



The New York Public Library
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

Mabel Mercer papers

1932-1984

Sc MG 341

Summary

Creator: Mercer, Mabel, 1900-1984

Title: Mabel Mercer papers

Date: 1932-1984

Size: 18.6 linear feet

Source: Purchase, Mabel Mercer Estate

Abstract: Singer, song sylist, nightclub entertainer. Papers consist of personal papers including naturalization and immigration documents, correspondence with her husband, Kelsey Pharr, family papers and fan mail. Professional papers include contracts, dates concerning nightclub performances and recordings; sheet music and manuscript music performed and collected by Mercer, music with correspondence attached from composers and lyricists requesting Mercer to include their works in her repertoire in addition to honors, awards, programs, scrapbooks and posters.

Access: Advance notice required.

Preferred citation: Mabel Mercer papers, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The New York Public Library

Creator History

Singer, song sylist, nightclub entertainer.

Scope and Content Note

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Key Terms

Subjects

African American entertainers
African American singers
African Americans in the performing arts
Singers

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Posters
Scrapbooks
Sheet music

Names

Mercer, Mabel, 1900-1984
Pharr, Kelsey, 1917-1961