



The New York Public Library
Music Division

Guide to the

Ned Lehac papers

1920-1997

JPB 14-07

Compiled by Matthew Snyder, 2014

Summary

Creator: Lehac, Ned, 1899-1999

Title: Ned Lehac papers

Date: 1920-1997

Size: .25 linear feet (1 box)

Source: Donated by Jane Sherman Lehac in 1999.

Abstract: Ned Lehac (née Ned Levin, 1900-1999) was a composer who contributed to several Broadway revues between 1930 and 1942. The Ned Lehac papers, dating from 1920 to 1997, document Lehac's music career through scores, correspondence, performance programs, clippings, and a historical essay.

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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Processing note: Compiled by Matthew Snyder, 2014 Original order was maintained. Some content was rehoused in new folders.

Creator History

Ned Lehac (née Ned Levin, 1899-1999) was a composer of popular song. He attended City College of New York, where he began writing and presenting material with Edward Eliscu. As a professional, Lehac contributed to 14 revues from 1930 to 1942, including *Nine Fifteen Revue*, *Let's Play Fair*, *Garrick Gaieties*, *Sing for Your Supper* (written for the Federal Theatre Project), and *Of V We Sing*. His

collaborators included Edward Eliscu, Billy Rose, Harold Rome, Allen Boretz, Robert Sour, and Joe Darion, among others. In 1940, he married the dancer and writer Jane Sherman. In the early 1940s, he retired from professional theater work and taught high school science. In the 1990s, Le hac and Sherman moved to the Lillian Booth Actors Home in Englewood, New Jersey, where Le hac resumed songwriting. He died on January 23rd, 1999.

Custodial History

Ned Le hac maintained the collection. His wife, Jane Sherman Le hac, donated it to the Music Division a few months after his death.

Scope and Content Note

The Ned Le hac papers, dating from 1920 to 1997, document Le hac's music career through scores, correspondence, performance programs, clippings, and a historical essay. The scores consist primarily of manuscript and published lead sheets or piano/vocal scores. They include songs written with lyricists Edward Eliscu, Joe Darion, Allen Boretz, Robert Sour, Joey Faye, and Billy Rose, some of which are from the revues Garrick Gaieties (1930) and Sing for Your Supper (1938). The manuscripts include lead sheets for which no lyrics were written, as well as lyrics by Joe Darion and Jane Sherman Le hac which were never set to music. They also hold Le hac's last completed composition, Attention Please (1996), with lyrics by Joey Faye, and an orchestration by Maurice Previn of the Le hac - Allen Boretz song Beauty (from Garrick Gaieties).

The remainder of the collection holds an essay by Le hac titled The Story of Sing for Your Supper (1981); a written list of Le hac's published songs; correspondence with Le hac's co-authors, publisher, and the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP) regarding songs, copyrights, and contracts; a letter from Ira Gershwin supporting Le hac's membership in ASCAP; performance programs; and clippings. The earliest program is for a satirical musical by Le hac and Edward Eliscu presented at City College of New York in 1920 (the program, which also contains clippings about the show, credits Le hac as Ned Levin). Other programs are for Nine Fifteen Revue (1930), Of V We Sing (1942), Sing for Your Supper (1939), and Let's Play Fair (1938).

Arrangement: All content formats are mixed together.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Clippings (information artifacts)
Commercial correspondence
Programs (documents)
Scores
Writings (document genre)

Occupations

Composers
Lyricists

Musicians

Subjects

Musicals

Geographic Names

New York (N.Y.)

Names

Boretz, Allen, 1900-1986

Darion, Joe, 1917-2001

Eliscu, Edward, 1902-1998

Faye, Joey

Rose, Billy, 1899-1966

Sherman, Jane, 1908-2010

Sour, Robert

Federal Theatre Project (New York, N.Y.)