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# Betty Comden Scores 1938-1975

Call No: JPB 03-22

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# **Summary**

Main entry: Comden, Betty

**Title:** Betty Comden Scores, 1938-1975

Call No: JPB 03-22

Size: 2 lf. linear feet (8 boxes)

**Source:** Betty Comden; transferred from Theatre Collection

**Abstract:** Betty Comden, lyricist and part of the creative team of Comden and Green,

wrote lyrics for many Broadway shows of the 50s and 60s. The collections consists of vocal scores, parts and sketches for musicals of which Comden

and Green were part of the creative team.

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**information:** New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

**Preferred citation:** Betty Comden Scores, Music Division, The New York Public Library for

the Performing Arts.

#### Related materials note

Comden and Green Papers. Billy Rose Theatre Collection.

# Biographical note

Betty Comden, part of the successful team of Comden and Green, collaborated as lyricists from 1938 until the present. Betty Comden was born in 1919 in Brooklyn, New York. After graduating from New York University, she began her career as a performer and writer in a cabaret act called The Revuers. Adolph Green was born in 1915 in the Bronx, New York. After a short career on Wall Street, Mr. Green joined *The Revuers* in 1938 and the Comden and Green team was formed.

Comden and Green wrote the book and/or lyrics for such Broadway shows as *On the Town* (1944), *Billion Dollar Baby* (1945), *Bonanza Bound* (1947), *Two on the Aisle* (1951), *Wonderful Town* (1953), *Peter Pan* (1954), *Bells are Ringing* (1956), *Say Darling* (1958), *A Party With Betty Comden and Adolph Green* (1958), *Do Re Mi* (1960), *Subways are for Sleeping* (1961), *Fade Out-Fade In* (1964), *Hallelujah, Baby!* (1967), *Applause* (1970), *Lorelei* (1974), *Straws in the Wind* (1975), *By Bernstein* (1975), *On the Twentieth Century* (1977), *A Doll's Llife* (1982), *Singin' in the Rain* (1985) and *Will Rogers Follies* (1991).

Comden and Green wrote many screen plays including *Good News* (1947), *The Barkleys of Broadway* (1949), *On the Town* (1949), *Take Me Out to the Ball Game* (1949), *Singin' in the Rain* (1952), *The Band Wagon* (1953), *It's Always Fair Weather* (1955), *Auntie Mame* (1958), *Bells are Ringing* (1960) and *What a Way to Go!* (1964). They have also written for television, radio, night clubs and recordings. They have won numerous awards including Oscar nominations and Tony awards for *Wonderful Town*, *Hallelujah Baby!*, *Applause*, *On the Twentieth Century* and *Will Rogers Follies*.

# **Scope and content note**

The Betty Comden Scores consist primarily of vocal scores for Broadway songs with lyrics by Comden and Green. Though there are some manuscript works in the collection, it is primarily published copies of scores. Productions include *On the Town, Wonderful Town, Good News, The Revuers* (Comden and Green's first collaboration), *Bells are Ringing, Billion Dollar Baby, Do-Re-Mi, Fade Out-Fade In, Subways are for Sleeping* and *Hallelujah Baby!*, among others. Of special note are songs from the unproduced work *Exception and the Rule*.

# **Organization**

The Betty Comden Scores are organized in the following series:

Series I: *The Bells Are Ringing* by Jule Styne Series II: *Billion Dollar Baby* by Morton Gould Series III: *Bonanza Bound* by Saul Chaplin Series IV: *By Bernstein* by Leonard Bernstein

Series V: Do-Re-Mi by Jule Styne

Series VI: The Exception and the Rule by Leonard Bernstein, 1968

Series VII: *Fade Out, Fade In* by Jule Styne Series VIII: *Good News* (Motion picture) Series IX: *Hallelujah, Baby!* by Jule Styne

Series X: *It's Always Fair Weather* (Motion picture)

Series XI: Lorelei by Jule Styne

Series XII: On the Town by Leonard Bernstein

Series XIII: *Peter Pan* by Jule Styne Series XIV: *The Revuers* by J. Frank Series XV: *Say, Darling* by Jule Styne

Series XVI: Subways Are For Sleeping by Jule Styne

Series XVII: Two On the Aisle by Jule Styne

Series XVIII: West Side Story by Leonard Bernstein Series XIX: What a Way To Go! (Motion picture) Series XX: Wonderful Town by Leonard Bernstein

# **Series descriptions and Container Listing**

# Series I: The Bells Are Ringing by Jule Styne

21 folders

*The Bells are Ringing* opened at the Shubert Theatre on Broadway, November 29, 1956. Produced by the Theatre Guild, it was composed by Jule Styne with lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green. The production was choreographed by Jerome Robbins and Bob Fosse, and was directed by Robbins. Cast members included July Holliday, Sydney Chaplin, Jean Stapleton, Eddie Lawrence and Peter Gennaro.

This series includes primarily vocal scores from the both the stage production and the movie version. In addition, are songs published only in the vocal score. Songs included from the movie are *Better Than a Dream* and *Do It Yourself*. There appears to be some songs included that were not used in the production.

Box	Fol	
	<del></del>	Better Than a Dream
1	1	vocal score
	2	patter - duet
		Do It Yourself
	3	vocal score (2 copies)
	4	vocal score - revised
	5	Girl Utility
	6	Hello, Hello There (mazurka)
	7	Hello Mazurka
		I Met a Girl
	8	in E
	9	in F
	10	In Salzburg by the Sea
	11	Is it a Crime?
	12	It's a Perfect Relationship
	13	It's a Simple Little System
	14	Just in Time
	15	Mu-cha-cha
	16	Oogie Utility
		The Party's Over
	17	with intro
	18	vocal score
	19	Party Utility
	20	Santa's Lullaby
	21	Choral Selections

# Series II: Billion Dollar Baby by Morton Gould

11 folders

*Billion Dollar Baby* opened at the Alvin Theatre on December 21, 1945. Composed by Morton Gould with lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green. It was directed by George Abbott and choreographed by Jerome Robbins.

This series contains vocal scores from the production.

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1 22 Atlantic City
23 Billion Dollar Baby
```

Box	Fol	
	24	Broadway Blossom
	25	Dreams Come True (2 copies)
	26	Everything I Want Belongs to Me
	27	Faithless
	28	I'm Having the Time of My Life
		One Track Mind
	29	chorus
	30	verse
	31	Pals
	32	There I'd Be

# Series III: Bonanza Bound by Saul Chaplin

1 folder

*Bonanza Bound* opened in Philadelphia on December 26, 1947. Music was by Saul Chapin with lyrics by Comden and Green. The production closed out of town.

Vocal score for the song I Know It's True from Bonanza Bound.

1 33 I Know It's True

# Series IV: By Bernstein by Leonard Bernstein

1 folder

By Bernstein opened Off-Broadway at the Chelsea Westside Theatre on November 23, 1975. Composed by Leonard Bernstein, it was conceived and written by Betty Comden and Adolph Green. Lyrics were by Leonard Berstein, with some by Comden and Green. The production was directed by Michael Bawtree and was a revue mostly of never-performed works by Leonard Bernstein.

This series contains the score for Another Love, lyrics by Comden and Green.

1 34 Another Love

# Series V: *Do-Re-Mi* by Jule Styne

21 folders

*Do-Re-Mi* opened at the St. James Theatre on December 26, 1960. Composed by Jule Styne, lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green. Book by Garson Kanin, directed by Garson Kanin. Choreographed by Marc Breaux and Dee Dee Wood.

This series consists of vocal scores for most of the published songs for the production.

2	1	All of My Life
	2	All You Need is a Quarter (2 copies)
	3	Ambition
	4	Cry Like the Wind
	5	Don't Be Afraid of a Teardrop
	6	Don't Try to Figure It Out
	7	Faraway Home
		Fireworks
	8	intro
	9	vocal scores

2	10	He's a V.I.P.
		I Know About Love
	11	vocal score
	12	revised vocal score, 20 Dec. 1960
		It's Legitimate
	13	vocal score
	14	patter (annotated)
	15	Life's Not That Simple
		Someone Happy
	16	ballad
	17	verse
	18	parts
	19	She Doesn't Understand Me
	20	What's New at the Zoo?
	21	Who Gets the Table? (2 copies)

# Series VI: *The Exception and the Rule* by Leonard Bernstein, 1968 6 folders

The Exception and the Rule (1968) is an unproduced musical with music by Leonard Bernstein and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. Based on *The Exception and the Rule* by Bertolt Brecht, the book was written by John Guare and directed by Jerome Robbins.

This series consists of scores for songs written for this musical. Of special note is the piece Urga which though reported to not have been written is included. It is unknown as to why this material is included in the Comden Scores since Comden and Green do not appear to be involved in the creative team.

2 22 The Race Through the Desert (Scene 1)
23 Han (Scene 2)
24 Han (Trio) (Scene 3 At the Inn)
25 The Coolie's Dilemma (Scene 3 At the Inn)
26 Urga Marches (Scene 4 In the Desert)
27 In There (Scene 5 At the River)

# Series VII: Fade Out, Fade In by Jule Styne

29 folders

*Fade Out -- Fade In* opened at the Mark Hellinger Theatre on May 26, 1964. It was composed by Jule Styne with book and lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green. The production was directed by George Abbott and choreographed by Ernest Flatt.

This series consists of vocal scores. Most of the songs are not included in the music published for the production. Many of the songs may have been renamed.

3	1	Answer My Heart
	2	Everybody Loves a Winner
	3	Fade In, Fade Out (sketch)
	4	Forbidden Fruit
	5	Getting Married or Living as One
		A Girl to Remember
	6	piano / conductor score
	7	vocal score
	8	sketches

3	9	Hot Dog (sketch)
		I Can't Go Back
	10	vocal score
	11	sketch
	12	I'm With You (sketch)
	13	I Need Some (sketches)
	14	It's Just a Matter of Time
	15	Jaded Ladyt
	16	Love is Our Umbrella
	17	Love is Where the Heart Is (sketches)
	18	My Heart is LIke a Violin
		Notice Me
	19	piano / conductor score
	20	vocal scores (2 copies)
	21	Roots
	22	She's Nice
	23	Take the Time to Fall in Love
	24	The Usher From the Mezzanine
	25	The Violin (sketch)
	26	You're Welcome
	27	Untitled Sketches
	28	Untitled Sketches
	29	Untitled Sketches

# Series VIII: Good News (Motion picture)

9 folders

The motion picture *Good News* opened in 1947 with music by Ray Henderson, Buddy DeSylva, Roger Edens, Ralph Blane and Hugh Martin. Based on the musical of the same name, it writers included the team of Comden and Green, Buddy DeSylva, Ray Henderson, Frank Mandel and Laurence Schwab. It was directed by Charles Walters.

This series contains vocal scores for many of the songs in the show, including works by Buddy DeSylva, Lew Brown, Ray Henderson and Roger Edens. Songs include *The Best Things in Life are Free* and *Pass That Peace Pipe*.

	The Best Things in Life Are Free
30	vocal score
31	vocal score - Torme version
32	An Easier Way
33	Examination Sequence
34	He's a Ladies' Man
35	Lucky in Love
36	Lucky in Love: Reprise
37	Tait College
38	Pass the Peace Pipe
	written by Roger Edens for the motion picture Good News

# Series IX: Hallelujah, Baby! by Jule Styne

1 box, 16 folders

*Hallelujah*, *Baby!* opened on April 26, 1967 at the Martin Beck Theatre. Music composed by Jule Styne, lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green. Based on the book by Arthur Laurents, it was directed by Burt Shevelove and choreographed by Kevin Carlisle.

This series contains vocal scores from the production. Many of the titles contained in the series are not listed in the listing of published songs from the production. This may mean that titles were changed or songs were cut.

```
Another Day
3
        39
                       intro
        40
                       verse
        41
                       arranged score
        42
                    Back in the Kitchen
                    Being Good Isn't Good Enough
        43
                       vocal score
        44
                       revised vocal score, 27 Jan. 1967
        45
                       revised vocal score, 8 Feb. 1967
                    Big Talk
        46
        47
                    Double-Double
                    Farewell, Farewell
        48
        49
                    Feet Do Your Stuff
                    Hallelujah, Baby!
        50
                       vocal score
                       revised, 16 Nov. 1966 (2 copies)
        51
        52
                   I Don't Know Where She Got It
        53
                    I Got De Answer
        54
                    I've Got the Answer (ensemble)
        1
                    I Want to Get Arrested
4
        2
                    I Wanted to Change Him
                    In My Own Morning
                       One score entitled (I Want to Wake Up) In My Own Morning
        3
                       vocal score
        4
                       chorus
        5
                       verse
        6
                       vocal score revision, 9 Aug. 1966
        7
        8
                    The Natives Are Restless! (2 copies)
        9
                    Not Mine
        10
                    Overture
                    The Slice
        11
                       vocal score
                       vocal score revision, 8 Sept. 1966
        12
                    Smile, Smile
        13
                       vocal score
        14
                       vocal score revised, 5 Dec. 1966
        15
                    Someone to Live For (lyrics only)
                    The Spiel
        16
                       1
        17
                       2
                       3
        18
```

		Talking to Yourself
4	19	vocal score revised, 9 Aug. 1966
	20	vocal score revised, 19 Aug. 1966
	21	vocal score revised, 8 Sept. 1966
	22	They'd Never Get Along Without Us (sketch)
	23	Ugly, Ugly Gal
	24	Watch My Dust
	25	When?
	26	Witches Polka (Also known as Double-Double; sketches)
	27	You Ain't Gonna Shake Them Feathers
		You and Me!
	28	vocal score
	29	vocal score revised, 21 Aug. 1966
	30	Your Kind of Man
		You're Welcome
	31	vocal score
	32	vocal score revised, 19 Aug. 1966
	33	Untitled Sketch

# Series X: It's Always Fair Weather (Motion picture)

19 folders

The motion picture *It's Always Fair Weather* opened in 1955, directed by Gene Kelly and Stanley Donen. Story by Betty Comden and Adolph Green. Music by Andre Previn with lyrics by Comden and Green.

This series consists primarily of vocal scores for songs in the motion picture. Many of the scores are in manuscript form. Some of the songs also have music for individual parts.

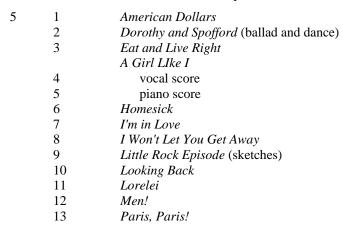
```
34
            Baby You Knock Me Out
            I Like Myself
35
               vocal score
36
               parts (manuscript)
            Love is Nothin' But a Racket
37
               vocal score
38
               parts (manuscript)
            March, March
39
               vocal score
40
               parts (manuscript)
41
            Never Leave (verse)
            Never Never Again
42
            Once Upon a Time
43
               vocal scores (2 copies, 1 annotated)
44
               parts (manuscript)
           Stillman's Gym
45
               vocal score
               vocal score (includes Baby You Knock Me Out)
46
47
               parts (manuscript)
            Thanks a Lot But No Thanks
               vocal score
48
49
               parts (manuscript)
            The Time For Parting
50
               vocal score
51
               parts (manuscript)
52
            Wond'rin'
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# **Box** Fol Series XI: Lorelei by Jule Styne

13 folders

Lorelei or Gentlemen Still Prefer Blondes opened on January 27, 1974 at the Palace Theatre. Music was composed by Jule Styne with lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green. Based on the musical Gentlemen Prefer Blondes, it included new book material by Kenny Solms and Gail Parent. It was directed by Robert Moore and choreographed by Ernest Flatt.

This series contains songs written for either the production of *Lorelei* or the original production of *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, of which Lorelei was a sequel. Many of the songs lists are not included in the published list so there is a possibility these pieces were either renamed or cut from the production.



#### Series XII: On the Town by Leonard Bernstein

17 folders

On the Town opened on December 28, 1944 at the Adelphi Theatre. It was composed by Leonard Bernstein with lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green. Based on the ballet Fancy Free by Leonard Bernstein and Jerome Robbins, it was directed by George Abbott and choreographed by Jerome Robbins.

This series consists of vocal scores for the production. Of special note are copies of the conductor's and director's scores. Since many of the titles listed vary from those listed in the production, it is assumed that song titles were changed or some songs were not used.

5	14	Conductor's score
6	1	Director's score
	2	Act I Opening
	3	Ain't Got No Tears Left
	4	Carnegie Hall Pavane
	5	Carried Away (sketches)
	6	High School Girls
	7	Imaginary Coney Island (Pas de Deux)
	8	Intermission
	9	It's Gotta Be Bad to Be Good
	10	Lonely Me
		Lonely Town
	11	vocal score
	12	pas de deux
	13	Pitkin's Coda

- 6 14 Pitkin's Song
  - 15 Taxi Number (Come Up to My Place)
  - 16 *Ya Got Me* (encore)

# Series XIII: Peter Pan by Jule Styne

4 folders

*Peter Pan* opened on October 20, 1954 at the Winter Garden Theatre. Music was written by Jule Styne and Mark "Moose" Charlap, lyrics by Betty Comden, Adolph Green and Carolyn Leigh. Based on the play *Peter Pan* by James M. Barrie, directed and choreographed by Jerome Robbins. This was the 4th musical version of *Peter Pan* to be produced. Other composers included Leonard Bernstein.

This series contains vocal scores from the musical *Peter Pan*. Of special note is one song entitled *Captain Hook's Soliloquy*. Written by Leonard Bernstein, there is no evidence which version of the production it is from, though it probably was written for the third production (1950) since the music and lyrics for the 1950 production was written by Leonard Bernstein.

- 6 17 Captain Hook's Soliloguy
  - 18 Distant Melody (choral arrangement)
  - 19 Oh, My Mysterious Lady
  - 20 Medley (choral arrangement)

# Series XIV: The Revuers by J. Frank

14 folders

The Revuers, a comedic group consisting of Betty Comden, Adolph Green, Judy Holliday (Tuvim), Alvin Hammer, and John Frank began working at the Village Vanguard, a bohemian nightclub in Greenwich Village in 1938. Their satirical show of songs, dances, and skits enjoyed initial success and went from the Vanguard to engagements at uptown theaters and nightclubs and on radio, but flopped in Hollywood. This was the beginning of the collaboration of Comden and Green.

Comic songs used in the sketches and production numbers of *The Revuers*. One score included is the *Finale from Symphony No. 4* by Tchaikovsky.

- 6 21 Advertising (parts)
  - 22 The Banshee Sisters (parts)
  - 23 The Baroness Bazooka (parts)
- 7 1 *Inventors Opening* 
  - 2 Joan Crawford Fan Club (parts)
  - 3 *Movie Villains* (parts)
  - 4 A Night in Philadelphia (parts)
  - 5 Psychopaths (parts)
  - 6 Revuers' Theme (parts)
  - 7 The Shoe Horn (parts)
  - 8 Silk Worms (parts)
  - 9 Symphony No. 4 Finale (composed by Tchaikovsky; bass part)
  - 10 Tin Pan Alley (parts)
  - 11 *Variety Says* (parts)

# **Box** Fol Series XV: Say, Darling by Jule Styne

7 folders

*Say, Darling* opened at the ANTA Theatre on April 3, 1958. Music composed by Jule Styne, lyrics byt Betty Comden and Adolph Green. The book was written by Richard and Martin Bissell and Abe Burrows, based on the novel by Richard Bissell. The production was directed by Abe Burrows and choreographed by Matt Mattox.

This series contains vocal scores from the production. Of special note is the inclusion of a score for the cut song *My Little Yellow Dress*.

7 12 Chief of Love
13 Dance Only With Me
14 It's the Second Time You Meet That Matters
15 My Little Yellow Dress
16 My Man Blew (special prologue to I Could Have Danced All Night)
17 Say, Darling
18 Try to Love Me Just as I Am

# Series XVI: Subways Are For Sleeping by Jule Styne

20 folders

*Subways are for Sleeping* opened at the St. James Theatre on December 27, 1967. Music was composed by Jule Styne with lyrics by Comden and Green. The show was based on stories by Edmund G. Love. The production was directed and choreographed by Michael Kidd.

This series consists primarily of vocal scores for songs written for the production. Included are titles that do not appear in the published or recorded song listings. Either these songs were cut or titles were changed.

7	19	Be a Santa
	20	Comes Once in a Lifetime
	21	Getting Married
	22	Girls Like Me
	23	Gotta Think of Her
	24	Hey Charlie, Let's Talk
	25	How Can You Describe a Face?
	26	I Just Can't Wait
8	1	I'm Just Taking My Time
		I Said It and I'm Glad
	2	vocal score
	3	vocal score revised, 25 Sept. 1961
	4	I Walk a Little Dog
	5	I Was a Shoo In
	6	Life Is Not That Simple
	7	A Man With a Plan
	8	Now I Have Someone
	9	Ride in the Night
	10	What a Strange Quartette
	11	What Is This Feeling in the Air?
	12	When You Help a Friend Out
		<del>-</del>

# **Series XVII:** Two On the Aisle by Jule Styne

2 folders

*Two on the Aisle* opened at the Mark Hellinger Theatre on July 19, 1951. Music by composed by Jule Styne, sketches and lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green. The production was directed by Abe Burrows and choreographed by Ted Cappy.

This series contains vocal scores for just two of the production's songs, *Everlasting* and *Give* a *Little*, *Get a Little*.

8 13 Everlasting (choral arrangement) 14 Give a Little, Get a Little Love

# Series XVIII: West Side Story by Leonard Bernstein

3 folders

West Side Story opened at the Winter Garden Theatre on September 26, 1957. Composed by Leonard Bernstein with lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. Book by Arthur Laurents suggested by the play *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare. The production was conceived and directed by Jerome Robbins and choreographed by Jerome Robbins and Peter Gennaro.

This series contains three scores not used in the production of *West Side Story*. All appear to be from Act I.

- 15 Like Everybody Else
- 16 *Mix!*
- 17 Opening

# Series XIX: What a Way To Go! (Motion picture)

14 folders

The motion picture, *What a Way to Go!* was written by Gwen Davis with music by Jule Styne and lyrics by Comden and Green. It was released in 1964 and was directed by J. Lee Thomas.

The series consists of scores for many of the featured songs.

- 18 Appassionata (sketch) 19 By Candlelight (sketch) 20 Duet (sketch) 21 Girl Song (sketch)
- 22 He Needs Me / I Need Him More (sketch)
- 23 Holy M (sketch) 24 Iowa (sketch)
- 25 I Think You and I Should Get Acquainted
- 26 Louisa March
- 27 *Now I Have Someone to Live For* (sketch)
- 28 Opening to Kelly-McLaine Musical Extravaganza
- 29 Second Act Comedy Song (sketch)
- 30 *Somewhere to Love* (sketch)
- 31 Waltz / Dining Room (sketch)

# **Box** Fol Series XX: Wonderful Town by Leonard Bernstein

16 folders

Wonderful Town opened at the Winter Garden Theatre on February 25, 1953. Composed by Leonard Bernstein with lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green. The book was written by Joseph Fields and Jerome Chodorov and was based on the play *My Sister Eileen*. The production was directed by George Abbott and choreographed by Donald Saddler.

This series contains scores for published and recorded songs used in the production of *Wonderful Town*. In addition there are scores for songs either not used or renamed.

8	32	100 Easy Ways to Lose a Man
	33	Conga
	34	Conquering the City and Hey, New York!
	35	It's Love
	36	Lallapalooza
	37	Let It Come Down (Vortex Club)
	38	A Little Bit in Love (verse and refrain)
	39	My Darlin' Eileen
	40	Nice People, Nice Talk
	41	Opening
	42	Pass the Football
	43	A Quiet Girl (verse and refrain)
	44	The Riobamba
	45	The Story of My Life
	46	What a Waste
	47	The Wrong Note Rag