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Music Division

Guide to the

Lynne Carter collection

1950s-1975 (bulk 1957-1972)

JPB 85-78

Compiled by Philip Heslip, October 2011

Summary

Creator: Carter, Lynne

Title: Lynne Carter collection, 1950s-1975 (bulk 1957-1972)

Size: 5.96 linear feet (24 boxes)

Source: Donated by unknown , 2011

Abstract: Entertainer, actor, and female impersonator Lynne Carter (ca.1924-1985) was a prominent drag performer who starred in a long-running show with the Jewel Box Review in the 1950s and 1960s. The Lynne Carter collection consists of manuscript music arrangements (vocal scores, conductor scores, and parts), lyrics sheets, scripts, set lists and other materials related to his performances and repertoire.

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

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Preferred citation: Lynne Carter collection, Music Division, The New York Public Library

Processing note

The scores have been organized alphabetically by song title with miscellaneous and oversized items (conductors scores) at the end.

Related collections

Fred Ebb papers, 1927-2004. Music Division, New York Public Library

Creator history

Entertainer, actor, and female impersonator Lynne Carter (ca.1924-1985) was a prominent drag performer who starred in a long-running show with the Jewel Box Review in the 1950s and 1960s. Carter was born in Cleveland, Ohio, and served in the United States Navy during World War II. He began his performance career in 1947 in a Chicago nightclub where he met Pearl Bailey who became an early supporter of his act. Carter typically performed in clubs and small theaters, primarily on the East and

West coasts. He worked with big bands (usually 15 musicians), small ensembles, and with a solo pianist, as well as other dancer groups, such as the Jewel Box Review Chorus Boys and the Four Cartiers. He impersonated many famous actresses and singers including Pearl Bailey, Josephine Baker, Tallulah Bankhead, Fanny Brice, Carol Channing, Cher, Bette Davis, Marlene Dietrich, Phyllis Diller, Hermione Gingold, Hildegard, Eartha Kit, Ethel Merman, Barbara Streisand, Kay Thompson, and Mae West. He also created several original characters. Carter recorded one album entitled *She's a He* in 1957 on Fiesta Records. He appeared on the Merv Griffin and Mike Douglas TV Shows (1960s), in the Fun City Review (1968), and in the film *The Man from O.R.G.Y.* (1970). In 1971 Carter became the first female impersonator to perform at Carnegie Hall. Carter's final performances were at the St. Regis-Sheraton Hotel in New York City in 1984. After suffering declining health caused by multiple heart attacks and AIDS related complications, Carter died of pneumonia in Manhattan in 1985.

References:

Coleman, Bud. "Carter, Lynne." In *The Gay and Lesbian Theatrical Legacy*, edited by Billy J. Harbin, Kim Marra, and Robert A. Schanke. University of Michigan, 2005.

Veasey, Jack. "Impersonation a 'labor of love' for Lynne Carter." *Philadelphia Gay News*, December 15, 1978.

Scope and content note

The Lynne Carter collection contains published and manuscript music arrangements (vocal scores, conductor scores, and parts), lyrics sheets, scripts, set lists, and other materials related to his performances and repertoire. The bulk of the collection documents Carter's performances at the height of his popularity in the 1960s and early 1970s.

Arrangement

The Lynne Carter collection are organized into the following series:

Series I: Scripts, Lyrics, and Set Lists, [1950s-1970s]

Series II: Scores and Parts, [1950s-1970s]

Key terms

Subjects

Camp (Style)

Drag shows

Gay actors -- United States

Gender identity

Occupations

Female impersonators -- United States.

Names

Anderson, Elman.

Carter, Lynne

Special formats

Scores.

Scripts.

Container list

Series I: Scripts, Lyrics, and Set Lists, [1950s-1970s] (1 box)

The Scripts, Lyrics, and Set Lists series is comprised of Carter's miscellaneous writings relating to his performances. These include typed and handwritten lyric sheets (many with sketch notes), monologues and dialogs, stage directions, sketch notes, jokes, and set lists documenting the order of songs and sketches for particular performances. The series documents Carter's impersonations of Mae West, Cher, Bette Davis, Phyllis Diller, Hermione Gingold, Ethel Merman, "Mrs. Onassis," and Pearl Bailey, among others. The script drafts and notes reveal Carter's humorous take on political and cultural topics of the 1960s and 1970s that often include comments on gender identity and gay issues.

b.1 f.1-5 Scripts, Lyrics, and Set Lists, [1950s-1970s]

Series II: Scores and Parts, [1950s-1970s] (23 boxes)

The Scores and Parts series, which makes up the bulk of the collection, contains music from 294 songs and several miscellaneous and untitled scores. This material includes conductor scores and parts for big band ensembles (typically 15 musicians), scores for small combos, and vocal scores (piano and solo voice). Occasionally typed lyric sheets are mixed in with the music. While many scores list an arranger, composer, and lyricist, few are dated. Arrangers include Elman Anderson, Danny Hurd, David Morton, Guy Phillips, Ted Simons, and Paul Weirick, among others. Notable items include the music for: "Bill Bailey Please Come Home" (Bette Davis sketch); "Be a Clown" (Phyllis Diller sketch); "In a Country Garden," "Whistle," and "Rule Britannica" (Gingold sketch); "Sunshine" (Pearl Bailey sketch); "Down in the Depths" (Hildegard sketch); "Steppin' Out—Hot Femininity" (Mae West sketch); and "Jubilee" (Kay Thompson sketch). Almost the entire series is undated.

- b.2 f.1 "Acknowledgment and Bows"
- b.2 f.2 "The Age of Elegance"
- b.2 f.3 "Ain't Got Nobody"
- b.2 f.4 "Ain't Misbehaving"
- b.2 f.5 "Ain't She Sweet"
- b.2 f.6 "Aint'ch Ever"
- b.2 f.7 "Angel"
- b.2 f.8 "Anne's Lament"
- b.2 f.9 "Applause"
- b.2 f.10 "Are You Havin' Any Fun"
- b.2 f.11 "Are You Ready For Me"
- b.2 f.12 "Around the World"
- b.2 f.13 "As Long as I Live"
- b.2 f.14 "As Long as They Mention My Name"
- b.3 f.1 "At Seventy"
- b.3 f.2 "Au Revoir"
- b.3 f.3 "Auction"
- b.3 f.4 "The Ballet", 1953
- b.3 f.5 "Be A Clown", 1964
- b.3 f.6 "Beautiful"
- b.3 f.7 "Beautiful People"
- b.3 f.8 "Bene Fanfare"
- b.4 f.1 "Bette Davis"

Series II: Scores and Parts (cont.)

- b.4 f.2 "Better"
- b.4 f.3 "Beverly Hills, LA", 1954
- b.4 f.4 "Big Fat Heart"
- b.4 f.5 "Big Mother", 1972
- b.4 f.6 "Bill Bailey"
- b.4 f.7 "Black Market"
- b.5 f.1 "Bossa Nova"
- b.5 f.2 "Boy From Fire Island"
- b.5 f.3 "Boy From Provincetown"
- b.5 f.4 "The Boys"
- b.5 f.5 "Bunny Numbers"
- b.5 f.6 "But What Are These"
- b.5 f.7 "Butterfly"
- b.5 f.8 "Cabaret"
- b.5 f.9 "Cadillac"
- b.5 f.10 "Caribbean"
- b.5 f.11 "Carnegie Overture"
- b.5 f.12 "Cello"
- b.5 f.13 "Chattanooga Choo Choo"
- b.5 f.14 "Cher Numbrt"
- b.5 f.15 "Chic"
- b.5 f.16 "Christmas Mopping"
- b.6 f.1 "Clap Yo Hands"
- b.6 f.2 "A Clean Cut American Boy"
- b.6 f.3 "Close to You"
- b.6 f.4 "Co-operation"
- b.6 f.5 "Cocktail Party"
- b.6 f.6 "Cook"
- b.6 f.7 "Curtain Bows"
- b.6 f.8 "The Curtain Falls"
- b.6 f.9 "Davis"
- b.6 f.10 "Disney for Adults"
- b.7 f.1 "Dolly"
- b.7 f.2 "Doin' What You Love to Do"
- b.7 f.3 "Don't Like 'Em"
- b.7 f.4 "Don't Sit on My Bed"
- b.7 f.5 "Don't Tell Mama"
- b.7 f.6 "Down in the Cellar"
- b.7 f.7 "Down in the Depths"

Series II: Scores and Parts (cont.)

- b.7 f.8 "Dracula"
- b.7 f.9 "East River"
- b.7 f.10 "East Side-West Side"
- b.7 f.11 "Empty House"
- b.7 f.12 "Entertainment"
- b.7 f.13 "Entrance"
- b.7 f.14 "Esto Es Felicidad"
- b.7 f.15 "Ev'rybody Today is Turning On"
- b.7 f.16 "Everybody Says Don't"
- b.7 f.17 "Everglades"
- b.7 f.18 "Facade"
- b.8 f.1 "Face"
- b.8 f.2 "Fifteen Years"
- b.8 f.3 "Finale"
- b.8 f.4 "Flaming Youth"
- b.8 f.5 "Flapper I", ca.1954
- b.9 f.1 "Flapper II"
- b.9 f.2 "Flash"
- b.9 f.3 "From This Moment On"
- b.9 f.4 "Fun City"
- b.9 f.5 "Funny Face"
- b.9 f.6 "Get It Off Your Mind"
- b.9 f.7 "Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor"
- b.9 f.8 "Glamour"
- b.9 f.9 "Go Back Where You Stayed Last Night"
- b.9 f.10 "Good Enough For Me"
- b.9 f.11 "Good Lovin's Is A Healin' Thing"
- b.9 f.12 "A Good Man Bit the Dust"
- b.10 f.1 "Good Times"
- b.10 f.2 "Gorgeous"
- b.10 f.3 "The Grass is Always Greener"
- b.10 f.4 "Guts"
- b.10 f.5 "Gypsy in My Soul"
- b.10 f.6 "Hairdresser"
- b.10 f.7 "Have I let You Down"
- b.10 f.8 "He Didn't Have the Know How"
- b.10 f.9 "He's Gone"
- b.10 f.10 "Heat Wave"
- b.10 f.11 "Hello Dolly"

Series II: Scores and Parts (cont.)

- b.10 f.12 "Hello Hello"
- b.10 f.13 "Here For the Season"
- b.10 f.14 "Hermione"
- b.11 f.1 "Hey There Good Times"
- b.11 f.2 "Hole in the Hand"
- b.11 f.3 "Home Sweet Home"
- b.11 f.4 "Honeysuckle"
- b.11 f.5 "House of Flowers"
- b.11 f.6 "How Deep is the Ocean"
- b.11 f.7 "Hussey for My Husband"
- b.11 f.8 "I Ain't Getting Any Younger/I Ain't Talking"
- b.11 f.9 "I Always Get Stuck/I Always Have Everything Delivered"
- b.11 f.10 "I Bone"
- b.11 f.11 "I Can't Sing"
- b.11 f.12 "I Didn't Raise My Girl"
- b.11 f.13 "I Heard"
- b.11 f.14 "I Love Being Here With You"
- b.11 f.15 "I Was Beautiful"
- b.12 f.8 "It Was Worth It/It'll Get Worse"
- b.11 f.16 "I Wear the Pants"
- b.11 f.17 "I Wouldn't Walk Across the Street"
- b.11 f.18 "I'd Like to Hate Myself"
- b.12 f.1 "I'm an Indian/I'm Mad About Everything Old"
- b.12 f.2 "I'm Gonna Keep On Doin'"
- b.12 f.3 "I'm Sick of '76"
- b.12 f.4 "I've Got a Crush on You"
- b.12 f.5 "I've Written a Letter Today/I've Still Got My Health"
- b.12 f.6 "In Between"
- b.12 f.7 "Intimate"
- b.12 f.9 "It's Great to Be Alive/It's Not Where You Start"
- b.12 f.10 "Jewel Song"
- b.12 f.11 "Johnson Rag"
- b.12 f.12 "Jubilee"
- b.12 f.13 "Keep Off the Grass/Keep On Doing"
- b.12 f.14 "A Lady Needs Everything"
- b.12 f.15 "Lampoon For Louie"
- b.12 f.16 "Land of Itsy Poo"
- b.12 f.17 "Laziest Gal in Town/Lazy - That's All"
- b.12 f.18 "Legalize"

Series II: Scores and Parts (cont.)

- b.12 f.19 "Let Me Do My Thing"
- b.12 f.20 "Life of the Party/Life is Peaches/Life can Be Beautiful"
- b.12 f.21 "Lilly Marlene"
- b.13 f.1 "Little Girl Blues"
- b.13 f.2 "A Little Learnin' Can Be A Dangerous Talking"
- b.13 f.3 "Louisiana Purchase"
- b.13 f.4 "Love at an Auction"
- b.13 f.5 "Lovely"
- b.13 f.6 "Lucky Day"
- b.13 f.7 "Lynne is Back!"
- b.13 f.9 "Mae West"
- b.13 f.8 "Ma."
- b.13 f.10 "Madison Avenue"
- b.13 f.12 "Manufactured Woman"
- b.13 f.11 "Manners"
- b.14 f.1 "Marlene Dietrich I"
- b.14 f.2 "Marlene Dietrich II"
- b.14 f.3 "Mascara"
- b.14 f.4 "Max Sennett"
- b.14 f.5 "Me and My Shadow"
- b.14 f.6 "Merman Medley"
- b.14 f.7 "Million Dollar Baby"
- b.14 f.8 "Mink"
- b.15 f.1 "Miss Liberty"
- b.15 f.2 "Mommy of the Mummy"
- b.15 f.3 "Mondo Mondo"
- b.15 f.4 "More Than One Man in Her Life"
- b.15 f.5 "Morris Was Nice"
- b.15 f.6 "Mother"
- b.15 f.7 "Mrs. Ewell Gibbons"
- b.15 f.8 "My Man"
- b.15 f.9 "My Opening Song"
- b.15 f.10 "My Way"
- b.15 f.11 "Myrtle"
- b.15 f.12 "New Shoes"
- b.15 f.13 "Nine to Five"
- b.15 f.14 "Night Life"
- b.16 f.1 "No Matter What Happens"
- b.16 f.2 "Nobody"

Series II: Scores and Parts (cont.)

- b.16 f.3 "Nobody Makes a Pass at Me"
- b.16 f.4 "Noodle 'Til Garlic"
- b.16 f.5 "Notain"
- b.16 f.6 "Nothing Like a Dame"
- b.16 f.7 "007"
- b.16 f.8 "Obscene Phone Call-Mae West"
- b.16 f.9 "Old Man You've Been Gone too Long"
- b.16 f.10 "Old Time Tunes"
- b.16 f.11 "One of the Boys/Girls"
- b.16 f.12 "Opening"
- b.17 f.1 "Parade of Clowns"
- b.17 f.2 "Pastimes"
- b.17 f.3 "Pearl Bailey"
- b.17 f.4 "Phone Call From a Stranger"
- b.17 f.5 "Phyllis Diller"
- b.17 f.6 "Poor Butterfly"
- b.17 f.7 "Poor Joan"
- b.17 f.8 "Poor Suzette"
- b.17 f.9 "Portnoy's Complaint"
- b.17 f.10 "Protect Me"
- b.17 f.11 "Purlie"
- b.17 f.12 "Quiet Please There's a Lady on Stage"
- b.17 f.13 "Razzle Dazzle"
- b.17 f.14 "Ridin' On the Moon"
- b.17 f.15 "Right Place"
- b.17 f.16 "Right Side"
- b.17 f.17 "Ritzi Ritzi Rags"
- b.17 f.18 "Row Row Row"
- b.17 f.19 "Rule Britannica"
- b.18 f.1 "S'Wonderful"
- b.18 f.2 "Sad to Be a Clown"
- b.18 f.3 "The Sales Lady"
- b.18 f.4 "San Francisco"
- b.18 f.5 "Say it Simple"
- b.18 f.6 "Scoop Up Your Poop"
- b.18 f.7 "Secret Agent"
- b.18 f.8 "Senior Citizen"
- b.18 f.9 "Shaking My Can"
- b.18 f.10 "She Had to Go and Lose it At the Astor"

Series II: Scores and Parts (cont.)

- b.18 f.11 "She's Something Spanish"
- b.18 f.12 "Since I Became a Hissy"
- b.18 f.13 "Since My Number Came In"
- b.18 f.14 "Some days There Just Ain't No Fish"
- b.18 f.15 "Something for the Girls"
- b.18 f.16 "Something's Gotta Give"
- b.18 f.17 "Sosette" (Ending)
- b.18 f.18 "St. Louis Blues"
- b.19 f.1 "Start!"
- b.19 f.2 "Steambath (Night at the)"
- b.19 f.3 "Streakin' Mae"
- b.19 f.4 "Streisand Impression"
- b.19 f.5 "The Stripper"
- b.19 f.6 "A Sunday Kind of Love"
- b.19 f.7 "Sunny"
- b.19 f.8 "Sunshine"
- b.19 f.9 "Sweethearts"
- b.20 f.1 "Tacky"
- b.20 f.2 "Tag"
- b.20 f.3 "Talullah!"
- b.20 f.4 "That Certain Feeling"
- b.20 f.5 "That's Life"
- b.20 f.6 "That's No Way to Do"
- b.20 f.7 "That's Why I'm Working"
- b.20 f.8 "There Must Be Something Better Than Love"
- b.20 f.9 "This Brie Facade"
- b.20 f.10 "Tired"
- b.20 f.11 "Tobacco Rued"
- b.20 f.12 "Tomorrow"
- b.20 f.13 "Tootsie I"
- b.21 f.1 "Tootsie II"
- b.21 f.2 "Torch Song"
- b.21 f.3 "Toulouse L'Autrec"
- b.21 f.4 "Turnin' On"
- b.21 f.5 "Two to Tango"
- b.21 f.6 "Typically English"
- b.22 f.1 "Understudy's Going On"
- b.22 f.2 "Up Yours"
- b.22 f.3 "Venice"

Series II: Scores and Parts (cont.)

- b.22 f.4 "Vice"
- b.22 f.5 "Walking Happy"
- b.22 f.6 "Was That The Human Thing to Do"
- b.22 f.7 "Watch What Happens"
- b.22 f.8 "What Kind of Life is That?"
- b.22 f.9 "Wheel of Fortune"
- b.22 f.10 "Where Did the Night Go"
- b.22 f.11 "While the Iron's Hot"
- b.22 f.12 "Whistle"
- b.22 f.13 "Who's That Woman"
- b.22 f.14 "A Woman's Prerogative"
- b.22 f.15 "Wonderful Time"
- b.22 f.16 "Words Out of Your Mouth"
- b.23 f.1 "Yes I Can"
- b.23 f.2 "You Are Not My First Love"
- b.23 f.3 "You Got A Friend"
- b.23 f.4 "You Gotta Make A Buck"
- b.23 f.5 "You've Got it Made"
- b.23 f.6 "Zing"
- b.23 f.7 Miscellaneous Scores General
- b.23 f.8 Miscellaneous Scores Drums
- b.23 f.9 Miscellaneous Scores Conductor
- Oversized
- b.24 f.1 "Aint'cha Ever "
- b.24 f.2 "Are You Ready For Me"
- b.24 f.3 "Auction"
- b.24 f.4 "Carnegie Overture"
- b.24 f.5 "Gorgeous"
- b.24 f.6 "I Enjoy Being Here With You"
- b.24 f.7 "A Lady Needs Everything"
- b.24 f.8 "New Shoes"
- b.24 f.9 "Night Life"
- b.24 f.10 "She Had to Go and Lose it at the Astor"
- b.24 f.11 "Streisand"
- b.24 f.12 "Sunshine"
- b.24 f.13 "Tis Brief Facade"
- b.24 f.14 "Understudy's Going On"
- b.24 f.15 "Wonderful Time"