Summary

Creator: American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers

Title: ASCAP archives

Date: 1914-1986 [bulk 1930s-1986]

Size: 32.84 linear feet (79 boxes)

Source: Donated by ASCAP, 1986.

Abstract: The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) is an organization of more than 420,000 artists that protects the copyrights of its members. The ASCAP records represent a portion of the artists who joined the society from the 1930s to the mid-1980s. Many notable recording artists are represented from vaudeville to rock music. The files hold articles, biographical data sheets, broadsides, film strips, memorandum, obituary notices, photographs and photograph negatives, performance brochures, publicity and sheet music.

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:
Inquiries regarding audio and visual materials in the collection may be directed to the Rodgers and Hammerstein Archives of Recorded Sound (rha@nypl.org). Audio and visual materials may be subject to preservation evaluation and migration prior to access.

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

Processing note: Compiled by Valerie Wingfield, 2012 The collection was rehoused and refoldered as needed.

Creator History
The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) is performance rights organization founded in 1914 by Victor Herbert (1859-1924), a composer and musician. ASCAP is a member association of more than 420,000 composers, songwriters, lyricists, and music publishers of every kind of music. Its representation includes similar foreign organizations so that ASCAP repertory is represented within countries where copyright law is applied. ASCAP's objective is to protect the rights of its members and foreign affiliates by licensing the public performances of their copyrighted works and distributing royalties based upon surveyed performances. A non-profit organization, ASCAP is located at One Lincoln Center Plaza, New York City.

Scope and Content Note
The ASCAP records, dating from 1914 to 1986, document the artists who became members of ASCAP and some artists who applied for membership and were rejected. The files reflect the full spectrum of artists from different musical genres from vaudeville to rock and roll. The records consist primarily of biographical data sheets that document career accomplishments. During the 1970s, the biographical data sheet were replace by publicity information about the artists.

Other information in the files includes articles, biographies, broadsides, correspondence, film strips, memorandums, obituary notices, performance brochures, photographs, publicity, and sheet music.

The collection holds files only for artists with surnames from A to K. There are a few publicity photographs of artists with last names from M-Z. Files for artists with surnames from L-Z were retained by ASCAP.

Inquiries regarding audio and visual materials in the collection may be directed to the Rodgers and Hammerstein Archives of Recorded Sound (rha@nypl.org). Audio and visual materials will be subject to preservation evaluation and migration prior to access.

Key Terms

Occupations
Actors
Authors
Composers
Musicians

Subjects
African American artists
Arts publicity
Associations, institutions, etc. -- Membership
Boycotts
Copyright
Copyright -- Performing rights
Hispanic American artists
Music
Music -- United States -- 20th century
Performing arts
Performing arts -- United States

Genre/Physical Characteristic
Black-white-negatives
Clippings (information artifacts)
Filmstrips
Photographs
Printed ephemera
Container List

Series I: Membership Files 1926-1986 (76.75 boxes)
This series represents artists who were members or sought membership in ASCAP. The series, arranged alphabetically, contains half of the alphabet, A-K; the remainder of the alphabet was retained by ASCAP. Many of the files contain ASCAP’s official biographical data sheet required by individuals for membership. Around 1980, the biographical data sheets were replaced with publicity material from the artist's company (if signed). Many of the artists are represented with a single file supplemented with some other related career information. The files contain the ASCAP biographical data sheet, related biographical information, correspondence, death notifications, published articles, photograph(s) of the artist, publicity material generated by the signed artist’s company, and ephemera.

Noted individuals include Stanley Adams (President of ASCAP), Gene Buck (President of ASCAP, 1932-1940), Victor Herbert (the founder of ASCAP), Eubie Blake, Sammy Cahn, Ray Charles, John Denver, Peter DeRose, Neil Diamond, Paul Dresser (Theodore Dreiser’s brother), Gershon Ephron, Dorothy Fields, Ella Fitzgerald, Aretha Franklin, Eliseo Grent Sanchez, “Tiny” Lloyd Grimes, W.C. Handy, Jini Hendrix, Langston Hughes, Quincy Jones and KISS.

Abbott, Michael - Akers, Jane 1941-1985
Akiyoshi, Toshiko - Almaas, Steven 1945-1983
Almeida, Laurindo - Andino, Reinol 1939-1983
Andre, Fabein - Arlen, Harold 1937-1983
Armbruster, Robert - Ashford and Simpson 1938-1980
Ashton, John - Baer, Charles 1938-1983
Bacharach, Burt 1970s
Baez, Joan - Bales, Richard 1951-1982
Balhoff, Michael - Barlow, Wayne 1938-1983
Barmak, Ira - Bartok, Bela 1950-1982
Barton, Ben - Beaudrie, Marian 1945-1982
Beauer, Paul - Belt, James 1941-1986
Benatar, Pat - Bent, Rosetta 1945-1984
Benter, Charles
Bentley, Eula - Berle, Milton 1938-1981
Berlin, David - Bernstein, Leonard 1944-1982
Bernstein, Morris - Bivona, RUTH 1942-1983
Bjornson, James - Blote, Paul 1935-1980
Bloudin, Raymond - Borden, William 1926-1981
Boretz, Allen - Bowman, Norman 1947-1985
Box, Euel - Breedlove, Paula 1948-1982
Breen, Singhi - Broekman, David 1942-1981
Brogan, Michael - Brozenick, Joseph 1943-1985
Brubaker, Larry - Bumatay, Vincent 1938-1982
Bunch, James - Burwell, Clifford 1938-1986
Bus Boys - Cahill, Billy 1941-1980
Cahn, Sammy - Carazo, Castro 1930s-1980s
Guide to the ASCAP archives

Series I: Membership Files (cont.)

b. 25 f. 1-86  Carbonara, Gerard - Carson, Will  1930s-1980s
b. 26 f. 1-108 Carter, Bennett - Chacon, Matthew  1934-1985
b. 27 f. 1-60  Chadirjian, Harry - Chayefsky, Paddy  1940s-1980s
b. 28 f. 1-100 Cheadle, William - Clark, Terry  1939-1982
b. 29 f. 1-92  Clarke, Dana - Cohan, George  1939-1981
b. 30 f. 1-78  Cohen, Alice - Collins, Will  1930s-1984
b. 31 f. 1-99  Collotta, Robert - Cooper, Evelyn  1937-1985
b. 32 f. 1-77  Cooper, Harvey - Dallesandro, Gerald  1942-1983
b. 33 f. 1-85  Dalmas, Glen - Davilo, Anthony  1937-1980
b. 34 f. 1-93  Davis, Albert - DeCevee, Alice  1930s-1980
b. 35 f. 1-73  DeChaves, Carol - Del Tredici, David  1945-1985
b. 36 f. 1-71  De Luca, Don - DeRose, Peter  1940s-1983
b. 37 f. 1-83  Derosier, Michael - Dietz, Arthur  1934-1985
b. 38 f. 1-78  Dietz, Howard - Dolen, Francis  1953-1980s
b. 39 f. 1-88  Doll, Anthony - Dragoo, Eugene  1927-1985
b. 40 f. 1-73  Drake, Ervin - Dukes, Jimmy  1940s-1980
b. 41 f. 1-66  Dulmage, Will - Dyson, Hal  1945-1983
b. 42 f. 1-83  Eads, Mary - Edwards, Webley  1948-1985
b. 43 f. 1-85  Effinger, Cecil - Elton, William  1931-1981
b. 44 f. 1-85  Elwell, Herbert - Evans, Rhys  1940s-1982
b. 45 f. 1-89  Evans, Robert - Feather, Lorraine  1923-1982
b. 46 f. 1-75  Federlein, Gottfried - Fillmore, Henry  1940-1983
b. 47 f. 1-77  Fimberg, Harold - Flax, Robert  1937-1982
b. 48 f. 1-85  Fleeson, Neville - Fox, Jules  1929-1985
b. 49 f. 1-86  Fox, Oscar - Friedlander, William B  1930s-1985
b. 50 f. 1-81  Friedman, Alan - Gabler, Milt  1930s-1983
b. 51 f. 1-82  Gabriel, Charles - Garellick, Jack  1940s-1985
b. 52 f. 1-72  Garf, Gene - Geller, Bruce  1941-1985
b. 53 f. 1-85  Geller, Harry - Gifford, Norman  1930s-1980s
b. 54 f. 1-69  Gigandet, Joseph - Glenn, Tyree  1930s-1985
b. 55 f. 1-76  Glick, Jesse - Goley, Robert  1932-1985
b. 56 f. 1-75  Gollner, Ronald - Gould, Glenn  1928-1985
b. 57 f. 1-78  Gould, Jack - Green, James A  1930s-1985
b. 58 f. 1-80  Green, Johnny - Griffith, Corinne  1938-1985
b. 59 f. 1-66  Griffith, Donald - Gulesian, M.H  1930s-1985
b. 60 f. 1-86  Gulino, Loretto - Haley, Bill  1946-1985
b. 61 f. 1-67  Hall, Alice - Handy, W.C  1944-1985
b. 62 f. 1-65  Handy, W.C. - Harmon, Ronald  1930s-1985
b. 64 f. 1-83  Hatley, T. Marvin - Heifetz, Vera  1942-1983
Series I: Membership Files (cont.)

- Heim, Emery - Hermann, Ralph 1935-1985
- Hernandez, Jose - Hillard, Keith 1937-1985
- Hillas, Stanley - Holowecy, Philip 1930s-1984
- Holsaert, Eunice - Howard, John Tasker 1945-1985
- Howard, Joseph - Hutchens, Carl 1930s-1985
- Hutchinson, James W. - Jason, Will 1938-1985
- Jassen, Jeffrey - Johnson, William 1939-1985
- Johnston, Albert - Justin, Susan 1937-1980s
- Kaahanui, Warren - Keller, Maurice 1945-1985
- Kellett, Donald - King, Victor 1937-1985
- Kingsley, Gershon - Koppell, Alfred 1929-1984
- Korb, Arthur - Krupa, Gene 1937-1979
- Kuball, Ann - Kusik, Larry 1940s-1985
- Loggins, Kenny - Stravinsky, Igor 1943-1982, undated
- Toch, Ernst - Wonder, Stevie 1956, undated

Series II: Historical Files 1914-1984 (2.25 boxes)

This series holds papers documenting events in ASCAP history. Dating from 1914 to 1984, the contents include a copy of ASCAP's first contract, the first application for membership, an original Assignment of Performing Rights contract, clippings, scripts for a regular radio broadcast regarding ASCAP artists, publicity flyers put out by ASCAP regarding the boycott of the Society in the 1940s, and photographs of the Society's Anniversary celebrations of 1954 and 1984. Also present are photographs of annual events of the Society, including meetings, dinners, and an event at the 1939-1940 New York World's Fair; photographs of members of the ASCAP Foundation; broadsides published by ASCAP regarding events or advertising the Society; and a photograph of Igor Stravinsky and Walter Piston at an unidentified event.

- 40th Anniversary 1954
- 70th Anniversary 1984
- Annual Dinners and Special Meetings 1924, 1926, 1934, 1940
- Assignment of Performing Rights 1921
- Boycott 1940s
- Broadsides 1940-1969
- Clippings 1914-1964
- First Contract 1914
- Foundation 1984, undated
- Kennedy Center Honors 1978-1984
- New York World's Fair 1940
- Original Application for Membership 1914
- Radio Scripts 1964-1965
- Seminar on the Role of Synthesizers in Motion Picture Scoring undated
- Songwriter's Workshop, Washington, D.C undated
- Unidentified Event undated