

Billy May Arrangements

Guides to Special Collections in the Music Division of the Library of Congress



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**Music Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2010**

Contact information:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.music/perform.contact>

Additional search options available at:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.music/eadmus.mu010030>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/2010562512>

Processed by the Music Division of the Library of Congress

Collection Summary

Title: Billy May Arrangements

Span Dates: 1939-1995

Call No.: ML31.M214

Creator: May, Billy

Extent: approximately 200 items ; 16 containers ; 13.0 linear feet

Language: Material in English

Location: Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Summary: Billy May (1916-2004) was an American arranger, composer, musician, and bandleader. The collection chiefly consists of holograph or photocopied manuscript scores, parts, lead sheets, and manuscript sketches. Additional materials include printed scores, part changes, film cues, and a handful of counterpoint exercises.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Barnet, Charlie.

May, Billy--Manuscripts.

May, Billy.

May, Billy.

May, Billy. Selections.

Sinatra, Frank, 1915-1998.

Subjects

Arrangers (Musicians)--United States.

Big band music.

Motion picture music--Scores.

Music--Manuscripts--United States.

Popular music--United States.

Television music--Scores.

Administrative Information

Provenance

Gift, Doris May, 2005.

Accruals

No further accruals expected.

Processing History

The Billy May Arrangements were re-processed by Christopher Hartten in 2010. The finding aid was coded for EAD by Christopher Hartten in November 2010.

Related Material

The [Ella Fitzgerald Collection](#) (ML31.F58) and [Charlie Barnet Collection of Big Band Arrangements](#) (ML31.B27) contain additional Billy May manuscript scores.

Copyright Status

The Billy May Arrangements are governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.) and other applicable international copyright laws.

Access and Restrictions

The Billy May Arrangements are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Music Division prior to visiting in order to determine whether the desired materials will be available at that time.

Certain restrictions to use or copying of materials may apply.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [item, date, container number], Billy May Arrangements, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1916 November 10	Born in Pittsburgh to Isabel Stevenson and Ed May
1933	Arranges first work, <i>When Yuba Plays the Rhumba on the Tuba</i> , while at Schenley High School
1936 October	Joins the Pittsburgh Local AFM and tours with the Etzi Covato band as a trombone player
1938	Meets Charlie Barnet and begins writing arrangements for him on a weekly basis, including the hit <i>Cherokee</i>
1939 August	Charlie Barnet hires him to play trumpet with his band on a permanent basis
1940-1942	Joins the Glenn Miller band and delivers his first trumpet solo on <i>I Dreamt I Dwelt In Harlem</i>
1944	Writes arrangements for Frank Sinatra's <i>Your Hit Parade</i> and for the Phil Harris band on <i>The Jack Benny Show</i> Begins career as a recording arranger/conductor
1944-1946	Plays on the <i>Red Skelton Show</i> under Ozzie Nelson and works with John Scott Trotter on Bing Crosby's <i>Kraft Music Hall</i>
1946-1950s	Works with Alan Livingston at Capitol Records to produce recordings for children, including the hit tune <i>I Taut I Taw a Puddy Tat</i>
1950s-1960s	Arranges and records almost constantly for the music and entertainment industry's biggest names, including Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Bing Crosby, Nat King Cole, Peggy Lee, Johnny Mercer, Mel Blanc, and Stan Freberg Composes original soundtrack for the film <i>Sergeants Three</i> , as well as music for various television shows, such as <i>The Green Hornet</i>
1953-1954	Abandons road touring and sells rights for the traveling Billy May Band to entrepreneur Ray Anthony
1958	Wins Grammy Award for best arrangement for his album <i>Big Fat Brass</i>
1959	Wins Grammy Award for best arrangement for <i>Come Dance With Me</i>
1969-1973	Produces arrangements for Time-Life documentaries <i>The Swing Era</i> and <i>As You Remember Them</i>

1973	Marries Doris Ranson
2004 January 22	Dies in San Juan Capistrano, Calif.

Scope and Content Note

The Billy May Arrangements principally consist of holograph or photocopied manuscript scores, parts, lead sheets, and sketches for works created between 1939 and 1995. Additional materials include printed scores, part changes, film cues, and a handful of counterpoint exercises. Although May worked almost exclusively as an arranger for long periods throughout his career, he did compose original music, and several of these titles are represented in this collection. *I Taut I Taw a Puddy Tat*, *Front Page Rag*, and his film score for *Sergeants Three* are notable examples. Titles and cross-references are arranged alphabetically and standardized according to Jack Mirtle's *The Music of Billy May: a Discography* (1998). Part sets are complete unless indicated otherwise.

Organization of the Billy May Arrangements

The Billy May Arrangements are organized in one series:

- Music, 1939-1995

Description of Series

Container
BOX 1-16

Series
Music, 1939-1995

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-16	Music, 1939-1995
	All of me
BOX 5/1	Score
BOX 1/1-2	Parts
	Always
BOX 5/2	Score
	Angel eyes
	For Nat King Cole
BOX 5/3	Score
	Aviation suite
	Other title: Wings over Manhattan
BOX 5/4	Score
BOX 5/4	Short score
	Back Bay shuffle
	For Artie Shaw
BOX 5/5-6	Scores
	Multiple versions
	Be my love
BOX 1/3	Score
	The beat goes on
	For Charlie Barnet
BOX 5/7	Score
	Beer barrel polka
BOX 5/8	Score
	Blonde again
BOX 5/9	Score
BOX 5/9	Lead sheet
	Blue and all alone
BOX 5/10	Score
BOX 5/10	Lead sheet
	Blue suede shoes
	see My little suede shoes
	Blues medley
BOX 16/1	Score
BOX 16/1	Short score/sketch
	Bouncing runners
BOX 5/11	Score
	Call me
	For Charlie Barnet
BOX 5/12	Score
	Can't I

Music, 1939-1995

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 5/13	Score Carnival For Harry James
BOX 5/14	Score Cartoon medley For the Boston Pops
BOX 16/2	Score
BOX 16/2	Short score/sketch Charmaine
BOX 5/15	Score
BOX 5/15	Parts Cheek to cheek For Glenn Miller
BOX 5/16	Scores Multiple versions Cherokee For Charlie Barnet
BOX 5/17	Score Chicago
BOX 6/1	Scores
BOX 6/1	Parts Laid in: wind and brass part changes
BOX 6/2	Children of the night Score Christmas medley For the Boston Pops
BOX 6/3	Short score/sketch Cocktails for two
BOX 6/4	Score Come fly with me For Frank Sinatra
BOX 6/5-6	Scores
BOX 6/6	Piano-conductor score Come rain or come shine
BOX 6/7	Score
BOX 6/7	Horn-double bass score
BOX 6/7	Wind and string parts Come together For Charlie Barnet
BOX 6/8	Score Concentrate
BOX 1/4	Short score/sketch Congratulate me For Jack Lemmon
BOX 6/9	Score Cool water
BOX 6/10	Score

Music, 1939-1995

Container

Contents

	Dance of the hours
BOX 6/11-12	Score
	Dancing on the ceiling
BOX 6/13	Scores
BOX 6/13	Parts
	Dat dere
BOX 6/14	Score
	Saxophone parts only
	see also Studies and sketches
	Desert song
BOX 6/15	Score
	Dichter und Bauer
	see Poet and peasant
	Do nothin' 'till you hear from me
	For Diane Schuur
BOX 6/16	Score
	Do you know what it means to miss New Orleans?
	For the Canadian Brass
BOX 6/17	Score
	Laid in: optional parts and insertions
	Don't be that way
BOX 6/18	Score
	Easy street
BOX 6/19	Score
	Easy to love
	For Diane Schuur
BOX 6/20	Score
	Ebb tide
	For Charlie Barnet
BOX 6/21	Score
	Es ist genug
BOX 1/5	Brass parts
	Fat man boogie
BOX 7/1	Score
	Filet of soul
BOX 7/2	Score
	Finale--G minor symphony (Mozart)
BOX 7/3	Score
	Fingers
BOX 7/4	Score
	Five foot two
BOX 7/5	Scores
BOX 7/5	Wind parts
	Laid in: wind part changes
	Frank Sinatra medley
	see Overture '88

	Front page rag
	From <i>The Front Page</i> (film, 1974).
BOX 7/7-8	Scores
	Laid in: extra parts
BOX 1/6-9	Parts
	Frenesi
BOX 7/6	Score
	Gin and tonic
	see Ozzie's tune
	The girl from Ipanema
	For Charlie Barnet
BOX 7/9	Score
	A handful of stars
BOX 1/10	Scores
	A hard day's night
	For Charlie Barnet
BOX 7/10	Score
	Hello out there, hello
BOX 7/11	Score
	High noon
BOX 7/12	Score
	Honest and truly
BOX 7/13	Score
	How deep is the ocean?
BOX 7/14	Score
	Huguette waltz
BOX 8/1	Score
	Hungarian dance no. 5 (Brahms)
BOX 8/2	Score
	I can't believe (you're in love with me)
BOX 8/3-4	Scores
	Multiple versions
	I concentrate on you
BOX 8/5	Score
	I don't know where I'm goin' (but I'm glad you come along)
BOX 8/6	Score
	Laid in: wind part changes
BOX 8/6	Lyric sheets
	I guess I'll have to change my plans
BOX 8/7	Score
BOX 8/7	Parts
	I taut I saw a puddy tat
BOX 2/1	Piano part
BOX 2/1	Lead sheet
	I'll see you again
BOX 8/8	Score
	In the mood disco

Music, 1939-1995

Container

Contents

BOX 8/9	Score Italian street song
BOX 8/10	Score It's easy to remember Arrangement by Gil Evans for the Billy May Orchestra
BOX 8/11	Score I've got you under my skin
BOX 8/12	Score Joanna
BOX 2/2	Short score/sketch Jornal do Brasil
BOX 8/13	Score King David
BOX 2/3	Brass parts A kiss to build a dream on
BOX 2/4	Score Late, late show
BOX 8/14	Score Lean baby
BOX 8/15	Score
BOX 2/5-6, 8/15	Parts Little mo'
BOX 8/16	Short score/sketch Film cue Includes the tune "Unforgettable" Long hair mambo
BOX 8/17	Score Love is just around the corner
BOX 8/18	Score Love wise
BOX 8/19	Score
BOX 8/19	Parts Lover
BOX 8/20	Score Lover come back to me
BOX 9/1	Score
BOX 9/2	Parts Lullaby in rhythm
BOX 9/3	Score Lulu's back in town
BOX 9/4	Score Mad about the boy
BOX 9/5	Score The man I love
BOX 9/6	Score March of the toys

Music, 1939-1995

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 9/7	Score Final section of arrangement by Hynie Beau Melody in F
BOX 9/8	Score Michelle
BOX 9/9	Score Miles behind
BOX 9/10	Score Minuet (Paderewski)
BOX 9/11	Score Minuet in G
BOX 9/12	Score Moanin'
BOX 9/13	Score Morning sunrise
BOX 9/14	Score Music to watch girls by For Charlie Barnet
BOX 9/15	Score My last affair
BOX 9/16	Score My little suede shoes Other title: Blue suede shoes
BOX 9/17	Score My old flame
BOX 2/7	Short score/sketch My silent love
BOX 10/1	Score
BOX 10/1	Parts Nancy For Al Hirt
BOX 10/2	Score Nelson [i.e. D.D. Nelson] tunes
BOX 2/8	Lead sheets Includes: "Chloe's song;" "Heard ya the first time;" "I'm back where I started;" "Once more won't hurt;" "Too soon for June"
BOX 10/3	Nova amor Score Nutty squirrels Other title: Uh! Oh!
BOX 10/4	Score Oh by jingo
BOX 10/5	Score Laid in: wind part changes
BOX 2/9	Wind and brass parts Old Cayucos
BOX 10/6	Score

Music, 1939-1995

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 10/6	Lead sheet Old gold--Theme
BOX 2/10	Piano score One kiss
BOX 10/7	Score Opportunity rag
BOX 10/8	Score
BOX 10/8	Lead sheet Opus one
BOX 2/11	Score Orchids
BOX 10/9	Score Overture '88 For Frank Sinatra Other title: Frank Sinatra medley
BOX 10/10	Score Includes: "All of nothing at all;" "Getting sentimental;" "Without a song"
BOX 10/10	Piano-conductor score Ozzie's tune Other title: Gin and tonic
BOX 11/1	Score Panama
BOX 11/2	Score Laid in: wind part changes
BOX 2/12-13	Parts Laid in: wind and brass part changes Perfidia
BOX 11/3	Score
BOX 11/3	Parts Persian market
BOX 11/4	Score Laid in: wind part changes
BOX 3/1-2	Parts Pick yourself up
BOX 11/5	Score Playboy's theme
BOX 11/6	Score Poet and peasant Other title: Dichter und Bauer
BOX 11/7-8	Score The preacher
BOX 11/9	Score Pretty playthings
BOX 11/10	Score
BOX 11/10	Lead sheet Purple For Frank Sinatra

Music, 1939-1995

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 11/11	Score Laid in: optional parts
BOX 11/11	Condensed score Quiet hours
BOX 11/12	Score Reunion song From <i>American Reunion</i> (film, 1976)
BOX 11/13	Score Laid in: film scenario cues and miscellaneous piano-vocal scores Riverboat shuffle
BOX 11/14	Score Rose Marie
BOX 11/15	Score Santa Lucia
BOX 12/1	Score Say it isn't so
BOX 12/2	Score
BOX 4/1-2	Parts The second chase
BOX 12/3	Score Serenade--Student Prince
BOX 12/4	Score Sergeants Three (film, 1962)
BOX 12/5-7	Short scores The setting sun For Ella Fitzgerald
BOX 12/8	Score
BOX 12/8	Piano-conductor score The shadow of your smile
BOX 4/3	Score
BOX 4/3	Short score/sketch She didn't say yes
BOX 12/9	Score The sheik of Araby
BOX 12/10	Score Shiny stockings
BOX 13/1	Score Silvery cloud
BOX 13/2	Score Skyliner
BOX 13/3-4	Scores Multiple versions Softly, as I leave you
BOX 13/5	Score Solving the riddle
BOX 13/6	Score
BOX 13/6	Parts

Music, 1939-1995

Container

Contents

	The song is you
BOX 13/7	Score
	Soooper sloop
BOX 13/8	Score
	Sorta blues
BOX 13/9	Score
	South Rampart Street parade
	For Al Hirt
BOX 13/10	Scores
	Laid in: wind part changes
BOX 3/3-4	Parts
	Star eyes
BOX 13/11	Score
	Strangers in the night
BOX 13/12	Score
BOX 13/12	Parts
	Studies and sketches
BOX 4/4	Exercises and miscellaneous sketches
	Includes sections titled: Politely; Dat dere; Ala mode; Shout; Noodling; Half step song; Coffee
BOX 4/5	Counterpoint exercises
BOX 4/6	Exercises and miscellaneous sketches
	Includes section titled: Excerpts from Wozzeck (Alban Berg)
BOX 4/7	Exercises and miscellaneous sketches
	Includes sections titled: Whistler; Sally; Quartet for strings; Hope the band; Don't fence me
BOX 4/8	Counterpoint exercises
	Sunset colors
BOX 13/13	Score
	Take the A train
	For Glenn Miller
BOX 14/1	Score
	Tenderly
BOX 14/2-3	Scores
	Multiple versions
BOX 14/2	Parts
	That old black magic
BOX 4/9	Parts
	There is no greater love
BOX 14/4	Score
	These are the good old days
BOX 14/5	Score
BOX 14/5	Lead sheet
	Thou swell
BOX 14/6	Score
	Turk's tune
BOX 14/7	Score

Music, 1939-1995

Container

Contents

	Twelve days of Christmas
	For the Boston Pops
BOX 16/3	Score
	Uh! Oh!
	see Nutty squirrels
	Unforgettable
BOX 14/8	Score
	Vilia
BOX 14/9	Score
	Violin concerto (Tchaikovsky)
BOX 14/10	Violin and trumpet parts
	Waltzing Matilda
BOX 14/11	Score
	Laid in: piano-vocal score used for arrangement
	When I take my sugar to tea
BOX 14/12	Score
	When my sugar walks down the street
BOX 14/13	Score
	When the saints go marching in
BOX 14/14	Score
BOX 14/14	Short scores/sketches
	Multiple versions
	For the Boston Pops
	When your lover has gone
BOX 15/1	Score
	Whisper not
BOX 15/2	Score
	Wings over Manhattan
	see Aviation suite
	You ain't makin' it
BOX 15/3	Score
	You and the night and the music
BOX 15/4	Score
BOX 15/4	Parts
	You may swing
BOX 15/5	Score
	You stepped out of a dream
BOX 4/10	Score
	You'd be so nice to come home to
BOX 15/6	Score
	You're the top
BOX 15/7	Score
BOX 15/7	Parts
	Unidentified
BOX 15/8	Score fragment