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

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 *Merry Ditties* (Riverside Records)
1950s         Performed as a member of the folk music quartet The Skiffles
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"
1974          Nominated for his first Grammy Award: Album of the Year for John Denver's *Back Home Again*
1976          Produced Starland Vocal Band's album *Afternoon Delight*
1981          Produced Plácido Domingo and John Denver’s album *Perhaps Love*, 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: *Along the Cherry Lane: Tales From the Life of Music Industry Legend Milt Okun*. 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, Woody 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:
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.
Okun, Milton--Archives.
Okun, Milton.
Rodgers, Jimmie, 1933-2021.
Seeger, Peggy, 1935-

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

**Subjects**
Folk music--United States.
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  Series
BOX 1-3  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

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<td>BOX 1-3</td>
<td>Music, 1954-1965</td>
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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.

Anderson, Eric

**BOX-FOLDER 3/5**  
Come to My Bedside, My Darlin’, circa 1964  
Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four  
Holograph vocal score

Arkin, Alan, Bob Carey, and Erik Darling

**BOX-FOLDER 3/2**  
The Banana Boat Song, circa 1964  
Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four  
Holograph vocal score

**BOX-FOLDER 1/2**  
The Banana Boat Song, 1956  
Piano-vocal score

**BOX-FOLDER 1/2**  
The Banana Boat Song, circa 1964  
Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four  
Vocal score

Brooks, Fred and Marshall Barer

**BOX-FOLDER 3/9**  
I'm Just a Country Boy, circa 1964  
Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four  
Holograph vocal score

**BOX-FOLDER 1/12**  
I'm Just a Country Boy, 1954  
Piano-vocal score

**BOX-FOLDER 1/12**  
I'm Just a Country Boy, circa 1964  
Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four  
Vocal score

The Brothers Four

**BOX-FOLDER 3/1**  
Ballad of Moreton Bay, circa 1964  
Arranged By Okun for The Brothers Four  
Holograph vocal score

**BOX-FOLDER 1/1**  
Ballad of Moreton Bay, circa 1964  
Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four  
Lead sheet
Take This Hammer, circa 1964
Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four
Holograph vocal score
Brown Jr., Oscar and Norman Curtis

Brother, Where Are You?, circa 1964
Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four
Holograph vocal score

Brother, Where Are You?, circa 1964
Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four
Vocal score

Battle of New Orleans, circa 1964
Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four
Holograph vocal score

Don't Think Twice, It's All Right, circa 1964
Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four
Holograph vocal score

Long Ago, Far Away, circa 1964
Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four
Holograph vocal score; printed vocal score

Tomorrow Is a Long Time, circa 1964
Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four
Holograph vocal score; printed vocal score

The Monkey and the Engineer, circa 1964
Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four
Holograph vocal score; printed vocal score

San Francisco Bay Blues, circa 1964
Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four
Holograph vocal score

San Francisco Bay Blues, circa 1964
Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four
Vocal score

San Francisco Bay Blues, 1965
Lead sheet
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<td>Holograph lead sheet; printed lead sheet</td>
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<td>BOX-FOLDER 2/1</td>
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<td>BOX-FOLDER 2/1</td>
<td>Plane Wreck at Los Gatos, circa 1964</td>
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<td>BOX-FOLDER 3/6</td>
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<td>BOX-FOLDER 1/9</td>
<td>Don't Let the Rain Come Down, circa 1964</td>
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<td>Guthrie, Woody and Martin Hoffman</td>
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<td>BOX-FOLDER 3/15</td>
<td>We Shall Overcome, circa 1964</td>
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<td>BOX-FOLDER 2/7</td>
<td>We Shall Overcome, 1960</td>
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<td>BOX-FOLDER 2/7</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous songbooks</td>
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<td>BOX-FOLDER 2/4</td>
<td>The Folk Singers Song Bag, 1962</td>
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<td>BOX-FOLDER 1/11</td>
<td>Folk Today: Top Recorded Hits from the Greatest Folk Singers, 1965</td>
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<td>Moseley, Fran and Lee Hays</td>
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<td>BOX-FOLDER 2/4</td>
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<td>Peter, Paul, and Mary</td>
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<td>BOX-FOLDER 2/2</td>
<td>In the Wind, 1962</td>
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<td>Songbook of folk music by various composers that Peter, Paul, and Mary recorded</td>
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<td>BOX-FOLDER 3/11</td>
<td>Puff (The Magic Dragon), circa 1964</td>
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<td>Vocal score</td>
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<td>Rodgers, Jimmie and George Vaughan</td>
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| **BOX-FOLDER 3/13** | Vocal score  
Seeger, Peggy and Ewan MacColl  
The Ballad of Spring Hill, circa 1964  
Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four as "Spring Hill Mine Disaster"  
Holograph vocal score |
| **BOX-FOLDER 2/5** | The Ballad of Spring Hill, circa 1964  
Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four as "Spring Hill Mine Disaster"  
Printed vocal score |
| **BOX-FOLDER 2/5** | *Ewan MacColl and Peggy Seeger Songbook*, 1963  
Seeger, Pete  
Where Have All the Flowers Gone, circa 1964  
Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four  
Holograph vocal score |
| **BOX-FOLDER 2/8** | Where Have All the Flowers Gone, circa 1964  
Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four  
Vocal score  
Silverstein, Shel  
Beans Taste Fine, circa 1964  
Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four  
Holograph vocal lead sheet |
| **BOX-FOLDER 1/4** | Beans Taste Fine, circa 1964  
Vocal lead sheet  
Tyson, Ian  
Four Strong Winds, circa 1964  
Arranged by Okun for The Brothers Four  
Holograph vocal score  
Wood, Al  
Dance Me a Jig, circa 1964  
Arranged by Okun for the Brothers Four  
Holograph vocal score; printed vocal score |