

# Chordettes Collection of Musical Arrangements

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



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Washington, D.C.  
2018

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Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.music/eadmus.mu018015>

Processed by the Music Division of the Library of Congress

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## Collection Summary

**Title:** Chordettes Collection of Musical Arrangements

**Span Dates:** 1938-1995

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1954-1961)

**Call No.:** ML31.C55

**Creator:** Chordettes (Musical group)

**Extent:** 870 items

**Extent:** 11 containers

**Extent:** 3.0 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/2014572574>

**Summary:** The Chordettes was an American female vocal quartet popular during the 1950s and early 1960s. The collection contains orchestra and band arrangements for songs, medleys, and jingles, including their hits "Mr. Sandman" and "Lollipop." It also includes a small amount of photographs.

## 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

Bleyer, Archie.

Bresler, Jerry.

Kraus, Milton.

Matz, Peter, 1928-2002.

Robertson, Don, 1922-2015.

Tyler, Jim, 1929-2005.

### Organizations

Chordettes (Musical group)

Chordettes (Musical group)

Chordettes (Musical group)--Photographs.

### Subjects

Arrangers (Musicians)--United States.

Music--Manuscripts--United States.

Popular music--United States--1941-1950.

Popular music--United States--1951-1960.

Popular music--United States--1961-1970.

### Form/Genre

Arrangements (Music)

Photographic prints.

Scores.

## Provenance

Gift; Carolyn Evans Mand; 2018

## Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

## Processing History

The Chordettes Collection of Musical Arrangements was processed by Mark Horowitz in 2017. Nancy Seeger coded the finding aid for EAD format in 2018.

## Copyright Status

Materials from the Chordettes Collection of Musical 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 Chordettes Collection of Musical Arrangements is 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], Chordettes Collection of Musical Arrangements, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

The Chordettes was a popular American female singing quartet of the 1950s and early 1960s, best known for their hit songs "Mr. Sandman" and "Lollipop." Jinny Osborn (1927-2003) formed the group in 1946 in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, with three college friends. Osborn's musical tastes were influenced by her father, who was president of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America. In addition to Osborn, the original members of the group were: Janet Ertel (d. 1988), Alice Mae Buschmann Spielvogel, and Dorothy "Dottie" Hummitzsch Schwartz (d. 2016). In 1947, Carol Buschmann replaced Alice Mae Buschmann (they were sister-in-laws); Lynn Evans replaced Schwartz in 1952; and Marjorie Needham replaced Osborn in 1953 (Osborn later returned to the group). Nancy Overton (d. 2009) also was a member at a later time. The group disbanded in 1961 when they couldn't find a suitable replacement for Jinny Osborn, who had left the group for the last time.

The Chordettes began performing locally in Sheboygan singing folk music. After switching to a cappella singing in the close harmony (barbershop harmony) style, they won an audition on Arthur Godfrey's radio program *Talent Scouts* in 1949 and soon became regulars on the show. Around this time they recorded several EPs for Columbia Records.

In 1953, Archie Bleyer, Arthur Godfrey's music director and orchestra leader, founded Cadence Records and hired many of Godfrey's regulars for the label, including the Chordettes. Now featuring musical accompaniment, the group had several hits for Cadence, including their biggest, "Mr. Sandman," in 1954. After the success of "Mr. Sandman," the Chordettes performed in nightclubs, on radio and television, and even entertained for President Eisenhower. Other hits for the quartet included "Eddie My Love" (1956), "Born to Be with You" (1956), "Lay Down Your Arms" (1956), and "Just Between You and Me" (1957). Their song "Lollipop," which appealed to a rock and roll audience, rose to no. 2 in 1958. The group also charted with vocal versions of the themes from the Disney television program *Zorro* (1959) and the film *Never on Sunday* (1961).

The Chordettes was one of the longest-lived vocal groups of their time, adapting to the rock era with covers of rock and R&B songs for the pop market. They continued to alternate between pop songs and songs aimed for the rock market during the late 1950s and early 1960s with covers such as "Charlie Brown," "Lonely Boy," and "Pink Shoelaces." The group had fourteen chart records and four top tens in twenty-two releases.

## Scope and Content Note

The collection chiefly contains musical arrangements for orchestra and small ensemble written for the female pop vocal quartet, The Chordettes. It spans the years 1938-1995, with the bulk of the material dating from 1954 to 1961. The arrangements consist of holograph or photocopied manuscript scores, instrumental parts, lyric sheets, and sketches. Only those songs with vocal or piano-vocal scores present contain the four-part harmonies and lyrics. The collection includes arrangements for many of their hit songs, including "Mr. Sandman" and "Lollipop," as well as medleys and jingles. Items may be represented by combinations of manuscript, printed music, photocopies or ozalids - sometimes multiples in different versions. The group worked with numerous arrangers, including the following individuals who are identified in the collection: Archie Bleyer, Jerry Bresler, Milton Kraus, Peter Matz, Don Robertson, and Jim Tyler. The collection also contains a small amount of photographs, chiefly personal snapshots of the singers' friends and families and several more formal portraits.

## Organization of the Chordettes Collection of Musical Arrangements

The Collection is organized in two series:

- [Music, 1938-1995](#)
- [Photographs, circa 1950-circa 1994](#)

## Description of Series

**Container**  
BOX 1-11

**Series**  
Music, 1938-1995

Songs, 1940-1992

Chiefly scores and instrumental parts. Only titles with vocal scores or piano-vocal scores listed contain the four-part harmonies and lyrics.  
Arranged alphabetically by title.

Miscellaneous Music, 1938-1995

Jingles, sheet music, songbooks, and miscellaneous instrumental parts.  
Arranged by type of material.

BOX 11

Photographs, circa 1950-circa 1994

# Container List

<b>Container</b>	<b>Contents</b>
<b>BOX 1-11</b>	<b>Music, 1938-1995</b>  <b>Songs, 1940-1992</b> Chiefly scores and instrumental parts. Only titles with vocal scores or piano-vocal scores listed contain the four-part harmonies and lyrics. Arranged alphabetically by title.
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/1-2</b>	Alabama jubilee Piano-conductor scores and instrumental parts Arranged by Peter Matz.
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/3</b>	Around the world Full score and vocal score
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/4</b>	Ballin' the jack Piano-conductor score, vocal score, and instrumental parts Arranged by Milt Kraus.
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/5-6</b>	Blues medley Piano-conductor scores, vocal score, and instrumental parts Arranged by Milt Kraus.
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/7</b>	Born to be with you, 1956 Piano-vocal score, vocal score, and instrumental parts Written and arranged by Don Robertson.
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/8</b>	But beautiful Conductor score, vocal score, and instrumental parts
<b>BOX-FOLDER 2/1</b>	Charlie Brown Vocal score and instrumental parts Arranged by Archie Bleyer.
<b>BOX-FOLDER 2/2-3</b>	Community sing Piano-conductor score and instrumental parts Arranged by Jerry Bresler.
<b>BOX-FOLDER 2/4</b>	Davy Crockett Conductor score and instrumental parts
<b>BOX-FOLDER 2/5</b>	Dixie Danny, 1955 Piano-conductor score, vocal score, and instrumental parts
<b>BOX-FOLDER 2/6</b>	Don't take your love from me Piano-conductor score and instrumental parts
<b>BOX-FOLDER 2/7</b>	Down at 33rd and 3rd Instrumental parts
<b>BOX-FOLDER 3/1</b>	Echo of love Instrumental parts Arranged by Archie Bleyer.
<b>BOX-FOLDER 3/2</b>	Eddie, my love Conductor score, vocal score, and instrumental parts
<b>BOX-FOLDER 3/3</b>	Exodus Full score and vocal score

## Music, 1938-1995

Container	Contents
BOX-FOLDER 3/4	Fascination Full score and vocal score
BOX-FOLDER 3/5-6	Friends, 1957 Piano-conductor scores, vocal scores, and instrumental parts Arranged by Milt Kraus.
BOX-FOLDER 3/7	Getting to know you medley Piano-conductor scores Arranged by Jim Tyler.
BOX-FOLDER 3/8	Golden slippers Conductor score and instrumental parts Arranged by Jim Tyler.
BOX-FOLDER 3/9	Goody goody Conductor score, vocal score, and instrumental parts
BOX-FOLDER 3/10	Greensleeves Conductor score and instrumental parts
BOX-FOLDER 4/1	Heart, 1955 Piano-conductor scores, vocal score, and instrumental parts Arranged by Jerry Bresler.
BOX-FOLDER 4/2	Hummin' bird Conductor score, vocal score, and instrumental parts
BOX-FOLDER 4/3	I cried a tear Vocal score and instrumental parts Arranged by Archie Bleyer.
BOX-FOLDER 4/4-6	I enjoy being a girl, 1958 Piano-conductor scores and instrumental parts Arranged by Jerry Bresler.
BOX-FOLDER 5/1	I'm sitting on top of the world Piano-conductor scores and instrumental parts Arranged by Jerry Bresler.
BOX-FOLDER 5/2	It's you, it's you I love Conductor score and instrumental parts
BOX-FOLDER 5/3	Just between you and me Vocal score and instrumental parts Arranged by Archie Bleyer.
BOX-FOLDER 5/4	Lay down your arms Conductor scores and instrumental parts Arranged by Archie Bleyer.
BOX-FOLDER 5/5	Lay down your arms Piano-conductor score and instrumental parts Arranged by Jerry Bresler.
BOX-FOLDER 5/6	Like a baby Vocal score and instrumental parts Arranged by Archie Bleyer.
BOX-FOLDER 5/7	Little shoemaker Conductor score, vocal score, and instrumental parts
BOX-FOLDER 5/8	Lollipop Piano-conductor score, vocal score, and instrumental parts Arranged by Jerry Bresler.

## Music, 1938-1995

Container	Contents
BOX-FOLDER 5/9	Look who's in love Piano-conductor scores and instrumental parts
BOX-FOLDER 5/10	Love never changes Vocal score and instrumental parts
BOX-FOLDER 6/1	Medley Conductor score and instrumental parts Includes "Candy and cake." Arranged by Jerry Bresler.
BOX-FOLDER 6/2	Medley Piano-conductor score Includes "Just between me and you" and "Born to be with you."
BOX-FOLDER 6/3	Medley Piano-conductor scores and instrumental parts Includes "Mr. Sandman." Arranged by Jerry Bresler.
BOX-FOLDER 6/4-5	Mr. Sandman Piano-conductor score, vocal scores, and instrumental parts
BOX-FOLDER 6/6	Moonglow Conductor score, vocal score, and instrumental parts
BOX-FOLDER 6/7	My heart stood still / My wonderful one, 1990 Vocal scores Score for second selection marked "Lynn" and is dated Nov. 17, 1990.
BOX-FOLDER 7/1	Never on Sunday Piano-conductor scores, vocal score, and instrumental parts Arranged by Jerry Bresler.
BOX-FOLDER 7/2-3	Never on Sunday medley Piano-conductor score and instrumental parts Arranged by Jim Tyler.
BOX-FOLDER 7/4	No other arms--no other lips Piano-conductor score, vocal score, and instrumental parts
BOX-FOLDER 7/5	Old is in, 1992 Vocal score Arranged by Walter Latzko.
BOX-FOLDER 7/6-7	Personality (medley) Piano-conductor scores, vocal score, and instrumental parts Arranged by Jim Tyler.
BOX-FOLDER 7/8	Pink shoe laces Vocal score and instrumental parts Arranged by Archie Bleyer.
BOX-FOLDER 8/1	Que sera sera Full score and vocal score
BOX-FOLDER 8/2-4	Record medley Piano-conductor scores and instrumental parts Arranged by Jerry Bresler.
BOX-FOLDER 9/1	Relax, 1940 Conductor score, piano-conductor score, vocal score, piano-vocal score, and instrumental parts
BOX-FOLDER 9/2	Soft sands Vocal score and instrumental/vocal parts



## Music, 1938-1995

### Container

### Contents

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	Arranged by Archie Bleyer.
<b>BOX-FOLDER 9/3</b>	Summer place Conductor score, piano-conductor score, and instrumental parts Arranged by Jim Tyler.
<b>BOX-FOLDER 9/4</b>	Tall Paul Vocal score and instrumental parts Arranged by Archie Bleyer.
<b>BOX-FOLDER 9/5-6</b>	Tammy Full score, vocal score, and instrumental parts
<b>BOX-FOLDER 9/7</b>	Teen age goodnite Vocal score and instrumental parts Arranged by Archie Bleyer.
<b>BOX-FOLDER 9/8</b>	They can't take that away from me Conductor score and instrumental parts Arranged by Jim Tyler.
<b>BOX-FOLDER 9/9-10</b>	True love Full score, conductor score, vocal score, and instrumental parts
<b>BOX-FOLDER 10/1</b>	Up above my head Conductor scores and instrumental parts Arranged by Jim Tyler.
<b>BOX-FOLDER 10/2</b>	Viafore's Vocal score
<b>BOX-FOLDER 10/3</b>	Way down yonder in New Orleans, 1955 Conductor score, vocal score, and instrumental parts
<b>BOX-FOLDER 10/4</b>	We love a melody (from the good old days) Conductor score and instrumental parts Arranged by Jerry Bresler.
<b>BOX-FOLDER 10/5</b>	Where is your heart Full score and vocal score Song from <i>Moulin Rouge</i> .
<b>BOX-FOLDER 10/6</b>	Whistlin' Willie Vocal score and instrumental parts
<b>BOX-FOLDER 10/7</b>	White rose of Athens Vocal score and instrumental parts
<b>BOX-FOLDER 11/1-2</b>	Zorro Piano-conductor score, vocal score, and instrumental parts Arranged by Jerry Bresler.
<b>BOX-FOLDER 11/3</b>	Unidentified Piano-conductor score and sketches
	<b>Miscellaneous Music, 1938-1995</b> Jingles, sheet music, songbooks, and miscellaneous instrumental parts. Arranged by type of material.
<b>BOX-FOLDER 11/4</b>	Jingles, 1952-1953, undated
<b>BOX-FOLDER 11/5</b>	Sheet music, 1938-1990
<b>BOX-FOLDER 11/6</b>	Songbooks, 1954-1964
<b>BOX-FOLDER 11/7</b>	Guitar parts, 1994-1995, undated

## Music, 1938-1995

<b>Container</b>	<b>Contents</b>
BOX-FOLDER 11/8	Tenor saxophone parts, 1995, undated
BOX 11	<b>Photographs, circa 1950-circa 1994</b>
BOX-FOLDER 11/9	Miscellany, circa 1950-circa 1994 Mostly candid, personal photographs of family members and friends. Includes several photographs of The Chordettes as a group.