

Musical Arrangements for Billy Eckstine



**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 Anthony Edwards and Rachel McNellis, 2021
Revised 2022 August

Collection Summary

Title: Musical Arrangements for Billy Eckstine

Inclusive Dates: 1950-1957

Call No.: ML31.R54

Collector: Eckstine, Billy

Creator: Riddle, Nelson

Creator: Winterhalter, Hugo, 1909-1973

Extent: approximately 350 items

Extent: 7 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/2014572567>

Summary: Billy Eckstine (1914-2019) was an American popular and jazz singer and bandleader. Nelson Riddle (1921-1986) was a trombonist, composer, and arranger who worked with prominent vocalists during the 1940s through 1960s, including Nat King Cole, Billy Eckstine, Ella Fitzgerald, Peggy Lee, and Frank Sinatra. Musician, composer, and recording executive Hugo Winterhalter was also an arranger for several record labels, television, film, and artists such as Perry Como, Frank Sinatra, Mario Lanza, and the Ames Brothers. The collection consists of holograph scores and printed parts for arrangements of popular songs that Riddle and Winterhalter created for Eckstine during the 1950s.

Acquisition Information

Purchase, Al Teman, 2009

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Processing History

Jane Cross processed the Musical Arrangements for Billy Eckstine in 2021. Anthony Edwards and Rachel McNellis coded the finding aid in 2021. Researchers should note that the folders are labelled to reference an earlier title for this collection.

Related Material

The [Ella Fitzgerald Collection](#) contains many arrangements by Nelson Riddle, and the [Dexter Gordon Collection](#) contains photographs of Billy Eckstine.

Copyright Status

Materials from the Musical Arrangements for Billy Eckstine 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 Musical Arrangements for Billy Eckstine 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 number], Musical Arrangements for Billy Eckstine, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Sketches

Billy Eckstine

| Date | Event |
|---------------|--|
| 1914 July 8 | Born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to William and Charlotte Eckstein |
| 1925 | Made his first appearance as a singer at a church bazaar |
| 1928 | Attended Peabody High School in Pittsburgh |
| circa 1930 | Moved to Washington, D.C. |
| circa 1931 | Studied physical education at St. Paul's Normal and Industrial School in Lawrenceville, Virginia |
| 1932-1933 | Studied at Howard University until he won an amateur singing contest |
| circa 1933 | Changed the spelling of his last name from Eckstein to Eckstine |
| 1939-1943 | Sang as lead vocalist in Earl Hines's orchestra in Chicago while learning trombone |
| 1942 | Recorded the hit songs "Jelly, Jelly" and "Stormy Monday" with Hines's orchestra Married his first wife, June (divorced 1952) |
| 1944-1947 | Led his own be-bop band, the Billy Eckstine Orchestra, which featured prominent jazz musicians, such as Dizzy Gillespie, Miles Davis, Fats Navarro, Charlie Parker, and Sarah Vaughan |
| 1945 | Recorded the hit song "Prisoner of Love" with Duke Ellington on piano, which became a gold album |
| 1945-1950 | Recorded hit songs with MGM, including "Cottage for Sale" (1945), "Everything I Have is Yours" (1947), "I Apologize" (1948), "Caravan" (1949), and "My Foolish Heart" (1950) |
| 1946 | Starred in the musical film <i>Rhythm in a Riff</i> Won <i>Esquire</i> magazine's New Star Award |
| 1947 | Pursued a career as a solo vocalist and focused primarily on ballads |
| Late 1940s | Signed a five-year contract with MGM records |
| 1950 April 24 | Featured in a photograph in <i>LIFE</i> magazine in which he was surrounded by white women, which damaged his career due to societal racism |
| 1949 | Voted most popular singer and orchestra by <i>Downbeat</i> magazine's annual poll |
| 1950 | Voted top male vocalist by <i>Metronome</i> magazine's annual poll |
| 1950s-1980s | Performed at night clubs |
| 1951 July 8 | Performed at the seventh annual Cavalcade of Jazz festival, which Leon Hefflin Sr. produced at Wrigley Field in Los Angeles |
| 1953 | Married actress and model Carolle Drake |
| 1957 | Recorded the song "Passing Strangers" with Sarah Vaughan |
| 1960 | Sang the national anthem at the World Series |
| Mid-1960s | Recorded for Motown Records |
| 1984 | Recorded his penultimate song, "I Am a Singer" |
| 1985 | Inducted into the Big Band and Jazz Hall of Fame |
| 1986 | Recorded his final album <i>Billy Eckstine Sings with Benny Carter</i> , which was nominated for the Grammy Award for Best Male Jazz Vocal Performance Appeared in the film <i>Jo Jo Dancer, Your Life Is Calling</i> , produced by Richard Pryor |
| 1990 | Was a pallbearer at Sammy Davis Jr.'s funeral |
| 1992 April | Had a stroke while giving a concert in Salina, Kansas, ending his performing career |
| 1993 March 8 | Died of a heart attack in Pittsburgh |
| 1999 | Posthumously awarded the Grammy Hall of Fame Award for his 1948 recording of "I Apologize" |
| 2019 | Posthumously awarded the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award |

Nelson Riddle

| Date | Event |
|----------------------|---|
| 1921 June 1 | Born in Oradell, New Jersey |
| 1929 | Began studying piano at age eight |
| 1935 | Began studying trombone at age fourteen |
| 1938 | Studied orchestration with Bill Finegan, who was also the arranger for the Glenn Miller Orchestra |
| circa 1938 | Played trombone in Charlie Briggs's band The Briggadiers at Rumson High School |
| 1940 | Arranged and played trombone for Jerry Wald's orchestra |
| 1941 | Arranged and played trombone for Charlie Spivak's orchestra |
| 1943 | Served with the United States Merchant Marines in Brooklyn, New York Studied with Alan Shulman |
| 1944-1945 | Played trombone with Tommy Dorsey's orchestra in Chicago for eleven months |
| 1945 April-1946 June | Served in the United States Army |
| 1945 | Married Doreen Moran (divorced 1970) |
| 1946 | Began arranging for Bob Crosby in Los Angeles |
| 1947 | Began arranging for NBC Radio Studied arranging with Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco and Victor Young |
| 1949 May | Recorded the song "Again" with Doris Day, which reached no. 2 on the Billboard charts |
| 1950 | Completed his first project with Capitol Records, an arrangement of "Mona Lisa" for Nat King Cole, with whom he collaborated for more than a decade |
| circa 1950 | Signed with Capitol Records and formed his own orchestra |
| 1950s | Worked with popular singers at Capitol Records including Rosemary Clooney, Ella Fitzgerald, Judy Garland, Peggy Lee, Johnny Mathis, and Dean Martin |
| 1952 | Featured with his orchestra on Billy Eckstine's album <i>Kiss of Fire</i> |
| 1953 | Collaborated with Frank Sinatra on the song "I've Got the World on a String" |
| 1955 November | Released the song "Lisbon Antigua," which reached the top of the Billboard charts for three weeks |
| 1955 | Arranged the film score for <i>Guys and Dolls</i> |
| 1956 | Arranged the film score for <i>High Society</i> |
| 1959 | Won Grammy Award for Best Musical Composition First Recorded and Released in 1958 for <i>Cross Country Suite</i> |
| 1959 | Composed the film score for <i>A Hole in the Head</i> Collaborated with Ella Fitzgerald on <i>Ella Fitzgerald Sings the George and Ira Gershwin Songbook</i> Composed the theme for <i>The Untouchables</i> television series |
| 1961 | Had an affair with Rosemary Clooney Directed the music for President John F. Kennedy's inauguration |
| 1962 | Left Capitol Records and began working as a freelance arranger |
| 1965 | Collaborated with Brazilian composer Antônio Jobim, who incorporated the Bossa Nova and Latin jazz styles into his works, on the album <i>The Wonderful World of Antônio Carlos Jobim</i> |
| 1966 | Released his final album with Sinatra titled <i>Strangers in the Night</i> |
| 1966-1968 | Composed music for the television series <i>Batman</i> |
| 1969 | Directed the music for the film <i>Paint Your Wagon</i> |
| 1970 April 11 | Married Naomi Tenenholtz |
| 1972-1973 | Worked as the music director for the Emmy Award winning show <i>The Julie Andrews Hour</i> |
| 1973 | Published the textbook <i>Arranged by Nelson Riddle</i> . Miami, Florida: Warner Brothers Publishers |
| 1975 | Won the Academy Award for Best Original Song Score for <i>The Great Gatsby</i> |
| 1977 March 14 | Conducted his last three songs with Sinatra: "Linda," "Sweet Lorraine," and "Barbara" |
| 1982 | Approached by Linda Ronstadt to write arrangements for an album of popular music |
| 1984 | Awarded Grammy Award for Best Instrumental Arrangement Accompanying Vocals for <i>What's New</i> , a collaborative album with Linda Ronstadt |
| 1985 January 19 | Conducted the nationally televised 50th Presidential Inaugural Gala for President Ronald Reagan |

1985 Completed his final collaborative project, *Blue Skies*, with Kori Te Kanawa
 1985 October 6 Died in Los Angeles of heart and liver problems
 1986 Posthumously won the Grammy Award for Best Instrumental Arrangement Accompanying Vocals for *Lush Life*, a collaborative album with Linda Ronstadt that was released in 1984

Hugo Winterhalter

| Date | Event |
|-------------------|--|
| 1909 August 15 | Born in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, to Hugo "Hugh" Winterhalter (1880-1944) and Margaret "Mary" Gallagher (1881-1950) |
| 1931 | Graduated from Mount St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg, Maryland, where he studied saxophone and sang in two choirs |
| circa 1932 | Married Mary Margaret Hardey (1911-1977) |
| 1930s-1940s | Performed as a sideman and arranger for Tommy Dorsey, Count Basie, and others |
| 1948 | Musical director at MGM Records |
| 1949 | Moved to Columbia Records Arranged, conducted, and recorded "Jealous Heart" and "Blue Christmas" |
| 1950 | Began arranging for RCA Victor |
| 1952 | Winterhalter's arrangement of "Don't Let the Stars Get in Your Eyes" recorded by Perry Como and The Ramblers sold more than a million copies, earning Winterhalter just one of his many "gold" records Recorded <i>Great Music Themes of Television</i> , thought to be the first recorded collection of television theme music |
| 1956 | His arrangement of "Canadian Sunset" reached no. 2 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart and sold more than one million copies |
| 1959 | Received Grammy nomination for Best Performance by an Orchestra for the album <i>Two Sides of Winterhalter</i> |
| 1963 | Moved to independent label Kapp Records |
| circa 1965 | Left Kapp Records to work on Broadway and in the television industry |
| 1969 | Last chart single "Theme from <i>Popi</i> " released by Musicor Records |
| 1973 September 17 | Died in Greenwich, Connecticut |

Scope and Content Note

The Musical Arrangements for Billy Eckstine span the years 1950 to 1957 and consist exclusively of [Music](#) materials. These include holograph scores and printed parts for arrangements of popular songs that Nelson Riddle and Hugo Winterhalter created for Eckstine, such as covers of works by Duke Ellington, Rodgers and Hammerstein, Sarah Vaughan, and Lester Allen.

Organization of the Musical Arrangements for Billy Eckstine

The collection is arranged in one series:

- [Music, 1950-1957](#)

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

Eckstine, Billy.
 Ellington, Duke, 1899-1974.

Riddle, Nelson--Autographs.
Riddle, Nelson.
Rodgers, Richard, 1902-1979. South Pacific. Selections; arranged.
Vaughan, Sarah, 1924-1990.
Winterhalter, Hugo, 1909-1973--Autographs.
Winterhalter, Hugo, 1909-1973.

Subjects

Jazz.
Musicals--Excerpts, Arranged--Scores.
Popular music--United States--1941-1950.
Popular music--United States--1951-1960.

Titles

Nelson Riddle arrangements for Billy Eckstine, 1950-1957

Form/Genre

Arrangements (Music)
Autographs (Manuscripts)
Excerpts.
Jazz.
Musicals.
Popular music.
Scores.
Songs.

Description of Series

Container
BOX 1-7

Series
Music, 1950-1957

The series consists of holograph scores and printed parts, some of which are annotated, for arrangements that Nelson Riddle and Hugo Winterhalter created for Billy Eckstine during the 1950s. Riddle's arrangements of Duke Ellington's songs are especially notable and include a piano-vocal score for his the jazz standard "Sophisticated Lady" (1932), as well as holograph scores for "Do Nothin'" (1940), "Don't Get Around Anymore" (1942), and "I Got it Bad," which Ivie Anderson first premiered in the 1941 revue *Jump for Joy*. This series also contains holograph scores for Eckstine's covers of "Bali Ha'i" and "Younger than Springtime" from Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical *South Pacific*. Another notable item is the short score for Riddle's arrangement of Sarah Vaughan's "You're Mine You" (1950).

Arranged alphabetically by title.

Container List

| Container | Contents |
|---------------------|---|
| BOX 1-7 | <p>Music, 1950-1957</p> <p>The series consists of holograph scores and printed parts, some of which are annotated, for arrangements that Nelson Riddle and Hugo Winterhalter created for Billy Eckstine during the 1950s. Riddle's arrangements of Duke Ellington's songs are especially notable and include a piano-vocal score for his the jazz standard "Sophisticated Lady" (1932), as well as holograph scores for "Do Nothin'" (1940), "Don't Get Around Anymore" (1942), and "I Got it Bad," which Ivie Anderson first premiered in the 1941 revue <i>Jump for Joy</i>. This series also contains holograph scores for Eckstine's covers of "Bali Ha'i" and "Younger than Springtime" from Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical <i>South Pacific</i>. Another notable item is the short score for Riddle's arrangement of Sarah Vaughan's "You're Mine You" (1950).</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by title.</p> |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/1, 5/1 | Afraid to Dream, 1951 Arranged by Nelson Riddle Full score; parts |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/2, 5/2 | All the Way, 1957 Arranged by Hugo Winterhalter Full score; parts |
| BOX-FOLDER 5/3 | Bali Ha'i, 1952 Arranged by Nelson Riddle Full score; piano-conductor score; score for voice and piano |
| BOX-FOLDER 4/4 | Because You're Mine, undated Arranged by Nelson Riddle Piano-conductor score |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/3, 5/4 | Blue Illusion, 1957 Arranged by Hugo Winterhalter Full score; parts |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/4, 5/5 | The Chosen Few, undated Arranged by Hugo Winterhalter Full score; parts |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/5, 5/6 | Come Back to Me, undated Arranged by Hugo Winterhalter Full score; parts |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/6, 5/7 | Condemned for Life, 1956 Arranged by Hugo Winterhalter Full score; parts |
| BOX-FOLDER 5/8 | Do Nothin', undated Arranged by Nelson Riddle Full score |
| BOX-FOLDER 5/9 | Don't Get Around Much Anymore, undated Arranged by Nelson Riddle Full score; piano-conductor score |

Music, 1950-1957

| Container | Contents |
|----------------------|--|
| BOX-FOLDER 2/1, 5/10 | Don't Kiss Me, 1956 Arranged by Hugo Winterhalter Full score; parts |
| BOX-FOLDER 5/11 | Ellington Medley, 1953 Arranged by Nelson Riddle Full score |
| BOX-FOLDER 2/2, 5/12 | Farewell to Romance, 1952 Arranged by Nelson Riddle Full score; parts |
| BOX-FOLDER 5/13 | Fortune Telling Cards, undated Arranged by Nelson Riddle Full score |
| BOX-FOLDER 2/3, 6/1 | Give It Another Try, 1956 Arranged by Hugo Winterhalter Full score; parts |
| BOX-FOLDER 6/2 | I Got It Bad, undated Full score; piano-conductor score |
| BOX-FOLDER 6/3 | I Laugh to Keep From Crying, undated Arranged by Nelson Riddle Full score |
| BOX-FOLDER 4/5 | I Thought I'd Seen Everything, undated Arranged by Nelson Riddle Violin part |
| BOX-FOLDER 6/4 | If I Loved You, 1952 Arranged by Nelson Riddle Full score; piano-conductor score |
| BOX-FOLDER 2/4, 6/5 | If They Ask Me, 1952 Arranged by Nelson Riddle Full score; parts |
| BOX-FOLDER 6/6 | I'm in a Mood, undated Arranged by Nelson Riddle Full score |
| BOX-FOLDER 6/7 | It Can't Be Wrong, undated Arranged by Nelson Riddle Full score |
| BOX-FOLDER 4/6 | Kiss of Fire, undated Arranged by Nelson Riddle Piano-conductor score |
| BOX-FOLDER 2/5 | La De Do De Do, undated Arranged by Nelson Riddle Full score; parts |
| BOX-FOLDER 6/8 | Love Me, 1954 Arranged by Nelson Riddle Full score |
| BOX-FOLDER 6/9 | Love Me or Leave Me, undated Arranged by Nelson Riddle Full score |
| BOX-FOLDER 6/10 | More Than You Know, undated Arranged by Nelson Riddle |

Music, 1950-1957

| Container | Contents |
|-----------------------------|---|
| | Full score |
| BOX-FOLDER 2/6, 6/11 | Never Like This, 1951 Arranged by Nelson Riddle |
| | Full score; parts |
| BOX-FOLDER 2/7, 6/12 | No Matter What You've Done, 1950 Arranged by Nelson Riddle |
| | Full score; parts |
| BOX-FOLDER 3/1, 7/1 | Nonchalant, 1952 Arranged by Nelson Riddle |
| | Full score; parts |
| BOX-FOLDER 3/2, 7/2 | Oh My Pretty Pretty, 1957 Arranged by Hugo Winterhalter |
| | Full score; parts |
| BOX-FOLDER 7/3 | One Sweet Kiss, 1954 Arranged by Nelson Riddle |
| | Full score |
| BOX-FOLDER 4/7 | People Will Say We're in Love, undated Arranged by Nelson Riddle |
| | Piano-conductor score |
| BOX-FOLDER 7/4 | Rendezvous, undated Arranged by Nelson Riddle |
| | Full score |
| BOX-FOLDER 3/3, 7/5 | So Far, 1951-1952 Arranged by Nelson Riddle |
| | Full score; parts |
| BOX-FOLDER 3/4, 7/6 | Some Enchanted Evening, 1951-1952 Arranged by Nelson Riddle |
| | Full score; parts |
| BOX-FOLDER 4/8 | Sophisticated Lady, undated Arranged by Nelson Riddle |
| | Piano-conductor score |
| BOX-FOLDER 3/5, 7/7 | Take Me Back, 1951 Arranged by Nelson Riddle |
| | Full score; parts |
| BOX-FOLDER 3/6, 7/8 | The Tennessee Rock and Roll, undated Arranged by Hugo Winterhalter |
| | Full score; parts |
| BOX-FOLDER 4/1 | That's for Me, undated Arranged by Nelson Riddle |
| | Piano-conductor score; parts |
| BOX-FOLDER 4/2, 7/9 | Thrilled, 1956 Arranged by Hugo Winterhalter |
| | Full score; parts |
| BOX-FOLDER 7/10 | We Kiss in a Shadow, 1952 Arranged by Nelson Riddle |
| | Full score |
| BOX-FOLDER 4/3 | Weaver of Dreams, undated Arranged by Nelson Riddle |
| | Condensed score |

Music, 1950-1957

| Container | Contents |
|-----------|----------|
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| | |
|------------------------|--|
| BOX-FOLDER 4/9 | <i>Laid in:</i> Lists of song titles Younger Than Springtime, undated Arranged by Nelson Riddle Full score; parts |
| BOX-FOLDER 7/11 | You're Mine You, undated Arranged by Nelson Riddle Short score |