



The New York Public Library
Music Division

Guide to the

Helene Hipkins scores

1935-1942

JPB 13-31

Compiled by Matthew Snyder, 2013

Summary

Creator: Hipkins, Helene

Title: Helene Hipkins scores

Date: 1935-1942

Size: .25 linear feet (1 box)

Source: Donated by Helen Hipkins ca. 1973.

Abstract: Helene Hipkins (1880-1973) was a vocalist and songwriter who co-authored several songs published between 1935 and 1942. The Helene Hipkins scores date from 1935 to 1942. They hold published sheet music, manuscripts, and sketches and lyrics for unfinished songs.

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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Preferred citation: Helene Hipkins scores, JPB 13-31. Music Division, The New York Public Library.

Processing note: Compiled by Matthew Snyder, 2013 Original order was maintained. Scores were refoldered and reboxed.

Creator History

Helene Hipkins (1880-1973) was a songwriter and vocalist. Born in New York City to German immigrants, her only musical training as a child consisted of piano lessons. She married in 1900, and began a musical career when she was 35, after her children reached their teen years. At that time, Hipkins commenced vocal studies, and started appearing in vaudeville productions and at resorts in the Catskills as a singer and dancer.

Later, she began composing songs with her piano accompanists, who would transcribe her improvised vocal melodies and create harmonic backgrounds, lyrics, and arrangements for them. Her primary collaborator was Charles Reid, though she occasionally set lyrics by other writers, or wrote her own. Hipkins and Reid had several songs published between 1935 and 1942, including two (Out Of The Depths and An Easter Hallelujah) for religious purposes. An Easter Hallelujah was sung on Easter Sunday, 1941, at Marble Collegiate Church in Manhattan,

Hipkins died at her home in Long Island City, New York, on May 22nd, 1973.

Scope and Content Note

The Helene Hipkins scores date from 1935 to 1942. They hold published sheet music, manuscripts, and sketches and lyrics for unfinished songs.

Published songs include I Miss You (1935); Beyond The Sunset, Thoughts On The Wing, Camel Bells, and On Sunday Morn (1937); Start Tootin' Your Own Horn (1939); The Road To Paradise (1940); An Easter Hallelujah (1941); and Out Of The Depths (1942). Most are for piano and voice. Some of the religious songs contain arrangements for choir created by the publishers. The published sheet music also holds manuscripts for the songs. The first folder of published songs holds a biography of Hipkins written by her daughter, Helen, as well as a listing of songs in the collection.

The manuscripts hold over 40 unpublished songs. They are in two divisions: those with final piano arrangements, and those without arrangements. Some of the manuscripts may have been written by Charles Reid, who co-wrote the music, lyrics and arrangements for many of Hipkins' songs.

The unfinished sketches and lyrics contain material for around 10 songs. The sketches contain no lyrics, and some have only melodies. Most of the lyrics are hand-written, and were probably authored by Hipkins.

Arrangement: The scores are in three divisions: published songs, manuscripts, and unfinished sketches and lyrics. The manuscripts have two subdivisions, with piano arrangements and without.

Key Terms

Occupations

Composers
Musicians
Singers

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Scores

Names

Reid, Charles

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 Published Songs 1935-1942
Manuscripts
- b. 1 f. 2-3 With Piano Arrangements 1935-1936, undated
- b. 1 f. 4 Without Arrangements 1936-1937, undated
- b. 1 f. 5 Unfinished Sketches and Lyrics undated