



The New York Public Library  
Music Division

Guide to the

**ASCAP archives**

1914-1986 [bulk 1930s-1986]

JPB 12-12

Compiled by Valerie Wingfield, 2012

## Summary

**Creator:** American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers

**Title:** ASCAP archives

**Date:** 1914-1986 [bulk 1930s-1986]

**Size:** 32.84 linear feet (79 boxes)

**Source:** Donated by ASCAP, 1986.

**Abstract:** The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) is an organization of more than 420,000 artists that protects the copyrights of its members. The ASCAP records represent a portion of the artists who joined the society from the 1930s to the mid-1980s. Many notable recording artists are represented from vaudeville to rock music. The files hold articles, biographical data sheets, broadsides, film strips, memorandum, obituary notices, photographs and photograph negatives, performance brochures, publicity and sheet music.

**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 Access:

Inquiries regarding audio and visual materials in the collection may be directed to the Rodgers and Hammerstein Archives of Recorded Sound ([rha@nypl.org](mailto:rha@nypl.org)). Audio and visual materials may be subject to preservation evaluation and migration prior to access.

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

**Preferred citation:** ASCAP archives, JPB 12-12. Music Division, The New York Public Library.

**Processing note:** Compiled by Valerie Wingfield, 2012 The collection was rehoused and refoldered as needed.

## **Creator History**

The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) is performance rights organization founded in 1914 by Victor Herbert (1859-1924), a composer and musician. ASCAP is a member association of more than 420,000 composers, songwriters, lyricists, and music publishers of every kind of music. Its representation includes similar foreign organizations so that ASCAP repertory is represented within countries where copyright law is applied. ASCAP's objective is to protect the rights of its members and foreign affiliates by licensing the public performances of their copyrighted works and distributing royalties based upon surveyed performances. A non-profit organization, ASCAP is located at One Lincoln Center Plaza, New York City.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The ASCAP records, dating from 1914 to 1986, document the artists who became members of ASCAP and some artists who applied for membership and were rejected. The files reflect the full spectrum of artists from different musical genres from vaudeville to rock and roll. The records consist primarily of biographical data sheets that document career accomplishments. During the 1970s, the biographical data sheet were replace by publicity information about the artists.

Other information in the files includes articles, biographies, broadsides, correspondence, film strips, memorandums, obituary notices, performance brochures, photographs, publicity, and sheet music.

The collection holds files only for artists with surnames from A to K. There are a few publicity photographs of artists with last names from M-Z. Files for artists with surnames from L-Z were retained by ASCAP.

Inquiries regarding audio and visual materials in the collection may be directed to the Rodgers and Hammerstein Archives of Recorded Sound ([rha@nypl.org](mailto:rha@nypl.org)). Audio and visual materials will be subject to preservation evaluation and migration prior to access.

## **Key Terms**

### **Occupations**

Actors  
Authors  
Composers  
Musicians

### **Subjects**

African American artists  
Arts publicity  
Associations, institutions, etc. -- Membership  
Boycotts  
Copyright  
Copyright -- Performing rights

Hispanic American artists  
Music  
Music -- United States -- 20th century  
Performing arts  
Performing arts -- United States

**Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Black-white-negatives  
Clippings (information artifacts)  
Filmstrips  
Photographs  
Printed ephemera

## Container List

### Series I: Membership Files 1926-1986 (76.75 boxes)

This series represents artists who were members or sought membership in ASCAP. The series, arranged alphabetically, contains half of the alphabet, A-K; the remainder of the alphabet was retained by ASCAP. Many of the files contain ASCAP's official biographical data sheet required by individuals for membership. Around 1980, the biographical data sheets were replaced with publicity material from the artist's company (if signed). Many of the artists are represented with a single file supplemented with some other related career information. The files contain the ASCAP biographical data sheet, related biographical information, correspondence, death notifications, published articles, photograph(s) of the artist, publicity material generated by the signed artist's company, and ephemera.

Noted individuals include Stanley Adams (President of ASCAP), Gene Buck (President of ASCAP, 1932-1940), Victor Herbert (the founder of ASCAP), Eubie Blake, Sammy Cahn, Ray Charles, John Denver, Peter DeRose, Neil Diamond, Paul Dresser (Theodore Dreiser's brother), Gershon Ephron, Dorothy Fields, Ella Fitzgerald, Aretha Franklin, Eliseo Grenet Sanchez, "Tiny" Lloyd Grimes, W.C. Handy, Jimi Hendrix, Langston Hughes, Quincy Jones and KISS.

- b. 1 f. 1-57 Abbott, Michael - Akers, Jane 1941-1985
- b. 2 f. 1-85 Akiyoshi, Toshiko - Almaas, Steven 1945-1983
- b. 3 f. 1-76 Almeida, Laurindo - Andino, Reinol 1939-1983
- b. 4 f. 1-79 Andre, Fabein - Arlen, Harold 1937-1983
- b. 5 f. 1-64 Armbruster, Robert - Ashford and Simpson 1938-1980
- b. 6 f. 1-90 Ashton, John - Baer, Charles 1938-1983
  - b. 7 f. 1-5 Bacharach, Burt 1970s
- b. 7 f. 6-70 Baez, Joan - Bales, Richard 1951-1982
- b. 8 f. 1-69 Balhoff, Michael - Barlow, Wayne 1938-1983
- b. 9 f. 1-74 Barmak, Ira - Bartok, Bela 1950-1982
- b. 10 f. 1-80 Barton, Ben - Beaudrie, Marian 1945-1982
- b. 11 f. 1-81 Beauer, Paul - Belt, James 1941-1986
- b. 12 f. 1-87 Benatar, Pat - Bent, Rosetta 1945-1984
  - Benter, Charles
    - b. 12 f. 44 1950, 1964
    - b. 78 f. 1 1936
- b. 12 f. 45-87 Bentley, Eula - Berle, Milton 1938-1981
- b. 13 f. 1-32 Berlin, David - Bernstein, Leonard 1944-1982
- b. 14 f. 1-92 Bernstein, Morris - Bivona, Ruth 1942-1983
- b. 15 f. 1-84 Bjornson, James - Blote, Paul 1935-1980
- b. 16 f. 1-84 Bloudin, Raymond - Borden, William 1926-1981
- b. 17 f. 1-72 Boretz, Allen - Bowman, Norman 1947-1985
- b. 18 f. 1-98 Box, Euel - Breedlove, Paula 1948-1982
- b. 19 f. 1-89 Breen, Singhi - Broekman, David 1942-1981
- b. 20 f. 1-84 Brogan, Michael - Brozenick, Joseph 1943-1985
- b. 21 f. 1-67 Brubaker, Larry - Bumatay, Vincent 1938-1982
- b. 22 f. 1-87 Bunch, James - Burwell, Clifford 1938-1986
- b. 23 f. 1-56 Bus Boys - Cahill, Billy 1941-1980
- b. 24 f. 1-79 Cahn, Sammy - Carazo, Castro 1930s-1980s

Series I: Membership Files (cont.)

- b. 25 f. 1-86 Carbonara, Gerard - Carson, Will 1930s-1980s
- b. 26 f. 1-108 Carter, Bennett - Chacon, Matthew 1934-1985
- b. 27 f. 1-60 Chadirjian, Harry - Chayefsky, Paddy 1940s-1980s
- b. 28 f. 1-100 Cheadle, William - Clark, Terry 1939-1982
- b. 29 f. 1-92 Clarke, Dana - Cohan, George 1939-1981
- b. 30 f. 1-78 Cohen, Alice - Collins, Will 1930s-1984
- b. 31 f. 1-99 Collotta, Robert - Cooper, Evelyn 1937-1985
  - b. 77 f. 27 Commodores, The undated
- b. 32 f. 1-77 Cooper, Harvey - Dallesandro, Gerald 1942-1983
- b. 33 f. 1-85 Dalmas, Glen - Davilo, Anthony 1937-1980
- b. 34 f. 1-93 Davis, Albert - DeCevee, Alice 1930s-1980
- b. 35 f. 1-73 DeChaves, Carol - Del Tredici, David 1945-1985
- b. 36 f. 1-71 De Luca, Don - DeRose, Peter 1940s-1983
- b. 37 f. 1-83 Derosier, Michael - Dietz, Arthur 1934-1985
- b. 38 f. 1-78 Dietz, Howard - Dolen, Francis 1953-1980s
- b. 39 f. 1-88 Doll, Anthony - Dragoo, Eugene 1927-1985
- b. 40 f. 1-73 Drake, Ervin - Dukes, Jimmy 1940s-1980
- b. 41 f. 1-66 Dulmage, Will - Dyson, Hal 1945-1983
- b. 42 f. 1-83 Eads, Mary - Edwards, Webley 1948-1985
- b. 43 f. 1-85 Effinger, Cecil - Elton, William 1931-1981
- b. 44 f. 1-85 Elwell, Herbert - Evans, Rhys 1940s-1982
- b. 45 f. 1-89 Evans, Robert - Feather, Lorraine 1923-1982
- b. 46 f. 1-75 Federlein, Gottfried - Fillmore, Henry 1940-1983
- b. 47 f. 1-77 Fimberg, Harold - Flax, Robert 1937-1982
- b. 48 f. 1-85 Fleeson, Neville - Fox, Jules 1929-1985
- b. 49 f. 1-86 Fox, Oscar - Friedlander, William B 1930s-1985
- b. 50 f. 1-81 Friedman, Alan - Gabler, Milt 1930s-1983
- b. 51 f. 1-82 Gabriel, Charles - Garellick, Jack 1940s-1985
- b. 52 f. 1-72 Garf, Gene - Geller, Bruce 1941-1985
- b. 53 f. 1-85 Geller, Harry - Gifford, Norman 1930s-1980s
- b. 54 f. 1-69 Gigandet, Joseph - Glenn, Tyree 1930s-1985
- b. 55 f. 1-76 Glick, Jesse - Goley, Robert 1932-1985
- b. 56 f. 1-75 Gollner, Ronald - Gould, Glenn 1928-1985
- b. 57 f. 1-78 Gould, Jack - Green, James A 1930s-1985
- b. 58 f. 1-80 Green, Johnny - Griffith, Corinne 1938-1985
- b. 59 f. 1-66 Griffith, Donald - Gulesian, M.H 1930s-1985
- b. 60 f. 1-86 Gulino, Loretto - Haley, Bill 1946-1985
- b. 61 f. 1-67 Hall, Alice - Handy, W.C 1944-1985
- b. 62 f. 1-65 Handy, W.C. - Harmon, Ronald 1930s-1985
- b. 63 f. 1-85 Harned, Alfred - Hathaway, Richard 1937-1985
- b. 64 f. 1-83 Hatley, T. Marvin - Heifetz, Vera 1942-1983

Series I: Membership Files (cont.)

- b. 65 f. 1-80 Heim, Emery - Hermann, Ralph 1935-1985
- b. 66 f. 1-83 Hernandez, Jose - Hillard, Keith 1937-1985
- b. 67 f. 1-77 Hillas, Stanley - Holowecky, Philip 1930s-1984
- b. 68 f. 1-69 Holsaert, Eunice - Howard, John Tasker 1945-1985
- b. 69 f. 1-60 Howard, Joseph - Hutchens, Carl 1930s-1985
- b. 70 f. 1-77 Hutchinson, James W. - Jason, Will 1938-1985
- b. 71 f. 1-68 Jassen, Jeffrey - Johnson, William 1939-1985
- b. 72 f. 1-56 Johnston, Albert - Justin, Susan 1937-1980s
- b. 73 f. 1-81 Kaahanui, Warren - Keller, Maurice 1945-1985
- b. 74 f. 1-76 Kellett, Donald - King, Victor 1937-1985
- b. 75 f. 1-79 Kingsley, Gershon - Koppell, Alfred 1929-1984
- b. 76 f. 1-69 Korb, Arthur - Krupa, Gene 1937-1979
- b. 77 f. 1-22 Kuball, Ann - Kusik, Larry 1940s-1985
- b. 77 f. 29-42 Loggins, Kenny - Stravinsky, Igor 1943-1982, undated
- b. 77 f. 44-46 Toch, Ernst - Wonder, Stevie 1956, undated

Series II: Historical Files 1914-1984 (2.25 boxes)

This series holds papers documenting events in ASCAP history. Dating from 1914 to 1984, the contents include a copy of ASCAP's first contract, the first application for membership, an original Assignment of Performing Rights contract, clippings, scripts for a regular radio broadcast regarding ASCAP artists, publicity flyers put out by ASCAP regarding the boycott of the Society in the 1940s, and photographs of the Society's Anniversary celebrations of 1954 and 1984. Also present are photographs of annual events of the Society, including meetings, dinners, and an event at the 1939-1940 New York World's Fair; photographs of members of the ASCAP Foundation; broadsides published by ASCAP regarding events or advertising the Society; and a photograph of Igor Stravinsky and Walter Piston at an unidentified event.

- b. 77 f. 23 40th Anniversary 1954
- b. 77 f. 24 70th Anniversary 1984
- b. 78 f. 2-6 Annual Dinners and Special Meetings 1924, 1926, 1934, 1940
- b. 77 f. 52 Assignment of Performing Rights 1921
- b. 77 f. 50 Boycott 1940s
  - b. 78 f. 8 Broadsides 1940-1969
- b. 79 f. 1-2 Clippings 1914-1964
- b. 77 f. 48 First Contract 1914
- b. 77 f. 25 Foundation 1984, undated
- b. 77 f. 28 Kennedy Center Honors 1978-1984
  - b. 78 f. 7 New York World's Fair 1940
- b. 77 f. 51 Original Application for Membership 1914
- b. 77 f. 49 Radio Scripts 1964-1965
- b. 77 f. 43 Seminar on the Role of Synthesizers in Motion Picture Scoring undated
- b. 77 f. 26 Songwriter's Workshop, Washington, D.C undated
- b. 77 f. 47 Unidentified Event undated