



The New York Public Library  
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,  
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

**Mabel Mercer papers**

1932-1984

Sc MG 341

## Summary

**Creator:** Mercer, Mabel, 1900-1984

**Title:** Mabel Mercer papers

**Date:** 1932-1984

**Size:** 18.6 linear feet

**Source:** Purchase, Mabel Mercer Estate

**Abstract:** Singer, song sylist, nightclub entertainer. Papers consist of personal papers including naturalization and immigration documents, correspondence with her husband, Kelsey Pharr, family papers and fan mail. Professional papers include contracts, dates concerning nightclub performances and recordings; sheet music and manuscript music performed and collected by Mercer, music with correspondence attached from composers and lyricists requesting Mercer to include their works in her repertoire in addition to honors, awards, programs, scrapbooks and posters.

**Preferred citation:** Mabel Mercer papers, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The New York Public Library

## Creator History

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## Scope and Content Note

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## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

African American entertainers  
African American singers  
African Americans in the performing arts  
Singers

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Posters  
Scrapbooks  
Sheet music

### **Names**

Mercer, Mabel, 1900-1984  
Pharr, Kelsey, 1917-1961