

# Harvey Granat Collection of George and Ira Gershwin Materials



**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/2020570126>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.music/eadmus.mu021030>

Prepared by the Music Division of the Library of Congress

Finding aid encoded by Janet McKinney, 2021  
Revised 2023 October

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Harvey Granat Collection of George and Ira Gershwin Materials

**Inclusive Dates:** 1922-1973

**Bulk Dates:** 1935-1967

**Call No.:** ML31.G73

**Collector:** Granat, Harvey

**Extent:** 27 items

**Extent:** 2 containers

**Extent:** 1 linear foot

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/2020570126>

**Summary:** Harvey Granat is a businessman and singer specializing in music of the Great American Songbook. His collection consists of original materials of composer George Gershwin (1898-1937) and his brother, lyricist Ira Gershwin (1896-1983), who wrote some of the most significant popular songs of the first half of the twentieth century. The highlight of Granat's collection is the original manuscript for "They Can't Take That Away From Me," written for the film *Shall We Dance* (1937).

## 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

Gershwin, George, 1898-1937--Correspondence.

Gershwin, George, 1898-1937.

Gershwin, George, 1898-1937. Works. Selections.

Gershwin, Ira, 1896-1983--Correspondence.

Gershwin, Ira, 1896-1983.

Gershwin, Ira, 1896-1983.

Granat, Harvey.

Heyward, DuBose, 1885-1940.

Mamoulian, Rouben.

Sirmay, Albert.

### Subjects

Composers--United States--Biography.

Composers--United States--Correspondence.

Lyricists--United States--Correspondence.

Musical films--Excerpts--Vocal scores with piano.

Operas--Scores.

### Form/Genre

Autographs (Manuscripts)

Biographies.

Business correspondence.

Ephemera.

Excerpts.

Legal documents.

Musical films.

Operas.

Personal correspondence.

Photographs.

Popular music.

Scores.  
Songs.  
Vocal scores.

## Acquisition Information

Gift and purchase, Harvey Granat, 2020

## Accruals

Accruals to the collection are possible.

## Processing History

Janet McKinney processed the Harvey Granat Collection of George and Ira Gershwin Materials and coded the finding aid in 2021.

## Related Material

The preeminent body of primary source materials for the study of the life and work of the Gershwins is found in the Library's [George and Ira Gershwin Collection](#). The largest and most substantive additional collection is the archives of the Ira and Leonore Gershwin Trusts, transferred to the Music Division in 2013 and consisting of scores, scripts, correspondence, business papers, photographs, programs, and other documents. [The Ira Gershwin Files from the Law Office of Leonard Saxe](#) relate primarily to Ira's personal legal affairs and the activities of the Rose Gershwin Testamentary Trust from 1948 to 1968. Other collections containing related material are the [Ferde Grofé Collection](#) (which contains materials for *Rhapsody in Blue*, including Grofé's holograph score for his original jazz band scoring), [Serge Koussevitzky Archive](#), [Moldenhauer Archives at the Library of Congress](#), [Rose Marie Grentzer and Harold Spivacke Fund Collection](#), [Vernon Duke Collection](#), and the [Danny Kaye and Sylvia Fine Collection](#).

## Copyright Status

The Harvey Granat Collection of George and Ira Gershwin Materials is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.) and other applicable international copyright laws.

## Access and Restrictions

The Harvey Granat Collection of George and Ira Gershwin Materials 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 number], Harvey Granat Collection of George and Ira Gershwin Materials, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

Harvey Granat is a singer and historian/educator specializing in the music of the Great American Songbook. Many of his cabaret and concert programs focus on the work of particular composers and/or lyricists, and he often highlights the musical performances with information regarding the songwriters' lives and careers and the circumstances of the creation of the songs. Granat co-produced the Broadway revue of songs of Sammy Cahn, *Words and Music* (1974), and served on the Board of the Songwriters Hall of Fame. Granat began collecting music manuscripts, letters, contracts, photographs, and other documents relating to American popular song in the 1970s. He has also enjoyed a successful career in the business world.

George (1898-1937) and Ira (1896-1983) Gershwin were brothers who rose to prominence writing songs for Broadway musicals and Hollywood films in the 1920s and 1930s. George also composed concert music including the iconic *Rhapsody in Blue*. Ira collaborated with several other well-known songwriters, including Harold Arlen, Aaron Copland, Vernon Duke, Jerome Kern, and Kurt Weill. For a detailed chronological history of the brothers' lives, please see the Biographical Note in the finding aid for the [George and Ira Gershwin Collection](#).

## Scope and Content Note

The Harvey Granat Collection of George and Ira Gershwin Materials consists solely of original materials pertaining to George and Ira Gershwin. The highlight of Granat's collection is the original manuscript for "They Can't Take That Away From Me," written for the film *Shall We Dance* (1937). Additional materials include correspondence, sheet music, legal documents, and other biographical and souvenir items.

## Organization of the Harvey Granat Collection of George and Ira Gershwin Materials

The collection is arranged in one series:

- [George and Ira Gershwin Materials, 1922-1973](#)

## Description of Series

**Container**  
BOX 1-2

**Series**  
[George and Ira Gershwin Materials, 1922-1973](#)

This series consists of manuscript and printed music, correspondence, legal documents, and other items pertaining to the lives and works of George and Ira Gershwin. Most notably, it includes George Gershwin's holograph score for "They Can't Take That Away From Me," written for the 1937 film *Shall We Dance*.

File units arranged to mirror the series structure of the [George and Ira Gershwin Collection](#).  
Entries arranged alphabetically therein.

# Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-2	<p><b>George and Ira Gershwin Materials, 1922-1973</b></p> <p>This series consists of manuscript and printed music, correspondence, legal documents, and other items pertaining to the lives and works of George and Ira Gershwin. Most notably, it includes George Gershwin's holograph score for "They Can't Take That Away From Me," written for the 1937 film <i>Shall We Dance</i>.</p> <p>File units arranged to mirror the series structure of the <a href="#">George and Ira Gershwin Collection</a>. Entries arranged alphabetically therein.</p> <p>Music</p> <p><i>The French Doll</i>, 1922</p>
BOX-FOLDER 2/5	<p>Do It Again Sheet music <i>Note</i>: Inscribed to Edward Kilenyi by George Gershwin</p>
BOX-FOLDER 2/2	<p><i>Oh, Kay!</i>, 1926 Bound sheet music <i>Note</i>: Inscribed to Bertram Taylor by George Gershwin on front leaf, and by both Ira Gershwin and George Gershwin on first page of music</p>
BOX-FOLDER 2/1	<p><i>Shall We Dance</i>, 1937 They Can't Take That Away From Me George Gershwin holograph manuscript piano-vocal score (no lyric); 6 pages</p>
BOX-FOLDER 2/2	<p><i>Treasure Girl</i>, 1928 Bound sheet music <i>Note</i>: Inscribed to Bertram Taylor by George Gershwin on front leaf, and by both Ira Gershwin and George Gershwin on first page of music</p>
	<p>Correspondence</p> <p><i>Note</i>: All correspondence from Ira Gershwin, except where noted</p>
BOX-FOLDER 1/1	Fischbach, John A., 1948 September 3
BOX-FOLDER 1/1	Fischbach, John A., 1950 March 10
BOX-FOLDER 1/2	Miller, Carl, 1961 August 23
BOX-FOLDER 1/2	Miller, Carl, 1961 November 20
BOX-FOLDER 1/2	Miller, Carl, 1967 March 1
BOX-FOLDER 1/2	Miller, Carl, 1967 April 3
BOX-FOLDER 1/3	Ruby, Harry, 1963 January 8
BOX-FOLDER 1/4	Sirmay, Albert, 1955 July 23
BOX-FOLDER 1/4	Sirmay, Albert, 1964 November 17
BOX-FOLDER 1/4	Sirmay, Albert, 1973? March 25
BOX-FOLDER 1/5	Stoessel, Frederick, 1970 June 17
BOX-FOLDER 1/6	Winchell, Walter (from George Gershwin), 1931 August 12
	<p>Biographical Materials</p>
BOX-FOLDER 1/7	Driver's license application for George Gerhswin in California, 1937 April 14
BOX-FOLDER 2/3	<p><i>Porgy and Bess</i> limited edition published score signature page, 1935 Two copies</p>

## George and Ira Gershwin Materials, 1922-1973

### Container

### Contents

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	<i>Note:</i> Both copies autographed by George Gershwin, DuBose Heyward, Ira Gershwin, and Rouben Mamoulian. One copy additionally inscribed to Harry Hansen by Bennett Cerf, 1935 September 26
BOX-FOLDER 1/8	Postal stamps of George Gershwin, 1973 February 28 Four items <i>Note:</i> Autographed by Ira Gershwin, Bing Crosby, Arthur Fiedler, and Hoagy Carmichael (with stamped Guy Lombardo signature)
BOX-FOLDER 1/9	<i>Who's Who in America</i> questionnaire, 1925 February 12 <i>Note:</i> Completed by Ira Gershwin for George Gershwin
BOX-FOLDER 1/10	Photograph of George Gershwin, 1928 <i>Note:</i> Inscribed to Leopold Auer, 1928 December 19
BOX-FOLDER 1/11	Program for <i>Rhapsody in Blue</i> 10th anniversary tour, 1934 <i>Note:</i> Inscribed to "Rose" by George Gershwin and conductor Charles Previn
BOX-FOLDER 1/14	Receipt for purchase of Hammond organ, 1935 Photocopy Legal documents
BOX-FOLDER 1/12	<i>A Damsel in Distress</i> letter of agreement, 1937 January 28
BOX-FOLDER 2/4	Petition regarding George Gershwin estate, 1945 August 14 <i>Note:</i> Exemplified copies of three documents attached, 1937 July 13; 1937 August 12; 1937 August 15
BOX-FOLDER 1/13	<i>Rosalie</i> contract regarding broadcast rights, 1937 December 4