



The New York Public Library
Music Division

Guide to the

Collection of songs performed by Marion Pierce

JPB 85-174

Processed by Martha Grutchfield.

Summary

Creator: Pierce, Marion

Title: Collection of songs performed by Marion Pierce

Source: The Collection of Songs Performed by Marion Pierce was a gift from the estate of Marion Pierce.

Abstract: This collection consists of popular songs performed by Marion Pierce in her nightclub acts.

Access: Some collections held by the Dance, Music, Recorded Sound, and Theatre Divisions at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts are held off-site and must be requested in advance. Please check the collection records in **the NYPL's online catalog** for detailed location information. For general guidance about requesting offsite materials, please consult: <https://www.nypl.org/about/locations/lpa/requesting-archival-materials>

Conditions Governing Use: For permission to copy or publish please contact the Music Division.

Preferred citation: Collection of Songs Performed by Marion Pierce, JPB 85-174, Music Division, The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox, and Tilden Foundations.

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by Martha Grutchfield; machine-readable finding aid created by Robert Kosovsky.

Related Materials:

The Billy Rose Theatre Collection has a clipping file on Marion Pierce.

Creator History

Marion Pierce was an actress, singer and dancer.

Marion Dean Hughes was born on July 21, 1911, daughter of Walter A. Hughes and the former Marion

K. Dean. She married Conkey P. Whitehead (the son of the founder of Coca-Cola) in 1929. She received a bachelor degree from UCLA in 1932 and divorced Whitehead the following year. In October 1933 she married Andrew Granville Pierce III. (Andrew Pierce's father owned the Pierce Bros. Manufacturing which supplied material for Wamsutta Sheets and American Woolen Mills.) That marriage also did not last and in 1939 she married actor Willard Parker (they divorced in 1951).

On Broadway she appeared in *New Faces*, *Three Waltzes* and *I Must Love Someone*. On tour she played roles in *The Women*, *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, and *Lady in the Dark*. She had minor roles in the films *His Butler's Sister* (1943) and *All About Eve* (1950).

An article in the New York World-Telegram indicates that Marion Pierce, having been written out of the Social Register due to divorce, decided to become a nightclub entertainer because she had to make a living. She made her nightclub debut on January 22, 1937 at the Merry-Go-Round club. Her accompanist was Sam Walsh. To insure a receptive audience she sent out 300 telegrams to friends asking them to attend. The article goes on to state that her song about a strip-tease (see folder 18) was merely recalling such an event, and was not a strip-tease in itself. Also noted is her ghost song (see folder 15). During her career Pierce had numerous nightclub engagements. In 1951 she moved to Scottsdale, Arizona and opened her own venue, Marion Parker's Guys and Dolls, which she ran until 1959.

In 1960 she moved back to New York City and her interests apparently veered away from performing, although she did make a commercial for Ivory Soap in 1964. From 1960-64 she was director of special events at ITT, from 1965-66 executive director of the Association of Operating Room Nurses, and from 1966-68 she was president of Home Care-Ring Service. She was involved in real estate and from 1970 she was a public relations consultant.

Marion Pierce died at Palm Desert, California, on June 28, 1998.

Scope and Content Note

This collection contains songs sung by Marion Pierce in her nightclub acts. Nearly all have piano-vocal scores, and many include song texts on a separate leaf of paper. A few also contain instrumental parts.

Arrangement: The songs are ordered in the manner in which they were received.

Container List

- f. 1 *Darling I must love you*,. n.d. (text ; 12 instrumental parts.)
Unidentified composer and lyricist.
- f. 2 *Bard, Robert Coffee pot*,. n.d. (text ; score for voice and piano ; 2 instrumental parts.)
Words and music by Robert Bard and Mindret Lord.
- f. 3 *Bard, Robert Crepes Suzette*,. n.d. (text ; score for voice and pinao ; 3 instrumental parts.)
Music and lyrics by Robert Bard.
- f. 4 *Bard, Robert Culinary caprice*,. n.d. (text ; score for voice and piano.)
Words and music by Robert Bard.
- f. 5 *Bard, Robert I want to be exotic*,. n.d. (Text ; score for voice and piano.)
[Words and music] by Robert Bard.
- f. 6 *Bard, Robert I wish you'd sent the money instead*,. n.d. (Text ; score for voice and piano.)
[Words and music] by Robert Bard.
- f. 7 *Bard, Robert Tall, dark and handsome*,. n.d. (Text ; score for voice and piano ; 9 instrumental parts.)
[Words and music] by Robert Bard.
- f. 8 *Bard, Robert A tisket a tasket*,. n.d. (Text ; score for voice and piano.)
- f. 9 *Krakeur, Jacques The queen of avacado's*,. n.d. (Text ; words, melody and chords.)
- f. 10 *Krakeur, Jacques This is a sex song*,. n.d. (Text ; score for voice and piano.)
- f. 11 *La Touche, Patrick Queen of the May*,. n.d. (Text ; score for voice and piano.)
- f. 12 *Pierce, Marion He proposed*,. n.d. (Parts for piano accompaniment and unidentified instrument.)
- f. 13 *Pollock, Muriel Are you on the alkaline side?*. n.d. (Text ; score for voice and piano.)
Lyrics by Edwin Gilbert.
- f. 14 *Pollock, Muriel Coronation song*,. n.d. (Score for voice and piano.)
Words by Mindret Lord.
- f. 15 *Pollock, Muriel The ghost!*. n.d. (Score for voice and piano.)
Lyrics by Peter Dixon.
- f. 16 *Pollock, Muriel I'm a debutante*,. n.d. (Text ; score for voice and piano.)
Lyrics by Lucille Sophian and Andrew Rosenthal.
- f. 17 *Pollock, Muriel I can't get excited - or can I*,. n.d. (Score for voice and piano.)
Lyrics by Mindret Lord.
- f. 18 *Pollock, Muriel Satire of the strip tease*,. n.d. (Text ; score for voice and piano.)
Lyrics by Edwin Gilbert.
- f. 19 *Pollock, Muriel This is a love song*,. n.d. (Score for voice and piano.)