

Serge Rips Collection of King Bhumibol Adulyadej Music Manuscripts



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

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Prepared by the Music Division of the Library of Congress

Finding aid encoded by Christopher Hartten and Shantel Lambert, 2021

Collection Summary

Title: Serge Rips Collection of King Bhumibol Adulyadej Music Manuscripts

Inclusive Dates: 1946-1995

Call No.: ML31.B52

Creator: Bhumibol Adulyadej, King of Thailand, 1927-2016

Collector: Rips, Serge

Extent: approximately 125 items

Extent: 2 containers

Extent: 1 linear foot

Language: Collection material in English and Thai

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2006560670>

Summary: Bhumibol Adulyadej (1927-2016), King of Thailand, was prominently known as the longest-reigning monarch in the world at the time of his death in 2016. He was also a gifted reed player with a passion for musical composition and jazz performance. This collection consists largely of his music manuscripts for songs and piano solo works.

Acquisition Information

Transfer from the University of Maryland, 2005

Custodial History

Serge Rips, a friend of King Bhumibol Adulyadej, assembled the materials in this collection over an unspecified time period. Following Rips' death, Faye Cohen, a friend of his widow, donated the materials to the University of Maryland in July 2004. In November of that year, the materials were transferred to the Music Division of the Library of Congress, where they were officially received in 2005.

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Processing History

Christopher Hartten processed the Serge Rips Collection of King Bhumibol Adulyadej Music Manuscripts in 2014. Hartten and Shantel Lambert coded the finding aid in 2021.

Additional Description

Following King Bhumibol Adulyadej's death in 2016, the Music Division published a [blog post](#) about his 1960 instrument donation to the Music Division. It includes a brief mention of the items in this collection.

Other Repositories

The National Archives in Honor of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej in Khlong Luang, Pathum Thani Province, Thailand, is the principle repository for the papers of Adulyadej.

Related Material

The Music Division holds ten Thai instruments that King Bhumibol Adulyadej gave to the Library during his visit in 1960. These consist of a pair of ching (hand cymbals), one thon and one rammana (small hand-played drums), two khluai u (bamboo flutes, small and medium), one jakhe (chakhe, a three-string zither), and two sq duang and two sq u, both being forms of a vertically played two-string fiddle.

Copyright Status

Materials from the Serge Rips Collection of King Bhumibol Adulyadej Music Manuscripts 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 Serge Rips Collection of King Bhumibol Adulyadej Music Manuscripts 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 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], Serge Rips Collection of King Bhumibol Adulyadej Music Manuscripts, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

King Bhumibol Adulyadej was Thailand's longest serving monarch, ruling from June 9, 1946, until his death on October 13, 2016. Born on December 5, 1927, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the youngest son of Mahidol Adulyadej, Prince of Songkla, Bhumibol Adulyadej developed an interest in jazz while growing up in Switzerland and began playing the saxophone in 1942. Inspired by artists such as Louis Armstrong, Sidney Bechet, Benny Carter, and Johnny Hodges, he composed his first song, "Candlelight Blues," in 1946 and formed the Lay Kram jazz band upon his return to Thailand in 1950. Beginning in 1952, Lay Kram broadcast live performances from the newly established Au San Amporn Satharn Radio Station to Thai audiences. Adulyadej frequently joined the band for private weekend jam sessions.

On July 5, 1960, he played for several hours in New York with Benny Goodman, Gene Krupa, and Urbie Green. Lionel Hampton remarked warmly that Bhumipol was "simply the coolest king in the land." In addition to the saxophone, Adulyadej mastered clarinet, trumpet, and piano. He composed nearly fifty works throughout his life, including "Falling Rain" and "Love at Sundown" (1946), two of his best-known songs. Six of these songs appeared on Broadway in the musical *Peepshow*. Adulyadej's contributions to music were recognized by the Yale School of Music in 2000, which bestowed upon him the Sanford Medal for his cultivation and support of jazz in Thailand. He also received an honorary doctorate from the University of North Texas College of Music in 2003.

Bibliography

- Gray, Denis. ["Thailand's Late King Also Artist, Jazz Musician, Inventor."](#) AP News. Last accessed June 4, 2021.
- ["Jazz Legacy: A Tribute to His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej's lasting contribution to Jazz in Thailand."](#) United States Embassy and Consulate in Thailand. Last accessed June 4, 2021.
- Shaw, Lew. ["Thailand's Jazz-Loving King Bhumibol Adulyadej Dies at 88."](#) *The Syncopated Times*. Nov. 1, 2016. Last accessed June 4, 2021.

Scope and Content Note

The materials in this collection were originally gathered by Serge Rips, a friend of King Bhumibol Adulyadej, over an unspecified period of time. Most of these items are holograph scores for original songs and piano works, composed between 1946 and 1995. Interspersed are a handful of piano solo arrangements by J. S. Benda. The music materials also feature an early sketchbook from 1946 that contains works Adulyadej returned to in his later years. Additionally, the collection includes a small quantity of assorted items that provide a glimpse of Adulyadej's life, both in music and as an esteemed public figure.

Organization of the Serge Rips Collection of King Bhumibol Adulyadej Music Manuscripts

The collection is arranged in two series:

- [Music, 1946-1995](#)
- [Miscellany, 1951-1955](#)

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

Benda, Sebastian.

Bhumibol Adulyadej, King of Thailand, 1927-2016--Autographs.

Bhumibol Adulyadej, King of Thailand, 1927-2016.

Bhumibol Adulyadej, King of Thailand, 1927-2016. Instrumental music. Selections.

Rips, Serge.

Subjects

Band music--Scores.

Jazz.

Musical sketches.

Orchestral music--Scores.

Piano music, Arranged.

Piano music.

Songs with piano.

Titles

Bhumibol Adulyadej (King of Thailand) collection 1946-1954.

Form/Genre

Arrangements (Music)

Jazz.

Lead sheets.

Musical sketches.

Scores.

Description of Series

Container

BOX 1-2

Series

Music, 1946-1995

This series chiefly contains manuscripts for original songs and piano works composed by King Bhumibol Adulyadej. It also includes several works for full orchestra or band, a handful of piano arrangements by J. S. Benda, and an early sketchbook dating from 1946.

Arranged alphabetically by title.

BOX 2

Miscellany, 1951-1955

This series contains copyright registration documents, one photograph, one script, a lyric sheet, and other assorted items.

Arranged alphabetically by subject.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-2	Music, 1946-1995 This series chiefly contains manuscripts for original songs and piano works composed by King Bhumibol Adulyadej. It also includes several works for full orchestra or band, a handful of piano arrangements by J. S. Benda, and an early sketchbook dating from 1946. Arranged alphabetically by title.
BOX-FOLDER 1/1	Blue Day, 1950, 1992 Two scores for voice and piano; lyric sheet
BOX-FOLDER 1/1	Blue Day, undated Arranged by J. S. Benda Score for piano
BOX-FOLDER 1/2	Dream of Love (Dream of You), 1992 Score for voice and piano; lyric sheet
BOX-FOLDER 1/2	Dream of Love (Dream of You), undated Arranged by J. S. Benda Score for piano
BOX-FOLDER 1/3	Falling Rain, 1947 Printed score for voice and piano; lyric sheet
BOX-FOLDER 1/3	Falling Rain, undated Arranged by J. S. Benda Score for piano
BOX-FOLDER 1/4	Hungry Man's Blues, 1948 Alternate title: Never Mind the Blues Score for voice and piano (no lyric); lyric sheet
BOX-FOLDER 1/5	Life's Destiny. Elegy, 1993 Score for piano
BOX-FOLDER 1/6	Love Over Again, 1995 Lead sheet; lyric sheet
BOX-FOLDER 1/7	Lovelight in My Heart, 1993-1995 Score for voice and piano; lead sheet; lyric sheet
BOX-FOLDER 1/7	Lovelight in My Heart, undated Arranged by J. S. Benda? Score for piano
BOX-FOLDER 1/8	Mahachaya, undated Full scores for orchestra and brass band
BOX-FOLDER 1/9	March of the Bodyguard, 1994 Score for piano
BOX-FOLDER 1/10	March of the Royal Bodyguards, undated Full score for band; parts
BOX-FOLDER 1/11	Never Mind the Hungry Men's Blues, undated Lyric sheet
BOX-FOLDER 1/12	Now That's All, 1992 Score for voice and piano

Music, 1946-1995

Container	Contents
BOX-FOLDER 1/13	Regimental Colors, undated Full score for band; parts
BOX-FOLDER 2/1	The Royal Anthem of Thailand, undated Full score for orchestra; parts for brass band; printed score for voice and piano
BOX-FOLDER 2/2	Smiles, 1995 Lead sheet
BOX-FOLDER 2/3	Sweet Words, undated Lyric sheet
BOX-FOLDER 2/3	Sweet Words, undated Arranged by J. S. Benda? Score for piano
BOX-FOLDER 2/4	'Tis Sundown, undated Lead sheet
BOX-FOLDER 2/5	Twilight, 1995 Lead sheet; lyric sheet
BOX-FOLDER 2/6	Sketchbook, 1946-1950 Lead sheets and lyric sheets <i>Contents include:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 'Tis Sundown (1946)• Falling Rain (1946)• New Dawn (1946)• Hungry Men's Blues (1947)• Never Mind the Hungry Men's Blues (1947)• Blue Day (1949)• Dream of Love (Dream of You) (1949)• That's All (1949)• Sweet Words (1949)• Valse: Lovelight in My Heart (1949)• March of the Royal Bodyguards (1950)
BOX 2	Miscellany, 1951-1955 This series contains copyright registration documents, one photograph, one script, a lyric sheet, and other assorted items. Arranged alphabetically by subject.
BOX-FOLDER 2/7	Copyright registration and correspondence, 1951-1955
BOX-FOLDER 2/8	King of Thailand Show, 1952 April
BOX-FOLDER 2/9	Lyric sheet for "My Lullaby", undated
BOX-FOLDER 2/10	Miscellany, 1951 and undated
BOX-FOLDER 2/11	Photograph of the King and others, undated