

The New York Public Library
New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center
Music Division

Guide to the

William Engvick collection of Alec Wilder scores

1930-1991

JPB 13-22

Compiled by Matthew Snyder, September 2013

Summary

Creator: Engvick, William

Title: William Engvick collection of Alec Wilder scores, 1930-1991

Size: .75 linear foot (3 boxes)

Source: Donated by William Engvick in 2000.

Abstract: The William Engvick collection of Alec Wilder scores holds sketches, lead sheets, piano reductions, or full scores for musicals and individual songs by Engvick and Wilder, as well as for music Wilder wrote with other collaborators, or by himself.

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

Copyright information: For permission to publish, contact the Chief, Music Division, New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Preferred citation: William Engvick collection of Alec Wilder scores, JPB 13-22. Music Division, The New York Public Library.

Custodial history: William Engvick created the collection over the course of his working partnership with Alec Wilder.

Processing note: Physical processing consisted of foldering scores and scripts.

Related collections

Alec Wilder papers, 1939-2000. Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.

Creator history

William Engvick (1914-2012) was a lyricist whose work appeared in theatrical and television musicals, as well as in film scores. He is best known for his partnership with the composer Alec Wilder (1907-1980). Their collaborations included the Broadway musical *Once Over Lightly*; the NBC television musical productions *Miss Chicken Little*, *Pinocchio*, and *Hansel and Gretel*; at least two unproduced musicals, *Chance Of A Ghost* and *Don't Look Now*; and several songs not associated with theatrical productions.

Scope and content note

The William Engvick collection of Alec Wilder scores holds sketches, lead sheets, piano reductions, or full scores for musicals and individual songs by Engvick and Wilder, as well as for music Wilder wrote with other collaborators, or by himself.

The scores are in two divisions: works written by Wilder with Engvick, and works written by Wilder with other lyricists, or alone.

The Engvick-Wilder work is sub-divided into songs and theatrical productions. The songs are not associated with a particular project. One of them, Spring Magic, has music co-written with Bert Reisfeld. The Story Of A Good Man is a cantata which Engvick grouped with the songs. The cantata is in the form of a piano score; the other song folders hold lead sheets.

The theatrical scores are made up mostly of lead sheets, but may also contain piano reductions, sketches, scripts, or lyric sheets. They include the unproduced musicals Chance Of A Ghost (1943) and Don't Look Now (1944); and the NBC television musical productions Miss Chicken Little (1953), Pinocchio (1957), and Hansel and Gretel (1958).

Among the scores in the collection that Wilder composed with other lyricists are Jack in the Country (1974), a musical with lyrics by Ethan Ayer; Cumberland Fair: A Jamboree (1953), an opera with a libretto by Arnold Sundgaard (the collection holds a copy of the full orchestral score manuscript); and the Wilder/Sundgaard musical, Western Star (1948, also known as The Wind Blows Free or Way Up Yonder). Wilder's lead sheets for the film Open the Door (And See all the People) (1964) are also present, as are manuscripts for two songs. One of them, Time and Tide, has lyrics by Wilder as well as music. In addition to incidental music, Wilder's score for Open the Door (And See all the People) contains one song, with lyrics by Engvick.

Box 1, folder 1 contains a list of Wilder-Engvick songs, a few of which do not appear in this collection. A list of all the Wilder theatrical projects in this collection (written both with and without Engvick) and the songs within them is in box 1, folder 9.

Many of the manuscript lead sheets in the collection were written by copyists, not Wilder. The shows Don't Look Now, Hansel and Gretel, Jack in the Country, and Western Star contain sketches and lead sheets in Wilder's hand.

Arrangement

Engvick's arrangement of two score divisions was not altered, with the exception of the alphabetical arrangement of songs or productions within those divisions.

Key terms

Subjects

Musicals

Names

Engvick, William

Reisfeld, Bert, 1906-1991

Wilder, Alec

Occupations

Composers

Lyricists

Musicians

Special formats
Scores
Scripts

Container list

Works by Alec Wilder and William Engvick

Songs

- b.1 f.1 "An Ad in the Times", undated
- b.1 f.2 "I Can't Sit Still", 1952, 1987, 1991
- b.1 f.3 "I Liked Him Not at All", undated
- b.1 f.4 "The Result Was Dad", undated
- b.1 f.5 "The Shiftless Man", undated
- b.1 f.6 "Spring Magic", undated
- b.1 f.7 *The Story of a Good Man*, undated
- b.1 f.8 "Technique", undated

Theatrical and Television Works

- b.1 f.9 *Chance of a Ghost*, 1943, 1955
- b.1 f.10 *Don't Look Now*, 1944
- b.1 f.11-12 *Hansel and Gretel*, 1958
- b.2 f.1 *Miss Chicken Little*, 1953
- b.3 f.1 *Pinocchio*, 1957

Other Works

- b.2 f.2 *Cumberland Fair: A Jamboree*, 1953
- b.3 f.2 "Her First Party Dress", undated (Song, no lyrics.)
- b.3 f.3-4 *Jack in the Country*, 1974
- b.3 f.5 *Open the Door (And See all the People)*, 1964
- b.3 f.6 "Time and Tide", 1930
- b.3 f.7 *Western Star*, 1948