



The New York Public Library
Music Division

Guide to the

Richard Rodgers music papers

1899-1975 [bulk 1960-1975]

JPB 13-30

Compiled by Weatherly Stephan, 2013

Summary

Creator: Rodgers, Richard, 1902-1979

Title: Richard Rodgers music papers

Date: 1899-1975 [bulk 1960-1975]

Size: 3.54 linear feet (10 boxes)

Source: Gift of Dorothy Rodgers, 1987.

Abstract: Richard Rodgers (1902-1979) was an American composer and producer, well known for his collaborations with lyricists Lorenz Hart and Oscar Hammerstein II. The Richard Rodgers music papers contain scrapbooks, published vocal scores, and drafts of his autobiography, *Musical Stages*.

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

Preferred citation: Richard Rodgers music papers, JPB 13-30. Music Division, The New York Public Library.

Processing note: Compiled by Weatherly Stephan, 2013

Related Materials:

Richard Rodgers collection of musicals and interviews. Rodgers and Hammerstein Archives of Recorded Sound, The New York Public Library.

Richard Rodgers collection. Music Division, Library of Congress.

Richard Rodgers papers. Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

Richard Rodgers scrapbooks. Music Division, The New York Public Library.

Richard Rodgers song selections. Music Division, The New York Public Library.

Creator History

Richard Rodgers (1902-1979) was an American composer, well known for his collaborations with lyricists Lorenz Hart and Oscar Hammerstein II. Rodgers composed more than 900 songs and 40 Broadway and London musicals, including the shows *A Connecticut Yankee*, *Oklahoma!*, *South Pacific*, *The King and I*, and *The Sound of Music*, and was active on Broadway from 1920 through the 1970s. In 1975, he published his autobiography, *Musical Stages*.

Custodial History

The contents of the collection described herein were separated from the Richard Rodgers papers (*T-Mss 1987-006) and transferred from the Billy Rose Theatre Division. Oversize scrapbooks and sheet music transferred to the Music Division were processed as separate collections.

Scope and Content Note

The Richard Rodgers music papers date from 1899 to 1975 (bulk: 1960-1975) and contain scrapbooks, published vocal scores, and drafts of Rodgers's autobiography, *Musical Stages*. Scrapbooks in the collection document three events celebrating Rodgers's work between 1949 and 1967—the New Haven Pops Orchestra's Rodgers and Hammerstein Night, the Connecticut Symphony's Music Man of the Year program, and a birthday luncheon hosted by the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers. The scrapbooks are comprised of invitations, telegrams, photographs, clippings, press releases, and programs relating to the events, as well as autographs and inscriptions from attendees. Vocal scores in the collection primarily date from the late 19th and early 20th century, and include the work of composers Ivan Caryll, Arthur Sullivan, and Oscar Straus. Rodgers's own scores in the collection are limited to *The Rodgers and Hart Song Book*, the vocal score for *Pal Joey*, and a Japanese translation of *No Strings*.

The collection holds three drafts of Rodgers's autobiography, along with a typed transcript of interviews with Rodgers conducted by theatre historian Stanley Green. Each draft has handwritten annotations and edits to the text. The earliest autobiography draft, dating from 1971 to 1972, is both hand and typewritten with corrections and additions; typed transcripts are available for all handwritten pages. Housed with the first draft is a collation with the published text, which lists several passages not included in the published version.

Arrangement: The collection is arranged by document type: Autobiography Drafts, Scores, and Scrapbooks.

Key Terms

Subjects

Composers -- United States
Musical theater -- New York (State) -- New York

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Manuscripts for publication
Scores
Scrapbooks

Container List

Autobiography Drafts

- b. 10 1971-1972
- b. 1 f. 1-6 1971-1974
- b. 2 f. 1-6 1971-1975
- b. 3 f. 1-5 1975
- b. 4 f. 1 1975
- b. 4 f. 2-5 Interview Transcript 1971
- b. 5 f. 1-5 Interview Transcript 1971-1972

Scores

- b. 7 v. 1 *No Strings* 1964
- b. 7 v. 2 *Pal Joey* 1953
- b. 8 v. 1 *The Rodgers and Hart Song Book* 1951
- b. 8 v. 2 *Alma, Where Do You Live; The Dollar Princess; The Chocolate Soldier; and The Mikado* 1899-1909
- b. 9 v. 1 *The Spring Maid; Oh! Oh! Delphine; and The Merry Widow* 1907-1912
- b. 9 v. 2 *This Year of Grace; The Duchess of Dantzic; and San Toy* 1899-1928

Scrapbooks

- b. 6 f. 1 ASCAP Birthday Luncheon 1967
- b. 6 f. 2 Connecticut Symphony's Music Man of the Year 1960
- b. 5 f. 6 New Haven Pops Rodgers and Hammerstein Night 1949