

Boots Family Papers of Vincent Youmans



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

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

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Prepared by the Music Division of the Library of Congress

Finding aid encoded by Jane Cross and Rachel McNellis, December 2021

Collection Summary

Title: Boots Family Papers of Vincent Youmans

Inclusive Dates: 1924-1975

Bulk Dates: 1927-1959

Call No.: ML31.Y55

Creator: Youmans, Vincent, 1898-1946

Creator: Boots, Mildred

Extent: 35 items

Extent: 2 containers

Extent: 1.25 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2020570160>

Summary: Vincent Youmans was a producer, publisher, and composer of shows and popular songs. The collection consists of piano-vocal scores, lead sheets, lyric sheets, clippings, photographs, and a memoir written by Youmans' second wife, Mildred Boots.

Acquisition Information

Gift, Nancy Boots Edwards-Cogswell, 2007

Custodial History

These items were once in the possession of Nancy's aunt, Mildred Boots, who was Vincent Youmans' second wife.

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Processing History

Jane Cross processed the Boots Family Papers of Vincent Youmans, and Cross and Rachel McNellis coded the finding aid, in 2021.

Transfers

Sound recordings from the Boots Family Papers of Vincent Youmans have been transferred to the Library of Congress Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division.

Related Material

The [Vincent Youmans Music Manuscripts](#), which are approximately 200 manuscripts donated by Youmans' children, are classed in ML96.Y67. Other works by Youmans are classed in M1505.Y68. Youmans' works that are primarily manuscripts in the hands of arrangers are classed in M1505.Y69

The [American/Century Play Company Scripts and Business Papers](#) contain scripts for two shows by Vincent Youmans.

The Gerald Bordman Audio Materials (MAVIS no. 5311) at the Library of Congress Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division contain cassette recordings of interviews with Vincent Youmans that were made in the process of writing a biography.

Copyright Status

Materials from the Boots Family Papers of Vincent Youmans 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 Boots Family Papers of Vincent Youmans 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], Boots Family Papers of Vincent Youmans, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note: Vincent Youmans

| Date | Event |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1898 September 27 | Born in New York City, New York, to Vincent M. Youmans and Lucy Gibson Youmans |
| circa 1903 | Began studying piano |
| circa 1904-circa 1916 | Studied at the Trinity School in Mamaroneck, New York, and at Heathcote Hall in Rye, New York |
| circa 1916 | Briefly studied engineering at Yale University Worked as a runner on Wall Street for several weeks |
| circa 1917-1918 | Enlisted in the United States Navy during World War I and composed shows for the troops at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station in Illinois John Philip Sousa adapted one of Youmans' marches for the Navy bands, and Youmans later reworked it for the song "Hallelujah!" in the musical <i>Hit the Deck</i> |
| 1918 | Worked as a song plugger and made piano rolls for the Aeolian Company Studied with composer and pianist Felix Arndt |
| 1920 | Publication of his first song, "The Country Cousin," with lyrics by Alfred Bryan Worked as a rehearsal pianist for Victor Herbert's <i>Oui Madame</i> when Max Dreyfus of T. B. Harms Publishing Company recognized his talent Contributed two songs, with lyrics by Ira Gershwin (under pseudonym Arthur Francis), to the revue <i>Piccadilly to Broadway</i> at Dreyfus's recommendation |
| 1921 | Collaborated with Ira Gershwin on <i>Two Little Girls in Blue</i> , which included Youmans' first hit song "Oh Me! Oh My!" |
| 1921-1927 | Signed a contract with T. B. Harms Publishing Company |
| 1923 | Wrote the score for <i>The Wildflower</i> with producer Oscar Hammerstein II, lyricist Otto Harbach, and composer Herbert Stothart |
| 1925 | Composed the score for the internationally successful <i>No, No, Nanette</i> , which included the songs "Tea for Two" and "I Want to Be Happy" with lyrics by Irving Caesar |
| 1927 February 7 | Married Anne Varley (divorced 1933) |
| 1927 | Birth of twins Vincent and Cecily Produced and composed the score for <i>Hit the Deck</i> Formed his own publishing company, Vincent Youmans, Inc. |
| 1928-1932 | Produced several unsuccessful shows, although many of their songs gained enduring popularity |
| 1932 | Composed songs for <i>Take a Chance</i> |
| 1933 | Wrote the score for the film <i>Flying Down to Rio</i> , which included his hit song "Carioca" |
| 1934 | Stopped composing due to tuberculosis |

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1935 | Married Mildred Boots (divorced 1946) |
| 1944 January 27 | Opened the unsuccessful Vincent Youmans Ballet Revue in New York City |
| 1946 April 5 | Died in Denver, Colorado |
| 1970 | Inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame |

Biographical Note: Mildred Boots Youmans

Mildred Antoinette Boots was born to Charles G. and Katherine Killen Boots on July 25, 1905, in Rochester, Indiana. She performed with the Ziegfeld Follies in New York City. Boots and Vincent Youmans married in October 1935 in Castle Rock, Colorado. She obtained a divorce after more than 10 years of marriage, three months before he died. They did not have any children. She then married Gustave Schirmer, president of G. Schirmer, Inc. and Boston Music Company, on February 2, 1947. Boots died on October 19, 1990, in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Scope and Content Note

The Boots Family Papers of Vincent Youmans span from 1924 to 1975, with the bulk of the materials dating from 1927 to 1959. The [Music](#) series primarily contains printed piano-vocal scores for songs by Vincent Youmans. There are also lead sheets, lyric sheets, a manuscript piano-vocal score, and an unpublished copyright deposit for *It's the Goods!*, a musical comedy by Frank Loesser, Frank Provo, John Pickard, and David Mann. The [Miscellany](#) series consists of clippings about Youmans' marriage to Mildred Boots and his death, a list of his compositions, a periodical containing an article about him, several photographs of Youmans, and a memoir written by Boots.

Organization of the Boots Family Papers of Vincent Youmans

The collection is arranged in two series:

- [Music, 1924-1970](#)
- [Miscellany, 1935-1975](#)

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

Boots, Mildred--Archives.
 Boots, Mildred.
 Bordman, Gerald Martin.
 Loesser, Frank, 1910-1969.
 Youmans, Vincent, 1898-1946.
 Youmans, Vincent, 1898-1946.

Subjects

Composers' spouses--United States--Biographies.
 Composers--United States--Biographies.
 Popular music--United States.

Form/Genre

Autobiographies.
 Autographs (Manuscripts)
 Bibliographies.
 Clippings (Information artifacts)
 Lead sheets.

Musicals.
Photographs.
Poetry.
Scores.
Songs.
Vocal scores.

Description of Series

Container

Series

BOX 1

Music, 1924-1970

This series primarily contains printed piano-vocal scores of songs by Vincent Youmans for shows such as *Flying Down to Rio*, *No, No, Nanette*, *Great Day!*, and *Hit the Deck*.

Of interest are the lead sheets bound with dialogue for *It's the Goods!*, a musical comedy written by Frank Loesser, Frank Provo, John Pickard, and David Mann for the Quartermaster Corps. All works are by Vincent Youmans unless otherwise noted.

Arranged alphabetically by title.

BOX 2

Miscellany, 1935-1975

This series contains clippings, a list of compositions by Vincent Youmans, a 1975 edition of *ASCAP Today* containing an article about Youmans, and a few photographs of Youmans. Of particular note is the memoir written by Youmans' second wife, Mildred Boots.

Arranged alphabetically by format.

Container List

| Container | Contents |
|-----------------|---|
| BOX 1 | <p>Music, 1924-1970</p> <p>This series primarily contains printed piano-vocal scores of songs by Vincent Youmans for shows such as <i>Flying Down to Rio</i>, <i>No, No, Nanette</i>, <i>Great Day!</i>, and <i>Hit the Deck</i>. Of interest are the lead sheets bound with dialogue for <i>It's the Goods!</i>, a musical comedy written by Frank Loesser, Frank Provo, John Pickard, and David Mann for the Quartermaster Corps. All works are by Vincent Youmans unless otherwise noted. Arranged alphabetically by title.</p> |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/1 | <p><i>Cherry</i>, 1969-1970</p> <p>Music by Tom Baird; lyrics by Ron Miller</p> <p>Lead sheets; lyric sheets</p> <p><i>Note:</i> Based on the Willim Inge play <i>Bus Stop</i></p> |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/2 | <p>Flying Down to Rio, 1933</p> <p>Piano-vocal score</p> |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/3 | <p>Great Day, 1929</p> <p>Piano-vocal score</p> |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/4 | <p>Hallelujah! from <i>Hit the Deck</i>, 1927</p> <p>Piano-vocal score</p> |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/5 | <p>I Want to Be Happy from <i>No, No, Nanette</i>, 1924</p> <p>Piano-vocal score</p> |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/6 | <p><i>It's the Goods!</i>, 1945</p> <p>Music by David Mann and Frank Loesser; lyrics by Frank Loesser, Frank Provo, John Pickard, and David Mann</p> <p>Lead sheets bound with dialogue</p> <p><i>Note:</i> Unpublished copyright deposit for a musical comedy written for the Quartermaster Corps</p> |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/7 | <p>Kinda Like You from <i>Smiling Through</i>, undated</p> <p>Manuscript piano-vocal score</p> |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/8 | <p>The Man I Used to Be, undated</p> <p>Lyric sheets</p> |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/9 | <p>More Than You Know, 1929, 1946, 1956</p> <p>Piano-vocal scores</p> |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/10 | <p>Orchids in the Moonlight from <i>Flying Down to Rio</i>, 1933</p> <p>Piano-vocal score</p> |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/11 | <p>Sometimes I'm Happy from <i>Hit the Deck</i>, 1927</p> <p>Piano-vocal score</p> |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/12 | <p>Through the Years, 1959</p> <p>Piano-vocal score</p> |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/13 | <p>Time on My Hands from <i>Smiles</i>, 1930, 1958</p> <p>Piano-vocal scores</p> |

Music, 1924-1970

| Container | Contents |
|-----------------|---|
| BOX-FOLDER 1/14 | Without a Song from <i>Great Day!</i> , 1929, 1957 Piano-vocal scores |
| BOX 2 | Miscellany, 1935-1975 This series contains clippings, a list of compositions by Vincent Youmans, a 1975 edition of <i>ASCAP Today</i> containing an article about Youmans, and a few photographs of Youmans. Of particular note is the memoir written by Youmans' second wife, Mildred Boots. Arranged alphabetically by format. |
| BOX-FOLDER 2/1 | Clippings, 1935, 1946, 1954 |
| BOX-FOLDER 2/2 | List of compositions, undated |
| BOX-FOLDER 2/3 | Memoir, "Living with Genius", undated By Mildred Boots Youmans Schirmer Manuscript |
| BOX-FOLDER 2/4 | Periodical, <i>ASCAP Today</i> , 1975 |
| BOX-FOLDER 2/5 | Photographs, circa 1935 |