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 *Hit the Deck*
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 *Oui Madame* 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 *Piccadilly to Broadway* at Dreyfus's recommendation
1921 | Collaborated with Ira Gershwin on *Two Little Girls in Blue*, 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 *The Wildflower* with producer Oscar Hammerstein II, lyricist Otto Harbach, and composer Herbert Stothart
1925 | Composed the score for the internationally successful *No, No, Nanette*, 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 *Hit the Deck*
 | 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 *Take a Chance*
1933 | Wrote the score for the film *Flying Down to Rio*, 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.
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.

Boots Family Papers of Vincent Youmans
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

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<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Music, 1924-1970</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>BOX-FOLDER 1/1</td>
<td><em>Cherry</em>, 1969-1970</td>
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<td>Music by Tom Baird; lyrics by Ron Miller</td>
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<td>Lead sheets; lyric sheets</td>
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<td><em>Note</em>: Based on the Willim Inge play <em>Bus Stop</em></td>
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<td>BOX-FOLDER 1/2</td>
<td><em>Flying Down to Rio</em>, 1933</td>
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<td>BOX-FOLDER 1/3</td>
<td><em>Great Day</em>, 1929</td>
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<td>Piano-vocal score</td>
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<td>BOX-FOLDER 1/4</td>
<td><em>Hallelujah! from Hit the Deck</em>, 1927</td>
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<td>Piano-vocal score</td>
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<td>BOX-FOLDER 1/5</td>
<td><em>I Want to Be Happy from No, No, Nanette</em>, 1924</td>
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<td>Piano-vocal score</td>
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<td>BOX-FOLDER 1/6</td>
<td><em>It's the Goods!</em>, 1945</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Music by David Mann and Frank Loesser; lyrics by Frank Loesser, Frank Provo, John Pickard, and David Mann</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lead sheets bound with dialogue</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Note</em>: Unpublished copyright deposit for a musical comedy written for the Quartermaster Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX-FOLDER 1/7</td>
<td><em>Kinda Like You from Smiling Through</em>, undated</td>
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<td>Manuscript piano-vocal score</td>
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<td>BOX-FOLDER 1/8</td>
<td><em>The Man I Used to Be</em>, undated</td>
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<td>Lyric sheets</td>
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<td>BOX-FOLDER 1/9</td>
<td><em>More Than You Know</em>, 1929, 1946, 1956</td>
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<td>BOX-FOLDER 1/10</td>
<td><em>Orchids in the Moonlight from Flying Down to Rio</em>, 1933</td>
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<td>BOX-FOLDER 1/11</td>
<td><em>Sometimes I'm Happy from Hit the Deck</em>, 1927</td>
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<td>BOX-FOLDER 1/12</td>
<td><em>Through the Years</em>, 1959</td>
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<td>BOX-FOLDER 1/13</td>
<td><em>Time on My Hands from Smiles</em>, 1930, 1958</td>
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### Music, 1924-1970

<table>
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<th>Contents</th>
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</table>
| BOX-FOLDER 1/14 | Without a Song from *Great Day!*, 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 *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. |
| 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 2/5 | Photographs, circa 1935 |