

Billy May Arrangements

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



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Washington, D.C.
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Collection Summary

Title: Billy May Arrangements

Span Dates: 1939-1995

Call No.: ML31.M214

Creator: May, Billy

Extent: approximately 200 items

Extent: 16 containers

Extent: 13.0 linear feet

Language: Material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2010562512>

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 LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Barnet, Charlie.

May, Billy--Manuscripts.

May, Billy.

May, Billy.

May, Billy. Works. Selections.

Sinatra, Frank, 1915-1998.

Subjects

Arrangers (Musicians)--United States.

Big band music.

Motion picture music--Scores.

Music--Manuscripts--United States.

Popular music.

Television music--Scores.

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

Date	Event
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

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

Container	Contents
BOX 1-16	Music, 1939-1995
BOX 5/1	All of me Score
BOX 1/1-2	All of me Parts
BOX 5/2	Always Score
BOX 5/3	Angel eyes Score For Nat King Cole
BOX 5/4	Aviation suite Score Other title: Wings over Manhattan
BOX 5/4	Aviation suite Short score
BOX 5/5-6	Back Bay shuffle Scores For Artie Shaw Multiple versions
BOX 1/3	Be my love Score
BOX 5/7	The beat goes on Score For Charlie Barnet
BOX 5/8	Beer barrel polka Score
BOX 5/9	Blonde again Score
BOX 5/9	Blonde again Lead sheet
BOX 5/10	Blue and all alone Score
BOX 5/10	Blue and all alone Lead sheet Blue suede shoes <i>see My little suede shoes</i>
BOX 16/1	Blues medley Score
BOX 16/1	Blues medley Short score/sketch
BOX 5/11	Bouncing runners Score

Music, 1939-1995

Container	Contents
BOX 5/12	Call me Score For Charlie Barnet
BOX 5/13	Can't I Score
BOX 5/14	Carnival Score For Harry James
BOX 16/2	Cartoon medley Score For the Boston Pops
BOX 16/2	Cartoon medley Short score/sketch
BOX 5/15	Charmaine Score
BOX 5/15	Charmaine Parts
BOX 5/16	Cheek to cheek Scores Multiple versions For Glenn Miller
BOX 5/17	Cherokee Score For Charlie Barnet
BOX 6/1	Chicago Scores
BOX 6/1	Chicago Parts Laid in: wind and brass part changes
BOX 6/2	Children of the night Score
BOX 6/3	Christmas medley Short score/sketch For the Boston Pops
BOX 6/4	Cocktails for two Score
BOX 6/5-6	Come fly with me Scores For Frank Sinatra
BOX 6/6	Come fly with me Piano-conductor score
BOX 6/7	Come rain or come shine Score
BOX 6/7	Come rain or come shine Horn-double bass score
BOX 6/7	Come rain or come shine Wind and string parts

Music, 1939-1995

Container	Contents
BOX 6/8	Come together Score For Charlie Barnet
BOX 1/4	Concentrate Short score/sketch
BOX 6/9	Congratulate me Score For Jack Lemmon
BOX 6/10	Cool water Score
BOX 6/11-12	Dance of the hours Score
BOX 6/13	Dancing on the ceiling Scores
BOX 6/13	Dancing on the ceiling Parts
BOX 6/14	Dat dere Score Saxophone parts only <i>see also Studies and sketches</i>
BOX 6/15	Desert song Score Dichter und Bauer <i>see Poet and peasant</i>
BOX 6/16	Do nothin' 'till you hear from me Score For Diane Schuur
BOX 6/17	Do you know what it means to miss New Orleans? Score For the Canadian Brass Laid in: optional parts and insertions
BOX 6/18	Don't be that way Score
BOX 6/19	Easy street Score
BOX 6/20	Easy to love Score For Diane Schuur
BOX 6/21	Ebb tide Score For Charlie Barnet
BOX 1/5	Es ist genug Brass parts
BOX 7/1	Fat man boogie Score
BOX 7/2	Filet of soul Score

Music, 1939-1995

Container	Contents
BOX 7/3	Finale--G minor symphony (Mozart) Score
BOX 7/4	Fingers Score
BOX 7/5	Five foot two Scores
BOX 7/5	Five foot two Wind parts Laid in: wind part changes Frank Sinatra medley <i>see Overture '88</i>
BOX 7/6	Frenesi Score
BOX 7/7-8	Front page rag Scores Laid in: extra parts From <i>The Front Page</i> (film, 1974).
BOX 1/6-9	Front page rag Parts Gin and tonic <i>see Ozzie's tune</i>
BOX 7/9	The girl from Ipanema Score For Charlie Barnet
BOX 1/10	A handful of stars Scores
BOX 7/10	A hard day's night Score For Charlie Barnet
BOX 7/11	Hello out there, hello Score
BOX 7/12	High noon Score
BOX 7/13	Honest and truly Score
BOX 7/14	How deep is the ocean? Score
BOX 8/1	Huguette waltz Score
BOX 8/2	Hungarian dance no. 5 (Brahms) Score
BOX 8/3-4	I can't believe (you're in love with me) Scores Multiple versions
BOX 8/5	I concentrate on you Score
BOX 8/6	I don't know where I'm goin' (but I'm glad you come along) Score

Music, 1939-1995

Container

Contents

	Laid in: wind part changes
BOX 8/6	I don't know where I'm goin' (but I'm glad you come along) Lyric sheets
BOX 8/7	I guess I'll have to change my plans Score
BOX 8/7	I guess I'll have to change my plans Parts
BOX 2/1	I taut I saw a puddy tat Piano part
BOX 2/1	I taut I saw a puddy tat Lead sheet
BOX 8/8	I'll see you again Score
BOX 8/9	In the mood disco Score
BOX 8/10	Italian street song Score
BOX 8/11	It's easy to remember Score Arrangement by Gil Evans for the Billy May Orchestra
BOX 8/12	I've got you under my skin Score
BOX 2/2	Joanna Short score/sketch
BOX 8/13	Jornal do Brasil Score
BOX 2/3	King David Brass parts
BOX 2/4	A kiss to build a dream on Score
BOX 8/14	Late, late show Score
BOX 8/15	Lean baby Score
BOX 2/5-6, 8/15	Lean baby Parts
BOX 8/16	Little mo' Short score/sketch Film cue Includes the tune "Unforgettable"
BOX 8/17	Long hair mambo Score
BOX 8/18	Love is just around the corner Score
BOX 8/19	Love wise Score
BOX 8/19	Love wise Parts

Music, 1939-1995

Container	Contents
BOX 8/20	Lover Score
BOX 9/1	Lover come back to me Score
BOX 9/2	Lover come back to me Parts
BOX 9/3	Lullaby in rhythm Score
BOX 9/4	Lulu's back in town Score
BOX 9/5	Mad about the boy Score
BOX 9/6	The man I love Score
BOX 9/7	March of the toys Score Final section of arrangement by Hynie Beau
BOX 9/8	Melody in F Score
BOX 9/9	Michelle Score
BOX 9/10	Miles behind Score
BOX 9/11	Minuet (Paderewski) Score
BOX 9/12	Minuet in G Score
BOX 9/13	Moanin' Score
BOX 9/14	Morning sunrise Score
BOX 9/15	Music to watch girls by Score For Charlie Barnet
BOX 9/16	My last affair Score
BOX 9/17	My little suede shoes Score Other title: Blue suede shoes
BOX 2/7	My old flame Short score/sketch
BOX 10/1	My silent love Score
BOX 10/1	My silent love Parts
BOX 10/2	Nancy Score For Al Hirt

Music, 1939-1995

Container	Contents
BOX 2/8	Nelson [i.e. D.D. Nelson] tunes 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
BOX 10/4	Nutty squirrels Score Other title: Uh! Oh!
BOX 10/5	Oh by jingo Score Laid in: wind part changes
BOX 2/9	Oh by jingo Wind and brass parts
BOX 10/6	Old Cayucos Score
BOX 10/6	Old Cayucos Lead sheet
BOX 2/10	Old gold--Theme Piano score
BOX 10/7	One kiss Score
BOX 10/8	Opportunity rag Score
BOX 10/8	Opportunity rag Lead sheet
BOX 2/11	Opus one Score
BOX 10/9	Orchids Score
BOX 10/10	Overture '88 Score For Frank Sinatra Other title: Frank Sinatra medley Includes: "All of nothing at all;" "Getting sentimental;" "Without a song"
BOX 10/10	Overture '88 Piano-conductor score
BOX 11/1	Ozzie's tune Score Other title: Gin and tonic
BOX 11/2	Panama Score Laid in: wind part changes
BOX 2/12-13	Panama Parts Laid in: wind and brass part changes
BOX 11/3	Perfidia Score

Music, 1939-1995

Container	Contents
BOX 11/3	Perfidia Parts
BOX 11/4	Persian market Score Laid in: wind part changes
BOX 3/1-2	Persian market Parts
BOX 11/5	Pick yourself up Score
BOX 11/6	Playboy's theme Score
BOX 11/7-8	Poet and peasant Score Other title: Dichter und Bauer
BOX 11/9	The preacher Score
BOX 11/10	Pretty playthings Score
BOX 11/10	Pretty playthings Lead sheet
BOX 11/11	Purple Score For Frank Sinatra Laid in: optional parts
BOX 11/11	Purple Condensed score
BOX 11/12	Quiet hours Score
BOX 11/13	Reunion song Score From <i>American Reunion</i> (film, 1976) Laid in: film scenario cues and miscellaneous piano-vocal scores
BOX 11/14	Riverboat shuffle Score
BOX 11/15	Rose Marie Score
BOX 12/1	Santa Lucia Score
BOX 12/2	Say it isn't so Score
BOX 4/1-2	Say it isn't so Parts
BOX 12/3	The second chase Score
BOX 12/4	Serenade--Student Prince Score
BOX 12/5-7	Sergeants Three (film, 1962) Short scores

Music, 1939-1995

Container	Contents
BOX 12/8	The setting sun Score For Ella Fitzgerald
BOX 12/8	The setting sun Piano-conductor score
BOX 4/3	The shadow of your smile Score
BOX 4/3	The shadow of your smile Short score/sketch
BOX 12/9	She didn't say yes Score
BOX 12/10	The sheik of Araby Score
BOX 13/1	Shiny stockings Score
BOX 13/2	Silvery cloud Score
BOX 13/3-4	Skyliner Scores Multiple versions
BOX 13/5	Softly, as I leave you Score
BOX 13/6	Solving the riddle Score
BOX 13/6	Solving the riddle Parts
BOX 13/7	The song is you Score
BOX 13/8	Soooper sloop Score
BOX 13/9	Sorta blues Score
BOX 13/10	South Rampart Street parade Scores For Al Hirt Laid in: wind part changes
BOX 3/3-4	South Rampart Street parade Parts
BOX 13/11	Star eyes Score
BOX 13/12	Strangers in the night Score
BOX 13/12	Strangers in the night Parts
BOX 4/4	Studies and sketches Exercises and miscellaneous sketches Includes sections titled: Politely; Dat dere; Ala mode; Shout; Noodling; Half step song; Coffee

Music, 1939-1995

Container	Contents
BOX 4/5	Studies and sketches Counterpoint exercises
BOX 4/6	Studies and sketches Exercises and miscellaneous sketches Includes section titled: Excerpts from Wozzeck (Alban Berg)
BOX 4/7	Studies and sketches Exercises and miscellaneous sketches Includes sections titled: Whistler; Sally; Quartet for strings; Hope the band; Don't fence me
BOX 4/8	Studies and sketches Counterpoint exercises
BOX 13/13	Sunset colors Score
BOX 14/1	Take the A train Score For Glenn Miller
BOX 14/2-3	Tenderly Scores Multiple versions
BOX 14/2	Tenderly Parts
BOX 4/9	That old black magic Parts
BOX 14/4	There is no greater love Score
BOX 14/5	These are the good old days Score
BOX 14/5	These are the good old days Lead sheet
BOX 14/6	Thou swell Score
BOX 14/7	Turk's tune Score
BOX 16/3	Twelve days of Christmas Score For the Boston Pops Uh! Oh! <i>see Nutty squirrels</i>
BOX 14/8	Unforgettable Score
BOX 14/9	Vilia Score
BOX 14/10	Violin concerto (Tchaikovsky) Violin and trumpet parts
BOX 14/11	Waltzing Matilda Score Laid in: piano-vocal score used for arrangement
BOX 14/12	When I take my sugar to tea Score

Music, 1939-1995

Container	Contents
BOX 14/13	When my sugar walks down the street Score
BOX 14/14	When the saints go marching in Score
BOX 14/14	When the saints go marching in Short scores/sketches Multiple versions For the Boston Pops
BOX 15/1	When your lover has gone Score
BOX 15/2	Whisper not Score Wings over Manhattan <i>see Aviation suite</i>
BOX 15/3	You ain't makin' it Score
BOX 15/4	You and the night and the music Score
BOX 15/4	You and the night and the music Parts
BOX 15/5	You may swing Score
BOX 4/10	You stepped out of a dream Score
BOX 15/6	You'd be so nice to come home to Score
BOX 15/7	You're the top Score
BOX 15/7	You're the top Parts
BOX 15/8	Unidentified Score fragment