

Inventory of the Vern Yocum Collection, 1900-1995 (bulk 1945-1970)

Collection Number: MMS 1

University of Arizona School of Music

Processed by: Keith Pawlak

Date completed: December 2005

Collection Summary

Collection name: Vern Yocum Collection, 1909-1995 (bulk 1957-1979)

Collection number: MMS 1

Creator: Yocum, Vern (1909-1991)

Physical description: 12 linear ft. (13 boxes)

Abstract: Business records, writing tools, musical arrangements, correspondence, and photographs from the music copyist and librarian, Vern Yocum (1909-1991).

Repository: School of Music.

School of Music
University of Arizona
PO Box 210004
Tucson, AZ 85721-0005
URL: <http://web.cfa.arizona.edu/music>

Administrative Information

Restrictions: The Collection is open to researchers by appointment. There are no restricted materials. Louise, Vernise, and Ray Yocum hold copyright on all materials composed by Vern Yocum or the Yocum family. Additional copyright restrictions exist on music manuscripts in the collection. For more information on requests to photocopy materials, to publish, or to make an appointment please contact:

Keith Pawlak
Music Curator
School of Music and Dance, rm. 109
University of Arizona
Tucson, AZ 85721
Phone: 520-621-5242
URL: <http://web.cfa.arizona.edu/vernyocum>

Acquisition Information: The Vern Yocum Collection was established in 2005 through the work of Louise, Vernise, and Ray Yocum. Two items, which were part of the original gift, were deposited into The Nelson Riddle Collection (*Route 66 & Naked City* lead sheets and “Time on my Hands”).

Acknowledgements: This finding aid would not have been possible without the help of Vern’s daughter, Vernise Elaine Pelzel.

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Credit line: Vern Yocum Collection, University of Arizona School of Music

Biographical Information

Vern Yocum, copyist, librarian, orchestrator and woodwind player, developed Hollywood’s top music preparation office, servicing hundreds of performers from the radio, television, film, and recording industries. Yocum prepared, catalogued, and maintained music libraries for popular performers of the Golden Era. Among his many business relationships, Yocum is best known for the seventeen-year association with Nat King Cole and his thirty plus year collaboration with Frank Sinatra and Nelson Riddle. Yocum assisted trumpeter Cecil Reed in organizing The Musician’s Guild in 1955, resulting in union reform. In 1961 Yocum was elected to represent the copyists on the team negotiating improved retirement benefits and pay scales, which are still in effect today.

Born April 15, 1909, in Sunbury, Pennsylvania, Yocum received early music training, learning to read music before language. He grew up listening to jazz records, singing duets with his brother, Clark (guitarist and vocalist for The Pied Pipers), and performing in family quartets in church services. At the age of 14 he got his first professional job with a local band, singing and playing the saxophone and clarinet.

From 1927 to 1943, Yocum played with multiple bands including Floyd Mills and the Marylanders, California Serenaders, Tal Henry, Coom Sanders, Casa Loma, Jimmy Joyce, Tony Cabot, Red Nichols and the Five Pennies, Ben Pollack, Chico Marx, Tommy Dorsey, and Boyd Raeburn. To earn extra income, he copied his first professional charts for both Dorsey and Raeburn for up to \$7 an arrangement. He extended his musical skills by studying with the legendary clarinetist Daniel Bonade in Cleveland and took classes at the Chicago Conservatory of Music.

During World War II, Yocum founded, led, and prepared a music library for the acclaimed Camp Ward Navy Band. Following his discharge from the service in 1945, Yocum relocated to the West Coast where he found work copying Pied Pipers' music for Skippy Martin and with arranger Paul Villepigue. The steady income supplements motivated him to continue. He managed and played with The Bob Keene Band before transitioning fully into music preparation.

Yocum's relationship with Frank Sinatra began while playing with Tommy Dorsey. In the late '40's, he was invited to become Sinatra's copyist and librarian. Yocum's association with Johnny Mercer and the Pied Pipers opened the door to Capitol Records, where he worked with a long list of entertainers and arrangers including Peggy Lee, Keely Smith, Dean Martin, Ella Fitzgerald, Alex Stordahl, Gordon Jenkins, Billy May, Frank Duval, George Cates, Don Costa, and André Previn. In 1951, Nelson Riddle chose Yocum to prepare all of his music, which precipitated a move to a larger office near the future site of the Capitol Records tower. His office contributed to many shows and productions, including *Make Room for Daddy*, *Dragnet*, *Route 66*, *The American Film Institute Awards*, *The Golden Globes*, *The Nat King Cole Show*, *The Andy Griffith Show*, *The Rosemary Clooney Show*, *Smothers Brothers*, *Leslie Uggums*, *Tony Orlando*, *Julie Andrews*, all the Frank Sinatra specials, the *John F. Kennedy Inaugural Gala*, *Ronald Reagan's Governor's Ball*, and the *Television Relief Fund Extravaganza*. He also illustrated Nelson Riddle's book *Arranged by Nelson Riddle*. He retired in 1981, and handed his office over to one of his copyists, Terry Woodson, who now carries on the fine art of music notation. Vern Yocum died of bladder cancer on September 13, 1991.

Scope and Content

This collection consists of personal and professional items from Vern Yocum's life. The bulk of the collection consists of business records and office supplies used for music notation. There are also materials from the John F. Kennedy Inaugural Ball, photographs, correspondence, and music arrangements.

The collection does include a few gaps. For example, there are virtually no records for any business accounts that Vern Yocum had from 1950-1956, 1968, or 1970-1975 (these were inadvertently destroyed). Also, virtually all of the music that Vern Yocum created was done so as part of a work-for-hire agreement. The music that exists in this collection was either for Vern Yocum's personal use or the artists that he worked for gave the music to him. There are additional manuscripts created by Vern Yocum in the University of Arizona Nelson Riddle and Sue Raney collections.

Organization

This collection is organized into six series: I. Business Records, 1948-88; II. Notation Tools and Desk Ephemera; III. John F. Kennedy Inaugural Papers, 1960-1961; IV. Scrapbooks, 1909-1996; V. Miscellaneous, 1945-1980; VI. Musical Compositions and Arrangements, 1940-1979.

The arrangement for each series is noted under the header.

Library of Congress Subject Headings

Yocum, Vern, 1909-1993 – Archives.
 Riddle, Nelson. 1921-1985.
 Sinatra, Frank. 1915-
 Kennedy, John F. (John Fitzgerald), 1917-1963
 Presidents--United States--Inauguration.
 Music--United States--20th century.
 Jazz musicians--United States.
 Big band music--Scores and parts.
 Jazz ensemble music--Scores and parts.
 Dance orchestra music--Scores and parts.
 Music--Manuscripts.
 Photographs

I Business Records, 1948-1988

Accounts Payable, 1952-1978

Included in this subseries are payments (business and personal) drawn against Vern and Louise Yocum's joint account at the Hollywood main office branch of *Bank of America*. The arrangement is chronological.

Box	Tab	Description
1	1	1952-1955 Check stubs
1	2	1956-1958 Check stubs
1	3	1959 Checks and check stubs
1	4	1960 Checks and check stubs
2	1	1961 Checks and check stubs
2	2	1962 Checks and check stubs
2	3	1963 Checks and check stubs
2	4	1964 Checks and check stubs
3	1	1965 Checks and check stubs
3	2	1966 Checks
3	3	1971 Checks and check stubs

3	4	1978 Checks
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Accounts Receivable, 1957-1988

Included in this subseries are remittance statements (business accounts only) on debtor accounts. Accounts include those from Capitol Records, Decca, Liberty Records, Metro Goldwyn Mayer, and many others. The arrangement is chronological.

Box	Tab	Description
3	5	1957
3	6	1958
3	7	1959
4	1	1960
4	2	1961
4	3	1962
4	4	1963
4	5	1964
4	6	1965
4	7	1966
4	8	1967
5	1	1971
5	2	1975
5	3	1976
5	4	1977
5	5	1978
5	6	1979
5	7	1980
5	8	1983
5	9	1984
5	10	1985
5	11	1988
5	12	N.D.

Work Agreements, 1948-1988

Included in this subseries are work agreements made for service rendered by *Vern's Music Service* in conjunction with various studio or artist accounts under the aegis of the office of the Local 47 branch of the American Federation of Musicians. Contracts are filled out on pads with blank forms provided by the musician's union. Each pad contains between 1-3 months worth of work. The arrangement is chronological.

Box	Tab	Description
6	1	1948-1949 1 pad with contracts from May 3, 1948-February 23, 1949.

6	2	1957 1 pad with contracts from February 1, 1957-March 20, 1957.
6	3	1958 Contracts from February and March 1958.
6	4	1959 Contracts from April and December 1959.
6	5	1960 9 pads and several loose contracts.
6	6	1961 9 pads.
6	7	1962 8 pads.
6	8	1963 10 pads.
6	9	1964 7 pads.
6	10	1965 9 pads.
6	11	1966 9 pads.
6	12	1967 9 pads.
6	13	1969 6 pads.
7	1	1970 1 contract. (photocopy)
7	2	1975 2 contracts.
7	3	1976 Loose contracts for the full year.
7	4	1977 Loose contracts for the full year.
7	5	1978 Loose contracts for the full year.
7	6	1979 Loose contracts for the full year.
7	7	1980 1 contract
7	8	1984 2 contracts
7	9	1985 1 contract

Business Expenses, 1954-1980

This subseries is divided into two areas: supplies and services. The arrangement is alphabetical by type.

Supplies, 1954-1980

Included in this subseries are invoices for business supplies purchased by Vern Yocum.

Box	Folder	Description
7	10	Alpheus Music Corporation Invoices, 1978-1980 Receipts for music and machine supplies from the company Alpheus Music Corporation.
7	11	Cameo Music Reproduction Invoices, 1955-1971 Receipts for music and machine supplies from the company Cameo Music Reproduction.
7	12	Hollywood/Highland Music Papers Invoices, 1954-1964 Receipts for music paper supplies from the company Highland Music.
7	13	Miscellaneous, 1955-1978 Receipts for miscellaneous supplies.

Services, 1955-1978

Included in this subseries are invoices for business services used by Vern Yocum's Music Service.

Box	Folder	Description
7	14	Messenger Service Receipts, 1959-1963 Receipts from Rocket Messenger Service for the period from July 14, 1959 – November 15, 1963. Some receipts are signed by the artists.
7	15	Miscellaneous Messenger Receipts, 1961-1978 Various company receipts for messenger service for the period from January 6, 1961 – June 9, 1978.
7	16	Telephone Bills, 1955-1978
7	17	Miscellaneous, 1960-1970 Receipts for miscellaneous services.

Page Tallies, 1965-1980

The copyists in Vern Yocum's Music Service kept track of their completed work by writing down the pages copied on scraps of paper. The scraps include artist, account, title, and instrument information.

7	18	Page Tallies, 1965 Various scraps of papers with tallies of work performed. Also included are business and personal notes.
7	19	Page Tallies, 1966 Various scraps of papers with tallies of work performed. Also included are business and personal notes.
7	20	Page Tallies, 1967 Various scraps of papers with tallies of work performed. Also included are business and personal notes.
7	21	Page Tallies and Miscellaneous Notes, 1961-1980

Miscellaneous, 1957-1985

Box	Folder	Description
7	22	Accounts Receivable Ledger, 1957-1962 Includes an itemized listing by month of all accounts.
7	23	Accounts Receivable and Payable Ledger, 1977-1978 Includes an itemization of business and personal finances.
7	24	Orchestrator Work Agreements, 1960-1978 1 year of contracts (February 24, 1960 – January 19, 1961) for Nelson Riddle. Also included are contracts from various arrangers/orchestrators in 1967, 1977, and 1978.
7	25	Pay Scales, 1964-1985 Various union pay scale rates for orchestrators, copyists, proofreaders, and librarians.
7	26	Billing Statements, 1970-1978 Billing statements to debtor accounts for supply costs and librarian fees.
7	27	Office Paper Includes staff paper and stationary.

II Notation Tools and Desk Ephemera

Box	Folder	Description
8		Notation Tools and Desk Ephemera Includes pens, ink, rulers, and other desk items.
9		Stamps Stamp sets used for imprinting instrument and artist names.

III John F. Kennedy Inaugural Papers, 1960-1961

Vern Yocum was in charge of music preparation and music supervision for John F. Kennedy's Inaugural Ball. Included in this series are photographs, programs, and other items related to the ball and Kennedy's inauguration.

Box	Folder	Description
10		John F. Kennedy Inaugural Papers, 1960-1961 Includes photographs, programs, and correspondence from the inaugural ball and parade.

IV Scrapbooks, 1909-1996

Box	Folder	Description
11		Life Scrapbook, 1909-1996 Includes photographs, correspondence, and biographical materials from Vern Yocum's life. Created by Vern's daughter, Vernise.
12	1	Navy Scrapbook, 1943-1945 Includes photographs and newspaper articles from Vern Yocum's time in the service.

V Miscellaneous, 1945-1980

Items are arranged alphabetically by type.

Box	Folder	Description
12	2	Backstage Passes, 1974-76 Passes for television studio productions.
12	3	Correspondence, 1966-1980 Includes business related letters from non-VIP's.
12	4	Greeting Cards, 1953-1965 Includes cards from the families of Nelson Riddle (8 items), Rosemary Clooney/Jose Ferrer (2 items), Frankie Laine (5 items), Lawrence Welk (2 items), Julie Andrews (1 item), Frank Sinatra (2 items), and others.
12	5	Frank Sinatra items, 1960-1982 Rat Pack photograph from <i>Ocean's 11</i> , 1960; Sands script, fall 1965; Sinatra show program list, November 2, 1966; Gordon Jenkins and Sarge Weiss (correspondence), May 30, 1974; concert program list, October 11, 1978; Sinatra endowment flyer, June 15, 1979; orchestra correspondence, August 1, 1980; tour program, 1982; Frank Sinatra vocal exercises, n.d.; orchestra itinerary, n.d.;
12	6	Library Lists, ca. 1940's Lists of musical titles for unknown libraries.

12	7	Music Catalogues, 1945-1950 Sheet music catalogues (8 items).
12	8	Office Humor, 1957-1960 3 items
12	9	Smothers Brothers Script, 1967 Script from the first Smothers Brothers show, January 1967.
12	10	Test Pattern for Living, 1972 Book with foreword music copied by Vern Yocum.
12	11	Union Directories, 1959-1964 Musician's Guild, 1959; Local 47, 1963 & 1964.
		Programs, 1970-1975 <i>KMPC Show of the World</i> , June 27, 1970; <i>AFI Tribute to John Ford</i> , March 31, 1973; <i>AFI Tribute to Orson Welles</i> , February 9, 1975. See oversize box 13 folder 10.

VI Music, 1940-1979

Vern Yocum Music Service, 1958-1979

Included in this subseries are pieces copied through Vern Yocum's business. The arrangement is alphabetical and by artist.

Box	Folder	Description
12	12	Frank Sinatra miscellany, 1958-1979 "All or Nothing at All" (violin part), 1966; "My Kind of Town" (vocal part), 1964; "Stella by Starlight" (piano/conductor part), 1967; "Trilogy" (conductor part), 1979; "Willow Weep for Me" (violin part), 1979.
12	13	Mason Williams miscellany, 1967-1971 "Katydid's Ditty" (guitar part), 1971; "Train Ride in G" (guitar, bass, drums), 1967.
12	14	Another Op'nin' Another Show (Pied Pipers), 1949 No score or vocal part; arranger: Skip Martin (?); 13-piece big band or optional small band (instrumentation).
12	15	Begin the Beguine (Pied Pipers), 1949 No score or vocal part; arranger: Skip Martin (?); 13-piece big band or optional small band (instrumentation).
12	16	We Four (Pied Pipers), 1949 No score or vocal part; arranger: Skip Martin (?); 13-piece big band or optional small band (instrumentation).
12	17	Yes We Have No Bananas (Pied Pipers), 1949 No score or vocal part; arranger: Skip Martin (?); 13-piece big band or optional small band (instrumentation).
12	18	Rollin' Rockin' Rag-Doll, n.d. Lead sheet. Words and music by J. Maloy Roach

Personal Study

Box	Folder	Description
12	19	Lyric book Reference book of lyrics to popular songs (holograph). 1940's
12	20	Method Materials Includes practice materials on music theory, chord and scale studies. 1940's.
12	21	Woodwind solo excerpts "Concertino da Camera" (alto saxophone); "Stardust" (clarinet); "Moto Perpetuo" (alto sax). 1930's – 1940's.

Miscellaneous, 1940-1950

Box	Folder	Description
12	22	Ain't Misbehavin' (Louise Reno), 1940 No score; arranger: Vern Yocum; written for the dancer Louise Reno (later Vern's wife); 11-piece big band or small band (instrumentation).
12	23	Blue Moon No score; arranger: unknown; written for a vocal quartet featuring Vern Yocum, Chuck [Lowry?], June [Hutton?], and Quig [Quigley?]. Late 1940's.
12	24	Body and Soul Score (photocopy only) and parts; arranger: Paul Villepigue; 2 altos & 2 tenors (instrumentation). Late 1940's.
12	25	Bolero (Louise Reno), 1940 No score; arranger: Vern Yocum; written for the dancer Louise Reno (later Vern's wife); 11-piece big band or small band (instrumentation).
12	26	Cotton Tail No score; arranger: unknown; possibly written for the Chico Marx Orchestra; 16-piece big band (instrumentation). 1945-1946 (?).
12	27	Lament for a Lost Love No score; arranger: unknown; possibly written for the Chico Marx Orchestra; missing parts (?); 16-piece big band (instrumentation). 1945-1946 (?).
		Harlem Nocturne Score only; arranger: Dean Shaeffer; written for unknown big band; 16-piece big band plus alto saxophone solo (instrumentation). See oversize box 13 folder 11.
12	28	Miscellaneous lead sheets "If I Were You;" "This Year" by Bob Harrington and Estelle Vicki; "Without Love."

Vern Yocum Quartet, 1948

Included in this subseries are arrangements written for Vern Yocum's 1948 (?) quartet that featured vocals/clarinet/alto saxophone (Vern Yocum), vibes/piano, guitar, and bass. Folders 1-9 are arranged alphabetically.

Box	Folder	Description
12	29	Untitled Original Score and parts; arranger: Paul Villepigue.
12	30	Quartet titles without scores "All Dressed Up With A Broken Heart;" "At the Candlelight Café;" "Beg Your Pardon;" "But Beautiful;" "Golden Earrings" (missing parts); "Gonna Get A Girl;" "How Lucky You Are;" "I Feel So Smoochie;" "I Miss You So;" "Lazy Mood;" "Mañana;" "One Hour;" "Pianissimo;" "The Trouble With Me is You;" "True;" "Your Red Wagon."
13	1	Body and Soul Score and parts; arranger: Harry Lubin.
13	2	If I Could Be With You Score only; arranger: Harry Lubin.
13	3	Jack, You're Dead Score and parts; arranger: unknown.
13	4	Lover Score and parts; arranger: unknown.
13	5	Lover Come Back To Me Score and parts; arranger: Harry Lubin.
13	6	Nagasaki Score and parts; arranger: Harry Lubin.
13	7	Now He Tells Me Score and parts; arranger: unknown.
13	8	Oooh! Look-a There Ain't She Pretty? Score and parts; arranger: Harry Lubin.
13	9	Too Fat Polka Score and parts; arranger: Harry Lubin.

Oversize items

Box	Folder	Description
13	1-9	Vern Yocum Quartet scores and parts (see previous series)
13	10	Programs 3 items
13	11	Harlem Nocturne Score