



The New York Public Library  
Music Division

Guide to the

**Rick Besoyan papers, Additions**

1942-1979

JPB 15-71

Compiled by Susan M. Kline, 2015

## Summary

**Creator:** Besoyan, Rick

**Title:** Rick Besoyan papers, Additions

**Date:** 1942-1979

**Size:** 5.56 linear feet (19 boxes)

**Source:** Donated by Howard Barker, 2015.

**Abstract:** The Rick Besoyan papers (1942-1979) document Besoyan's songwriting career and are primarily comprised of scripts, sheet music, and sound recordings.

### Conditions Governing Access:

Sound recordings are currently unavailable pending digitization.

**Conditions Governing Use:** For permission to publish, contact the Chief, Music Division, New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

**Preferred citation:** Rick Besoyan papers, Additions, JPB 15-71. Music Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

**Processing note:** Compiled by Susan M. Kline, 2015

## Creator History

Richard Besoyan (1924-1970) was an American songwriter. Born in California in 1924, Besoyan served in World War II with the United States Army Infantry. After the war, Besoyan joined the California-based Bredon-Savoy Light Opera Company as a performer. Besoyan then moved to New York City and was later approached to write a revue for the Showplace nightclub. This piece, *In Your Hat*, later evolved into the musical *Little Mary Sunshine* which opened off-Broadway in 1959. Besoyan went on to write the book, music, and lyrics for *The Student Gypsy* or *The Prince of Liederkrantz*, which opened on Broadway in 1963. The following year Besoyan's *Babes in the Wood* was produced off-Broadway.

Richard Besoyan died in Sayville, Long Island in 1970.

## Scope and Content Note

The Rick Besoyan papers date from 1942 to 1979 and document Besoyan's songwriting career. While the majority of the collection pertains to his most well-known productions (*Little Mary Sunshine*, *Babes in the Wood*, and *The Student Gypsy*), there is material related to over a dozen other works, including his unproduced musical version of Paul Gallico's novel *Mrs. 'Arris Goes to Paris*.

In addition to scripts, sheet music, and sound recordings for specific productions, the collection also contains lyric ideas, unidentified sheet music, and unused themes, as well as a small grouping of material related to his estate.

**Arrangement:** The collection is primarily arranged by production title.

## Key Terms

### Occupations

Dramatists  
Lyricists

### Subjects

Musicals

### Genre/Physical Characteristic

Scores  
Scripts  
Sheet music

## Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 *The ABCs of Musical Instruments*
- b. 1 f. 2-4 *April in the Air* 1947
- At Your Service*
- b. 17 1944-1945
- b. 15 f. 1-4 1947
- b. 1 f. 5-6 1947
- b. 1 f. 7 *Autumn Nocturne*
- Babes in the Wood*
- b. 5 f. 1-4 1964
- b. 8 f. 1-4 1964
- b. 9 1964
- b. 14 f. 1-7 1964
- Arnold Goland.
- b. 19 1964
- Sound Recordings
- origsr.234260 1975
- Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.
- origsr.234294 1975
- Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.
- origsr.234292 Master 1975
- Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.
- b. 1 f. 8 *Broadway Family*
- Dream Girl*
- b. 2 f. 1-3 circa 1950s-1960s
- b. 15 f. 5 1963
- b. 7 f. 1-9 Estate 1965-1979
- b. 1 f. 9 *Foot-Loose and Fancy* 1947
- b. 1 f. 10 *High and Dry* 1942
- In Your Hat*
- b. 10 f. 1-5 circa 1956-1957
- Sound Recordings
- origsr.234311 Good for Nothin' Me / J. Timothy Fielding the Third
- Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.
- origsr.234313 Good for Nothin' Me / J. Timothy Fielding the Third
- Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.
- origsr.234317 Good for Nothin' Me / J. Timothy Fielding the Third
- Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.
- origsr.234319 Hot Tamale Tango / I'm Growing Up
- Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.
- origsr.234315 I'm Growing Up / Hot Tamale Tango
- Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.

In Your Hat (cont.)  
Sound Recordings (cont.)

- origsr.234318 J. Timothy Fielding the Third  
Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.
- origsr.234316 Minna, the Sin of Trinidad / This is the Life  
Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.
- origsr.234314 Rock Sweet Baby / Sur La Table  
Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.
- origsr.234312 Sur La Table / Rock Sweet Baby  
Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.
- origsr.234320 This is the Life / Minna, the Sin of Trinidad  
Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.

*Little Mary Sunshine*

- b. 6 f. 1-6 1959-1963
- b. 12 f. 1-2 1959-1963?
- b. 18 f. 1 1960
- origsr.234310 Look for A Sky of Blue / Once in a Blue Moon  
Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.

*Lover's Holiday*

- b. 16 f. 4-5 1950s?
- b. 1 f. 11 1950s?
- b. 1 f. 12 Lyric Ideas
- b. 4 f. 1 *The Mandarin*

*Mrs. 'Arris Goes to Paris*

- b. 2 f. 4-7 circa 1958-1970
- b. 12 f. 3-6 circa 1958-1970
- b. 4 f. 2 Musical Notes 1953
- b. 4 f. 3 *Out of This World and Lover's Holiday* 1954
- Sheet Music and Lyrics
- b. 11 f. 1-4 circa 1942-1970
- b. 18 f. 2 circa 1942-1970

Sound Recordings

- origsr.234302 A.M.E. RL3M 1964  
Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.
- origsr.234324 Christmas Land- Laurel Music  
Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.
- origsr.234321 Christmas Land- Laurel Music  
Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.
- origsr.234309 Easy Living- Ron Hussman  
Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.
- origsr.234322 It's Christmas  
Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.
- origsr.234305 The Kids  
Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.
- origsr.234300 Little People's March 1975  
Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.

Sound Recordings (cont.)

origsr.234323 Little People's March- Laurel Music  
Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.

origsr.234304 Muzak: Little People's March  
Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.

origsr.234306 Muzak: Little People's March  
Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.

*The Student Gypsy*

b. 3 f. 1-6 1960s-1971

b. 13 f. 1-7 1960s-1971

b. 2 f. 8 1971

Sound Recordings

origsr.234299 1975  
Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.

origsr.234295 Arnold Goland 1975  
Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.

b. 16 f. 1-3 Unused Themes

b. 4 f. 4-8 *Wake Up With Me* 1956

*A Wonderful Wicked World*

b. 17 1952

b. 6 f. 7-8 1952