

# Milton Okun Musical Arrangements



**Music Division, Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C.  
2021**

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.music/perform.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/2016570581>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.music/eadmus.mu021015>

Prepared by the Music Division of the Library of Congress

Finding aid encoded by Rachel McNellis, 2021

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Milton Okun Musical Arrangements

**Inclusive Dates:** 1954-1965

**Call No.:** ML31.O42

**Creator:** Okun, Milton

**Extent:** approximately 60 items

**Extent:** 3 containers

**Extent:** 2.5 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English.

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/2016570581>

**Summary:** Milton Okun (1923-2016) was an American arranger, singer, and record producer who founded the Cherry Lane Music Publishing Company in New York City in 1960. He arranged and produced the music of John Denver, Peter, Paul, and Mary, The Brothers Four, and The Chad Mitchell Trio. The Milton Okun Musical Arrangements consist chiefly of holograph and printed scores of Okun's arrangements for The Brothers Four, as well as several songbooks with folk music by various composers.

## Acquisition Information

Gift, Milton Okun, 1965

## Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

## Processing History

Pamela Murrell and Wilda Heiss processed the Milton Okun Musical Arrangements circa 2004. Rachel McNellis coded the finding aid in 2021.

## Related Material

The [Henry Mancini Papers](#) contain a songbook edited by Milton Okun.

## Copyright Status

Materials from the Milton Okun 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 Milton Okun Musical 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 on using or copying materials may apply.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [item, date, container or reel or digital ID number], Milton Okun Musical Arrangements for The Brothers Four, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

Date	Event
1923 December 23	Born in Brooklyn, New York
late 1920s-1938	Studied piano
1938	Became ill with nephritis and lost ability to play piano at a virtuosic level
1949	Earned bachelor's degree in music education at New York University
1950	Earned master's degree in music at Oberlin College in Ohio
1950-1955	Taught vocal music at Joseph Pulitzer Junior High School in New York
1954-1955	Directed the Adirondack Folk Festival at Scroon Lake
1955-1962	Worked as a folk singer during the folk music revival in Greenwich Village Recorded six albums
1955	Recorded his first folk album <i>Merry Ditties</i> (Riverside Records)
1950s	Performed as a member of the folk music quartet The Skiffers
1950s	Worked as a pianist, arranger, and conductor for Harry Belafonte, but was fired after an argument regarding the tempo for the song "Hava Nagila"
1958	Married Rosemary Okun, with whom he had two children, Andrew and Jennifer
1960	Founded Cherry Lane Music Publishing Company in New York City
1969 October	Produced Peter, Paul, and Mary's recording of John Denver's song "Leaving on a Jet Plane"
1972	Produced John Denver and Mike Taylor's song "Rocky Mountain High"
1972	Edited <i>The New York Times Great Songs of the Sixties</i> . Chicago: Quadrangle Books
1973	Edited <i>The New York Times Great Songs of Lennon and McCarthy</i> . New York: Crown Publishing Group
1974	Nominated for his first Grammy Award: Album of the Year for John Denver's <i>Back Home Again</i>
1976	Produced Starland Vocal Band's album <i>Afternoon Delight</i>
1981	Produced Plácido Domingo and John Denver's album <i>Perhaps Love</i> , which launched Domingo's career in popular music
2008	Awarded the Abe Olman Publisher Award by the Songwriters Hall of Fame
2010	BMG bought Cherry Lane Music Publishing Company
2011	Wrote his memoir with son-in-law Richard Sparks: <i>Along the Cherry Lane: Tales From the Life of Music Industry Legend Milt Okun</i> . Beverley Hills: Classical Music Today
2016 November 15	Died of kidney failure in Beverley Hills, California, at age 92

## Scope and Content Note

The Milton Okun Musical Arrangements contain [Music](#) that spans the years 1954 to 1965. The materials consist chiefly of holograph and printed scores of arrangements that Okun composed for the folk singing group The Brothers Four. Songs include the group's renditions of works by Eric Anderson, Jimmy Driftwood, Bob Dylan, Jesse Fuller, Woodie Guthrie, Jimmie Rodgers, Peggy Seeger, Peter, Paul and Mary, and other folk artists. The collection also includes several songbooks of folk music.

## Organization of the Milton Okun Musical Arrangements

The collection is arranged in one series:

- [Music, 1954-1965](#)

## 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

Andersen, Eric.  
Driftwood, Jimmie.  
Dylan, Bob, 1941-  
Fuller, Jesse.  
Guthrie, Woody, 1912-1967.  
Okun, Milton--Archives.  
Okun, Milton.  
Okun, Milton.  
Rodgers, Jimmie, 1933-2021.  
Seeger, Peggy, 1935-

### Organizations

Four Brothers.  
Peter, Paul, and Mary (Musical group)

### Subjects

Folk music--United States.  
Popular music--United States--1951-1960.  
Popular music--United States--1961-1970.  
Songbooks, English--United States.

### Titles

*Milton Okun collection, 1964-1970*

### Form/Genre

Arrangements (Music)  
Autographs (Manuscripts)  
Folk music.  
Popular music.  
Scores.  
Songbooks.  
Songs.

## Description of Series

**Container**  
BOX 1-3

**Series**  
Music, 1954-1965

This series consists chiefly of holograph and printed scores for songs that Milton Okun arranged for the folk singing group The Brothers Four. The arrangements appear on albums the ensemble released on the Columbia label in 1964: *More Big Folk Hits*, *By Special Request*, and *Sing of Our Times*. Published sheet music for the original songs accompany some of Okun's arrangements. Most items in this series are inscribed with the text "Gift – Milton T. Okun – 1965" in pencil. Many of Okun's holograph scores are also marked with either the name or initials of the members of The Brothers Four: Bob Flick, Dick Foley, Mike Kirkland, and John Paine. Additionally, this series contains several songbooks with the music of various singer-songwriters.

Arranged alphabetically by last name.

# Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-3	<p><b>Music, 1954-1965</b></p> <p>This series consists chiefly of holograph and printed scores for songs that Milton Okun arranged for the folk singing group The Brothers Four. The arrangements appear on albums the ensemble released on the Columbia label in 1964: <i>More Big Folk Hits</i>, <i>By Special Request</i>, and <i>Sing of Our Times</i>. Published sheet music for the original songs accompany some of Okun's arrangements. Most items in this series are inscribed with the text "Gift – Milton T. Okun – 1965" in pencil. Many of Okun's holograph scores are also marked with either the name or initials of the members of The Brothers Four: Bob Flick, Dick Foley, Mike Kirkland, and John Paine. Additionally, this series contains several songbooks with the music of various singer-songwriters.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by last name.</p> <p>Anderson, Eric</p>
BOX-FOLDER 3/5	<p>Come to My Bedside, My Darlin', circa 1964 Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four Holograph vocal score</p>
BOX-FOLDER 1/6	<p>Come to My Bedside, My Darlin', circa 1964 Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four Vocal score</p>
BOX-FOLDER 3/2	<p>Arkin, Alan, Bob Carey, and Erik Darling The Banana Boat Song, circa 1964 Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four Holograph vocal score</p>
BOX-FOLDER 1/2	<p>The Banana Boat Song, 1956 Piano-vocal score</p>
BOX-FOLDER 1/2	<p>The Banana Boat Song, circa 1964 Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four Vocal score</p>
BOX-FOLDER 3/9	<p>Brooks, Fred and Marshall Barer I'm Just a Country Boy, circa 1964 Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four Holograph vocal score</p>
BOX-FOLDER 1/12	<p>I'm Just a Country Boy, 1954 Piano-vocal score</p>
BOX-FOLDER 1/12	<p>I'm Just a Country Boy, circa 1964 Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four Vocal score</p>
BOX-FOLDER 3/1	<p>The Brothers Four Ballad of Moreton Bay, circa 1964 Arranged By Okun for The Brothers Four Holograph vocal score</p>
BOX-FOLDER 1/1	<p>Ballad of Moreton Bay, circa 1964 Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four Lead sheet</p>

## Music, 1954-1965

### Container

### Contents

---

<b>BOX-FOLDER 3/14</b>	Take This Hammer, circa 1964 Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four Holograph vocal score Brown Jr., Oscar and Norman Curtis
<b>BOX-FOLDER 3/4</b>	Brother, Where Are You?, circa 1964 Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four Holograph vocal score
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/5</b>	Brother, Where Are You?, circa 1964 Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four Vocal score Driftwood, Jimmy
<b>BOX-FOLDER 3/3</b>	Battle of New Orleans, circa 1964 Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four Holograph vocal score
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/3</b>	Battle of New Orleans, circa 1964 Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four Vocal score Dylan, Bob
<b>BOX-FOLDER 3/7</b>	Don't Think Twice, It's All Right, circa 1964 Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four Holograph vocal score
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/10</b>	Don't Think Twice, It's All Right, 1963 Lead sheet
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/10</b>	Don't Think Twice, It's All Right, circa 1964 Arranged by Okun Lead sheet
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/13</b>	Long Ago, Far Away, circa 1964 Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four Holograph vocal score; printed vocal score
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/13</b>	Long Ago, Far Away, 1962 Lead sheet
<b>BOX-FOLDER 2/6</b>	Tomorrow Is a Long Time, circa 1964 Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four Holograph vocal score; printed vocal score
<b>BOX-FOLDER 2/6</b>	Tomorrow Is a Long Time, 1962 Lead sheet Fuller, Jesse
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/14</b>	The Monkey and the Engineer, circa 1964 Arranged by Okun for the Brothers Four Holograph vocal score; printed vocal score
<b>BOX-FOLDER 3/12</b>	San Francisco Bay Blues, circa 1964 Arranged by Okun for the Brothers Four Holograph vocal score
<b>BOX-FOLDER 2/3</b>	San Francisco Bay Blues, circa 1964 Arranged by Okun for the Brothers Four Vocal score
<b>BOX-FOLDER 2/3</b>	San Francisco Bay Blues, 1965 Lead sheet

## Music, 1954-1965

### Container

### Contents

---

	Gibson, Bob and Bob Camp
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/7</b>	Daddy Roll' Em, circa 1964 Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four Holograph lead sheet; printed lead sheet
	Guthrie, Woody and Martin Hoffman
<b>BOX-FOLDER 2/1</b>	Goodbye Juan (Plane Wreck at Los Gatos), 1961 Lead sheet
<b>BOX-FOLDER 2/1</b>	Plane Wreck at Los Gatos, circa 1964 Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four Holograph vocal score; printed vocal score
	Hickey, Ersel and Ed Miller
<b>BOX-FOLDER 3/6</b>	Don't Let the Rain Come Down, circa 1964 Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four Holograph vocal score
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/9</b>	Don't Let the Rain Come Down, circa 1964 Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four Vocal score
	Horton, Zilphia, Frank Hamilton, Guy Carawan, and Pete Seeger
<b>BOX-FOLDER 3/15</b>	We Shall Overcome, circa 1964 Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four Holograph vocal score
<b>BOX-FOLDER 2/7</b>	We Shall Overcome, 1960 Piano-vocal score
<b>BOX-FOLDER 2/7</b>	We Shall Overcome, circa 1964 Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four Vocal score
	Miscellaneous songbooks
<b>BOX-FOLDER 2/4</b>	<i>The Folk Singers Song Bag</i> , 1962
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/11</b>	<i>Folk Today: Top Recorded Hits from the Greatest Folk Singers</i> , 1965
	Moseley, Fran and Lee Hays
<b>BOX-FOLDER 2/4</b>	Seven Daffodils, circa 1964 Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four Holograph vocal score
	Peter, Paul, and Mary
<b>BOX-FOLDER 2/2</b>	<i>In the Wind</i> , 1962 Songbook of folk music by various composers that Peter, Paul, and Mary recorded
<b>BOX-FOLDER 3/11</b>	Puff (The Magic Dragon), circa 1964 Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four Holograph vocal score
<b>BOX-FOLDER 2/2</b>	Puff (The Magic Dragon), circa 1964 Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four Vocal score
	Rodgers, Jimmie and George Vaughan
<b>BOX-FOLDER 3/10</b>	Muleskinner, circa 1964 Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four Holograph vocal score
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/15</b>	Muleskinner, circa 1964 Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four



## Music, 1954-1965

### Container

### Contents

---

	Vocal score
	Seeger, Peggy and Ewan MacColl
<b>BOX-FOLDER 3/13</b>	The Ballad of Spring Hill, circa 1964 Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four as "Spring Hill Mine Disaster"
	Holograph vocal score
<b>BOX-FOLDER 2/5</b>	The Ballad of Spring Hill, circa 1964 Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four as "Spring Hill Mine Disaster"
	Printed vocal score
<b>BOX-FOLDER 2/5</b>	<i>Ewan MacColl and Peggy Seeger Songbook</i> , 1963
	Seeger, Pete
<b>BOX-FOLDER 3/16</b>	Where Have All the Flowers Gone, circa 1964 Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four
	Holograph vocal score
<b>BOX-FOLDER 2/8</b>	Where Have All the Flowers Gone, circa 1964 Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four
	Vocal score
	Silverstein, Shel
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/4</b>	Beans Taste Fine, circa 1964 Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four
	Holograph vocal lead sheet
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/4</b>	Beans Taste Fine, circa 1964 Vocal lead sheet
	Tyson, Ian
<b>BOX-FOLDER 3/8</b>	Four Strong Winds, circa 1964 Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four
	Holograph vocal score
	Wood, Al
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/8</b>	Dance Me a Jig, circa 1964 Arranged by Okun for the Brothers Four
	Holograph vocal score; printed vocal score