. Timothy Fielding the Third
origsr.234311
Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.

In Your Hat (cont.)
Sound Recordings (cont.)

Good for Nothin' Me / J. Timothy Fielding the Third
origsr.234313
Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.

Good for Nothin' Me / J. Timothy Fielding the Third
origsr.234317
Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.

Hot Tamale Tango / I'm Growing Up
origsr.234319
Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.

I'm Growing Up / Hot Tamale Tango
origsr.234315
Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.

J. Timothy Fielding the Third
origsr.234318
Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.

Minna, the Sin of Trinidad / This is the Life
origsr.234316
Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.

Rock Sweet Baby / Sur La Table
origsr.234314
Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.

Sur La Table / Rock Sweet Baby
origsr.234312
Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.

This is the Life / Minna, the Sin of Trinidad
origsr.234320
Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.

Little Mary Sunshine

b. 6 f. 1-6 1959-1963

b. 12 f. 1-2 1959-1963?

b. 18 f. 1 1960

Look for A Sky of Blue / Once in a Blue Moon
origsr.234310
Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.

Lover's Holiday

b. 16 f. 4-5 1950s?

b. 1 f. 11 1950s?

b. 1 f. 12 Lyric Ideas

b. 4 f. 1 *The Mandarin*

Mrs. 'Arris Goes to Paris

b. 2 f. 4-7 circa 1958-1970

- Mrs. 'Arris Goes to Paris (cont.)
- b. 12 f. 3-6 circa 1958-1970
 - b. 4 f. 2 Musical Notes 1953
 - b. 4 f. 3 *Out of This World and Lover's Holiday* 1954
- Sheet Music and Lyrics
- b. 11 f. 1-4 circa 1942-1970
 - b. 18 f. 2 circa 1942-1970

Sound Recordings

A.M.E. RL3M 1964

origsr.234302

Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.

Christmas Land- Laurel Music

origsr.234324

Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.

Christmas Land- Laurel Music

origsr.234321

Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.

Easy Living- Ron Hussman

origsr.234309

Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.

It's Christmas

origsr.234322

Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.

The Kids

origsr.234305

Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.

Little People's March 1975

origsr.234300

Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.

Little People's March- Laurel Music

origsr.234323

Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.

Muzak: Little People's March

origsr.234304

Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.

Muzak: Little People's March

origsr.234306

Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.

The Student Gypsy

- b. 3 f. 1-6 1960s-1971
- b. 13 f. 1-7 1960s-1971
- b. 2 f. 8 1971

The Student Gypsy (cont.)

Sound Recordings

1975

origsr.234299

Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.

Arnold Goland 1975

origsr.234295

Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.

b. 16 f. 1-3 Unused Themes

b. 4 f. 4-8 *Wake Up With Me* 1956

A Wonderful Wicked World

b. 17 1952

b. 6 f. 7-8 1952