

Guide to the Peter Gennaro Papers, 1954-1982

(S) *MGZMD 198

Jerome Robbins Dance Division

**The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts
New York, New York**

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Descriptive Summary

Title:	Peter Gennaro Papers, 1954-1982
Collection ID:	(S) *MGZMD 198
Creator:	Gennaro, Peter
Extent:	12 linear feet (17 boxes)
Repository:	Jerome Robbins Dance Division. The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

Abstract: The Peter Gennaro Papers consist of dancer, dance teacher and choreographer Peter Gennaro's production materials, such as scripts, correspondence, audition and production notes, and musical scores of numbers which were choreographed by Peter Gennaro. Materials date from 1954 to 1982, although the majority of the musical scores are undated. The collection constitutes only a small fraction of Gennaro's professional life, with little contextual information. There are no personal materials in this collection.

Administrative Information

Access

Collection is open to the public. Library policy on photocopying will apply. Advance notice may be required.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

Peter Gennaro Papers, (S) *MGZMD 198 Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Custodial History

The Peter Gennaro Papers were donated to the Jerome Robbins Dance Division in March 2000 by Peter Gennaro.

Biographical Note

Peter Gennaro, dancer, dance teacher and choreographer, was born November 23, 1919 in Louisiana. He was an acclaimed choreographer for Broadway and television shows, and an accomplished dancer and teacher whose contribution in the early development of jazz dance was significant.

Gennaro showed promise as a dancer since childhood, winning his first dance award at the age of four. Growing up, he studied dance with local teachers until his military service during World War II. During that time he was stationed in India and was recruited into an entertainment unit, where he performed for the troops as a dancer.

After his release from the army he moved to New York City. He studied at the American Theater Wing and the Katherine Dunham School. In 1947 he joined the San Carlo Opera Company, and in the following year he got his first Broadway job as a member in the chorus of *Make Mine Manhattan*. In the following years he earned dancing roles in shows such as *Subway Circuit* (1949), *Guys and Dolls* (1950), and *Arms and the Girls* (1950). In 1954 he gained public attention as one of the three dancers in Bob Fosse's number "Steam Heat" in the Broadway production of *Pajama Game*, and then again in 1956 with the "Mu Cha Cha" number with Judy Holliday in *Bells Are Ringing*.

At around the same time he gave dance lessons to other professional performers, introducing them to his distinctive dancing style. Gennaro's professional choreographing began in 1955 with the musical *Seventh Heaven*. In the next year, he choreographed with Jerome Robbins the musical *West Side Story*. Gennaro was responsible for part of the "America" and the "Sharks' Dance at the Gym" numbers. He was also choreographer for the 1964 motion picture *The Unsinkable Molly Brown*.

Gennaro's most notable work on Broadway was undoubtedly *Annie* (1977), for which he won a Tony award as best choreographer. Gennaro was nominated for the same award on four more productions: *Fiorello!* (1960), *Bajour* (1965), *Irene* (1973) and *Little Me* (1982).

Throughout the 1950s and 1960s Gennaro became a popular household name as dancer and choreographer through numerous television appearances. He and his Peter Gennaro Dancers appeared on episodes of several shows, such as *The Perry Como Show*, *The Judy Garland Show*, *The Ed Sullivan Show*, and *The Bing Crosby Show*. Among his most notable cabaret appearances were the Aladdin Hotel in Las Vegas, and in *Al Hirt's Salute to New Orleans*. Between 1974-1980 Gennaro staged the shows at New York City's Radio City Music Hall, in which he also choreographed for The Rockettes.

Gennaro married Jean Kinsella (maiden name Sabella) in 1948, whom he met when they were both dancers with the San Carlo Opera Company. They had two children, Michael, and Lisa, a dancer and choreographer herself. Gennaro died on September 28, 2000 in New York City.

Scope and Content Note

The Peter Gennaro Papers consist of materials of productions for which Gennaro choreographed, such as *Irene*, *Jimmy*, and *Little Me*. The collection includes scripts, several of which are annotated, correspondence, audition and production notes. The bulk of the collection consists of musical scores of numbers which were choreographed by Gennaro. Most of these scores are not explicitly connected with a specific production, but appear to have been used in more than one show. Materials date from 1954 to 1982, although the majority of the musical scores are undated. The collection constitutes only a small fraction of Gennaro's professional life, with little contextual information. There are no personal materials in this collection.

Organization

The collection is organized into 3 series. They are:

Series I:	Productions, 1960-1982, undated
Series II:	Scores, 1954-1973, undated
Series III:	Oversized, undated

Series Descriptions

Series I: Productions, 1960-1982, undated

2 boxes

Arrangement: Alphabetical

This series contains production materials, the majority of which are scripts. This series also includes correspondence, audition and production notes, and actors' resumes and headshots. Song and kinescope lists from Gennaro's shows in the early 1960s can also be found in this collection.

Series II: Scores, 1954-1973, undated

13 boxes

Arrangement: Alphabetical

This series contains musical scores and individual songs that were part of Peter Gennaro's shows. Most of them include complete parts of specific arrangements, and appear to have been used in the various television, cabaret or other venues for which Gennaro choreographed. Other songs or their specific arrangements are explicitly labeled as used in one of the television shows. Many of the scores include musical annotations, and occasionally rough sketches of stage plans can be found on the back of the pages.

Series III: Oversized, undated

2 boxes

Arrangement: Alphabetical

This series contains oversized music scores for three musical numbers represented in Series II: *Balling The Jack*, *Bi-centennial* and *I Got Rhythm*. It also includes an annotated script for *One Night Stand* in its original binder.

Series I: Productions , 1960-1982, undated

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
1	1	<i>Atlantic City (the Musical)</i> , 1980 Script with few notes. Book by Arnold Krueger. Music and lyrics by Peter Colangelo. Based on an original idea by Howard Perloff.
	2	<i>The First</i> , 1981 Act I Script, annotated.
	3	Full script Includes revised version of Act I.
	4	<i>Happy Land: A Tale Of Two Planets</i> , 1981 Musical. Book, lyrics and music by Alvin Irving Levin. Act I Script. Includes letter by Dr. Alvin Irving Levin.
	5	Act II Script.
	6	<i>Huckleberry</i> , 1982 Musical. Derived from Mark Twain's <i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i> . Book and lyrics by Edward Mabley. Music by Diane Leslie. Script. Includes biography and photograph of Diane Leslie.
	7	<i>Irene</i> , 1972 Musical. Music by Harry Tierney, additional music by Otis Clements. Lyrics by Joseph McCarthy, additional lyrics by Charles Gaynor. Book by Hugh Wheeler. Adapted by Harry Rigby from original play by James Montgomery. Script, with some notes on front page.
	8	<i>Jimmy</i> , undated Musical. Music and lyrics by Patti and Bill Jacob. Book by Melville Shavelson. Based on <i>Beau James</i> by Gene Fowler. Script.
	9	<i>The King's Men</i> , 1982 Musical. Original story, book and concept by John Raniello. Songs by various composers and lyricists of the early 1930s. Script. Includes a letter by S.G. Day.
		<i>Little Me</i> , 1981
<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
2	1	Notes Staging notes, lyrics and script revisions.
	2	Scripts Second draft Annotated. Dated August 1981.
	3	Third draft Annotated. Dated October 1981.
	4	<i>Sam Grey</i> , 1979-1980 Musical. Created by Michele Pomerantz and Bonnie Sanders, co-author. Music and words by Pomerantz and Sanders.
	5	Script, 1979 Synopsis, 1980 Includes two letters by Michele Pomerantz
	6	<i>Sayonara</i> , 1981, undated Musical. Music by George Fishoff. Lyrics by Hy Gilbert. Book by William Luce. Based on the novel by James A. Michener. Directed by Peter Coe.
	7	Auditions, 1981 Production notes, 1981, undated Staging and research notes, clippings.
	8	Resumes of actors, undated Includes photographs.
	9	Scripts, 1981 Fourth draft

- 10 Annotated.
Fifth draft
Annotated. Draft revised Apr. 1, 1981.
- 11 Song and kinescope lists, 1960-1963, undated
Lists of songs for various productions, most unidentified.
- 12 *The Trojan Horsemen*, undated
Play. By Stephen Van Gluck. Script. Includes a letter by Loy Nilson.
- 13-14 *Your Hit Parade*, 1981
Script, revised Feb. 20. Conceived and written by Donald K. Epstein. Includes a letter from Donald Epstein.

Series II: Scores, 1954-1973, undated

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
3	1	<i>America / Mu Cha Cha</i> , undated Manuscript with sketches for piano/vocal score.
	2	<i>Annie</i> , undated Vocal chorus book for entire show.
		<i>Astaire Medley</i> , undated Orchestration by Bill Brohn.
	3	Conductor Annotated.
	4	Reeds Annotated.
	5	Horns Tacet.
	6	Trumpet Annotated.
	7	Trombone Annotated.
	8	Percussion Annotated. Includes manuscript.
	9	Piano Annotated.
	10	Harp Annotated.
	11	Violin Annotated.
	12	Viola Annotated.
	13	Cello Annotated.
	14	Bass Annotated. Includes manuscripts.
	15	Guitar Annotated. Includes manuscript.
		<i>Balling The Jack</i> , undated Orchestration by Mack Schlefer.
4	1	Conductor / piano Annotated. Includes manuscript.
	2	Reeds Annotated.
	3	Horns Tacet.
	4	Trumpet
	5	Trombone

- 6 Percussion
Includes manuscript.
- 7 Harp
Tacet.
- 8 Violin
Tacet.
- 9 Viola
Tacet.
- 10 Cello
Tacet.
- 11 Bass
Annotated. Includes manuscript.
- 12 Guitar
Annotated. Includes manuscript.

Bi-centennial, undated
Arrangement by Bill Brohn.

- 13 Conductor
- 14 Reeds
Annotated.
- 15 Horns
- 16 Trumpet
Annotated.
- 17 Trombone
Annotated.
- 18 Tuba
Annotated.
- 19 Percussion
- 20 Piano
Annotated.
- 21 Harp
- 22 Violin
- 23 Viola
Annotated.
- 24 Cello
- 25 Bass
Annotated.
- 26 Guitar / Banjo

Birth of the Blues, undated

Box
5

- | <u>Fol</u> | |
|------------|------------------------|
| 1 | Conductor / piano |
| 2 | Reeds
Annotated. |
| 3 | Horns
Annotated. |
| 4 | Trumpet
Annotated. |
| 5 | Trombone
Annotated. |
| 6 | Tuba |
| 7 | Percussion |
| 8 | Harp
Annotated. |
| 9 | Violin
Annotated. |
| 10 | Viola |
| 11 | Cello |

- 12 Annotated.
Bass and Fender bass
- 13 Guitar
Annotated.
- Cagney*, undated
Orchestration by Mack Schlefer.
- 14 Conductor / piano
Annotated.
- 15 Reeds
- 16 Trumpet
- 17 Trombone
Annotated.
- 18 Percussion
Annotated. Includes manuscript.
- 19 Harp
Annotated.
- 20 Violin
- 21 Viola
Annotated.
- 22 Cello
- 23 Bass
Includes manuscript.
- 24 Guitar / banjo
Includes manuscript.
- Cellophane*, undated
Orchestration by Bill Brohn.
- 25 Conductor / piano
Original folder labeled "Al Hirt Small Group". Annotated.
- 26 Reeds
Annotated.
- 27 Horns
Tacet.
- 28 Trumpet
Annotated.
- 29 Trombone
Annotated.
- 30 Tuba
Tacet.
- 31 Percussion
Tacet.
- 32 Drums
Original folder labeled "Al Hirt Small Group". Annotated.
- 33 Harp
Annotated.
- 34 Violin
Annotated.
- 35 Viola
Annotated.
- 36 Cello
Annotated.
- 37 Bass
Original folder labeled "Al Hirt Small Group". Annotated.
- 38 Guitar
Original folder labeled "Al Hirt Small Group". Annotated.
- Chaplin*, undated
Manuscript of medley with *Smile* and *Who*.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
6	1	Banjo and drums
	2	Bass
	3	<i>Cool</i> , undated Music by Leonard Bernstein, lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. Act I, scene 5 of <i>West Side Story</i> . Conductor's score.
	4	<i>Duet</i> , undated Music by Leonard Bernstein, lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. <i>A Boy Like That</i> and <i>Once in your Life</i> from <i>West Side Story</i> . Conductor's score.
	5	<i>Duet One</i> (Balcony scene), undated Music by Leonard Bernstein, lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. Tony and Maria in act I, scene 4 of <i>West Side Story</i> . Conductor's score.
		<i>Easter Parade</i>
	6	Percussion Manuscripts.
	7	Piano Manuscript and annotated copy.
		<i>Easter Parade / Rhythm-Opening / South Rampart Street Parade</i> , undated From <i>Mike Douglas Show</i> . <i>Rhythm-Opening</i> arranged by Wally Harper; <i>South Rampart Street Parade</i> arranged by Peter Matz.
	8	Conductor Contains only an annotated copy for <i>South Rampart Street Parade</i> . Piano: Dr. Soto.
	9	Reeds Annotated.
	10	Trumpet Annotated.
	11	Trombone Annotated. No score for <i>Easter Parade</i> in this folder.
	12	Drums Annotated. No score for <i>Easter Parade</i> in this folder.
	13	Bass Annotated.
		<i>Favorite Things</i> , undated Arrangement by Bill Brohn.
	14	Conductor Annotated.
	15	Reeds Annotated.
	16	Horns Annotated.
	17	Trumpet Tacet.
	18	Trombone Tacet.
	19	Tuba Tacet.
	20	Percussion Annotated.
	21	Piano
	22	Harp Annotated.
	23	Violin Annotated.
	24	Viola
	25	Cello

	26	Bass
	27	Acoustic guitar
<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
7	1	<i>Gee, Officer Krupke!</i> , undated Music by Leonard Bernstein, lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. From <i>West Side Story</i> . Conductor's score.
		<i>Hello, My Baby</i> , undated Arrangement by Dick de Benedictis.
	2	Peter Gennaro and Dancers Annotated.
	3	Vocal Annotated.
		Arrangement by Don Sebesky Annotated.
	4	Conductor / piano
	5	Reeds
	6	Trumpet
	7	Trombone
	8	Drums
	9	Guitar
	10	Violin
	11	Viola
	12	Cello
	13	Bass
		<i>Horse</i> , undated Arrangement by Bill Brohn.
	14	Conductor
	15	Reeds Annotated.
	16	Horns Annotated.
	17	Trumpet
	18	Trombone Annotated.
	19	Tuba
	20	Percussion Annotated.
	21	Piano
	22	Harp Annotated.
	23	Violin Annotated.
	24	Viola Annotated.
	25	Cello
	26	Bass Annotated.
	27	Guitar
		<i>I Got Rhythm</i> , undated Arrangement by Peter Matz. Annotated.
<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
8	1	Conductor / piano Includes a copy marked "obsolete", arrangement notes and sketches.
	2	Vocal for choir
	3	Reeds
	4	Horns

5 Trumpets
 6 Trombone
 7 Drums
 8 Percussion
 9 Piano
 10 Harp
 11 Guitar
 12 Violin
 13 Viola
 14 Cello
 15 Bass
 16 Sketches for guitar and bass
 Arrangement not confirmed.

I Will Come Back, undated
 Orchestration by Bill Brohn.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
9	1	Conductor / piano Annotated.
	2	Reeds Annotated.
	3	Trumpet
	4	Trombone Annotated
	5	Percussion Manuscript.
	6	Harp Tacet.
	7	Violin Annotated.
	8	Viola Annotated.
	9	Cello
	10	Bass Annotated. Includes manuscript.
	11	Guitar Annotated. Includes manuscript.
	12	Lead sheet Annotated.
		<i>I Wouldn't Give You Up</i> , undated
	13	Conductor / piano Annotated.
	14	Reeds Annotated.
	15	Horns Tacet.
	16	Trumpet Annotated.
	17	Trombone
	18	Tuba Tacet.
	19	Percussion Annotated.
	20	Harp Tacet.
	21	Violin Annotated.

	22	Viola Annotated.
	23	Cello Tacet.
	24	Bass Annotated.
	25	Guitar Annotated.
	26	<i>It's Christmas</i> , undated From <i>Annie T.V.</i> with inscriptions by "Charles" and "Martin". Annotated conductor / piano score.
	27	<i>It's Not Where You Start But Where You Finish</i> , undated Conductor / piano.
	28	<i>Jet Song</i> , undated Music by Leonard Bernstein, lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. Act I, scene 1 from <i>West Side Story</i> . Conductor's score. One page includes a pencil sketch at the back.
		<i>King of the Road</i> , undated
<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
10	1	Conductor Annotated.
	2	Male quartet vocal score Annotated.
	3	Piano
	4	Saxophone Annotated. One page includes a pencil sketch at the back.
	5	Trumpet Annotated.
	6	Trombone Annotated.
	7	Guitar Annotated.
	8	Bass guitar Annotated.
	9	Drums Annotated.
	10	Percussion Annotated.
	11	Harp
	12	Violin Annotated.
	13	Viola
	14	Cello
	15	Bass Annotated.
	16	<i>Maria</i> , undated Music by Leonard Bernstein, lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. Act I, scene 4 from <i>West Side Story</i> . Conductor's score.
		<i>On A Clear Day</i> , undated Orchestration by Bill Brohn.
	17	Conductor / piano
	18	Reeds
	19	Horns Tacet.
	20	Trumpets Annotated.
	21	Trombone

- 22 Tuba
 23 Percussion
 Annotated. Includes manuscripts.
- 24 Harp
 Tacet.
- 25 Violin
 Annotated.
- 26 Viola
 Annotated.
- 27 Cello
 Annotated.
- 28 Bass
 Includes manuscript.
- 29 Guitar
 Annotated. Includes manuscript.
- 30 *Opening*, undated
 Manuscript sketches, including one for bass from *Birth of the Blues*.
- 31 *Quintet (Tonight)*, undated
 Music by Leonard Bernstein, lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. Act I, scene 6 from *West Side Story*, with Maria, Tony, Anita, Riff and Bernardo. Conductor's score.
- 32 *The Old Soft Shoe*, undated
 Music by Morgan Lewis, words by Nancy Hamilton. Demonstration copy of vocal and piano score. Includes envelope in which the score was kept, inscribed: "Zoe Caldwell. To be picked up".
 Rhythm-Opening, undated
 Arrangement by Wally Harper.
- 33 Conductor
 Annotated.
- 34 Reeds
 Annotated.
- 35 Horns
 Tacet.
- 36 Trumpet
 Annotated.
- 37 Trombone
 Annotated.
- 38 Tuba
 Tacet.
- 39 Percussion
- 40 Piano
- 41 Harp
 Tacet.
- 42 Violin
 Annotated.
- 43 Viola
 Annotated.
- 44 Cello
- 45 Bass
 Annotated.
- 46 Guitar
- 47 *Riviera Rage*, 1973, undated
 Arrangement by Wally Harper. Published, from *Irene*. Includes manuscript of sketch for drums score.
 Show Medley, undated
 Arrangement by John Mical.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
11	1	Conductor Includes photocopy of phone number for "Mary Joan", which was written at the back of the original folder.
	2	Flute Annotated.
	3	Oboe Annotated.
	4	Clarinet Annotated.
	5	Bassoon Annotated.
	6	Trumpet Annotated.
	7	Trombone Annotated.
	8	Drums Annotated. Includes manuscript.
	9	Piano Manuscript.
12	1	Harp Annotated.
	2	Violin
	3	Viola Annotated.
	4	Cello Annotated.
	5	Bass Annotated. Includes manuscript.
	6	Guitar Annotated.
	7	<i>Smile</i> , 1954 Music by Charles Chaplin, lyrics by John Turner and Geoffrey Parsons. Theme from <i>Modern Times</i> . Published lead sheet. <i>South Rampart Street Parade</i> , undated Arrangement by Peter Matz, undated
13	1	Conductor Annotated.
	2	Reeds Annotated.
	3	Horns
	4	Trumpet Annotated.
	5	Trombone Annotated.
	6	Percussion Annotated.
	7	Guitar Annotated.
	8	Bass Arrangement unknown, undated
	9	Conductor / piano Annotated.
	10	Reeds

		Tacet.
11	Horns	Tacet.
12	Trombone	Tacet.
13	Tuba	Tacet.
14	Drums	Manuscript.
15	Percussion	Tacet.
16	Harp	Tacet.
17	Violin	Tacet.
18	Viola	Tacet.
19	Cello	Tacet.
20	<i>Tomorrow</i> , undated	Sketch for percussion.
21	<i>Tonight</i> , undated	Conductor's score for Balcony scene from <i>West Side Story</i> for Tony and Maria. Music by Leonard Bernstein, lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and Leonard Bernstein. Original folder labeled " <i>West Side Story</i> original music".
	<i>Toot Toot Tootsie</i> , undated	

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
14	1	Conductor Annotated. Includes lyrics.
	2	Flute Includes manuscripts.
	3	Oboe Includes manuscripts.
	4	Clarinet Includes manuscripts.
	5	Bassoon Includes manuscripts.
	6	Horns Includes manuscript.
	7	Trumpet Includes manuscripts.
	8	Trombone
	9	Tuba Includes manuscript.
	10	Percussion Annotated.
	11	Harp Includes manuscript.
	12	Violin Includes manuscripts.
	13	Viola Includes manuscript.
	14	Cello Includes manuscript.
	15	Bass Annotated.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
	16	Guitar
15	1	<i>We Wouldn't Give You Up</i> , undated Manuscripts of sketches and annotated copies for possibly conductor's score and drums.
		<i>Who</i> , undated Orchestration by Bill Brohn.
	2	Conducrot / piano Annotated. Includes manuscript.
	3	Reeds Annotated.
	4	Trumpet Annotated.
	5	Trombone Annotated.
	6	Percussion Annotated. Includes manuscript.
	7	Harp Tacet.
	8	Violin Annotated
	9	Viola Annotated.
	10	Cello Annotated.
	11	Bass Annotated. Includes manuscript.
	12	Guitar Annotated. Includes manuscript.
	13	<i>Yankee Doodle Dandy</i> , undated Manuscript.
	14	Unidentified, undated
	15	Notes from original envelopes Notes written on the folders and envelopes where scores were kept. Includes an invoice for copying, probably of scores.

Series III: Oversized, 1980, undated

Scores, undated

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
16	1	<i>Balling The Jack</i> , undated Manuscript of full score.
	2	<i>Bi-centennial</i> , undated Arrangement by Bill Brohn. Manuscript of full score.
	3	<i>I Got Rhythm</i> , undated Arrangement by Peter Matz.
17	1	Script of <i>One Night Stand</i> , 1980 Includes production staff and acting company contact sheets. Annotated. Original binder includes drawings and notes.