

Lou Herscher Music Manuscripts



**Music Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2022**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/2020570162>

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Prepared by the Music Division of the Library of Congress

Finding aid encoded by Jane Cross and Rachel McNellis, 2022 January

Collection Summary

Title: Lou Herscher Music Manuscripts

Inclusive Dates: 1896-1968

Bulk Dates: 1923-1955

Call No.: ML31.H47

Creator: Herscher, Lou (Louis), 1894-1974

Extent: approximately 50 items

Extent: 1 container

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/2020570162>

Summary: Lou Herscher was an American songwriter, composer, author, and music publisher. This collection consists chiefly of holograph and printed piano-vocal scores and lead sheets for his popular songs. Many of these items reflect his collaborations with other prominent songwriters of the time, including Jimmie Rodgers and Johnny Cash. Additional materials include programs, clippings, sheet music covers, and an article.

Acquisition Information

Gift, Lou Herscher, 1970 February 13

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Processing History

Jane Cross processed the Lou Herscher Music Manuscripts, and Cross and Rachel McNellis coded the finding aid in 2022.

Copyright Status

Materials from the Lou Herscher 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 Lou Herscher Music Manuscripts 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], Lou Herscher Music Manuscripts, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Lou Herscher was an American songwriter, composer, author, and music publisher. Born on April 19, 1894, in Philadelphia, he first studied music with his father, Cantor Elias Herscher, and accompanied his brother's vaudeville performances. Herscher composed music for films and albums as well as many popular songs. His "Song of the N. R. A. (National Recovery Administration)" (1934), with lyrics by William I. Sirovich, was the first song performed at the United States Congress. Herscher collaborated with many other prominent songwriters and performers throughout his career, including Joe Burke, Benny Davis, L. Wolfe Gilbert, Frank Loesser, Jules Loman, and Mitchell Parish. He joined the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) in 1920 and was also the co-owner of the publishing firm Accadia Music Company. In 1963, Herscher published the handbook titled *Successful Songwriting: How to Succeed in Writing Songs* (Beverly Hills, California: Accadia Music). Herscher died on March 12, 1974 in Beverly Hills, California.

Bibliography

Darlington, David. *An Ideal Wine: One Generation's Pursuit of Perfection - and Profit - in California*. New York: Harper, 2011.

"Lou Herscher," IMDB, accessed March 30, 2022. https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0380862/bio?ref_=nm_ov_bio_sm
McNamara, Daniel I. "Herscher, Louis." In *The ASCAP Biographical Dictionary of Composers, Authors, and Publishers*, 1st ed. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Company, 1948.

Rehrig, William H. "Herscher Louis." In *The Heritage Encyclopedia of Band Music: Composers and Their Music*, vol. 1. Westerville, Ohio: Integrity Press, 1991.

Scope and Content Note

The Lou Herscher Music Manuscripts spans the years 1896 to 1968, with the majority dating between 1923 and 1955. The [Music](#) consists chiefly of holograph and printed piano-vocal scores and lead sheets for many of Herscher's popular songs, including those written for Jimmie Rodgers and Johnny Cash. The [Miscellany](#) series includes a photograph, clippings, and an article.

Organization of the Lou Herscher Music Manuscripts

The collection is arranged in two series:

- [Music, 1896-1968](#)
- [Miscellany, 1936 and undated](#)

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

Cash, Johnny.

Herscher, Lou (Louis), 1894-1974--Archives.

Herscher, Lou (Louis), 1894-1974.

Rodgers, Jimmie, 1897-1933.

Subjects

Popular music--United States.

Form/Genre

Autographs (Manuscripts)

Clippings (Information artifacts)

Lead sheets.

Photographs.
Programs (Publications)
Scores.
Songs.

Description of Series

Container

BOX 1

Series

Music, 1896-1968

This series consists of holograph and printed scores and lead sheets for many of Lou Herscher's popular songs. Significant items include the holograph score for "I'm Free (From the Chain Gang Now)" (1933), which Johnny Cash and Jimmie Rodgers each recorded, as well as the holograph lead sheet for "Old Love Letters" (1934) that Rodgers also recorded. A holograph lead sheet for "Song of the N. R. A." (1934) with lyrics by William I. Sirovich is notable for its history as the first song performed on the floor of the United States Congress. Other materials in this series represent Herscher's collaborations with prominent songwriters, including James C. Bradford, Joe Burke, Dwight Butcher, Art Coogan, Saul Klein, Mitchell Parish, Barry Richards, and Don Rockwell. Photocopied clippings, programs, and sheet music covers accompany the music in this series.

Music by Lou Herscher unless otherwise identified.

Arranged alphabetically by title.

BOX 1

Miscellany, 1936 and undated

This series consists of a description of a photograph of Stephen Foster's daughter, an article and clippings about Jimmie Rodgers, and a photograph from the 25th anniversary celebration of Irving Berlin's "Alexander's Ragtime Band."

Arranged alphabetically by subject.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	<p>Music, 1896-1968</p> <p>This series consists of holograph and printed scores and lead sheets for many of Lou Herscher's popular songs. Significant items include the holograph score for "I'm Free (From the Chain Gang Now)" (1933), which Johnny Cash and Jimmie Rodgers each recorded, as well as the holograph lead sheet for "Old Love Letters" (1934) that Rodgers also recorded. A holograph lead sheet for "Song of the N. R. A." (1934) with lyrics by William I. Sirovich is notable for its history as the first song performed on the floor of the United States Congress. Other materials in this series represent Herscher's collaborations with prominent songwriters, including James C. Bradford, Joe Burke, Dwight Butcher, Art Coogan, Saul Klein, Mitchell Parish, Barry Richards, and Don Rockwell. Photocopied clippings, programs, and sheet music covers accompany the music in this series.</p> <p>Music by Lou Herscher unless otherwise identified. Arranged alphabetically by title.</p>
BOX-FOLDER 1/1	<p>After All (I Adore You), 1923 By Lou Herscher and Art Coogan Holograph lead sheet <i>Laid in:</i> Photocopied clipping and sheet music covers</p>
BOX-FOLDER 1/2	<p>Dream Daddy, 1923 Holograph lead sheet <i>Laid in:</i> Photocopied clippings, programs, and sheet music covers</p>
BOX-FOLDER 1/3	<p>The Grasshopper, 1958 Holograph lead sheet; printed scores for voice and piano <i>Includes:</i> Editions published in Sweden and Argentina</p>
BOX-FOLDER 1/4	<p>I'm Free (From the Chain Gang Now), 1933 By Lou Herscher and Saul Klein Holograph score for voice and piano <i>Note:</i> Recorded by Johnny Cash and Jimmie Rodgers</p>
BOX-FOLDER 1/5	<p>Just a Dance Program of Long Ago, 1928 Lyrics by Don Rockwell Holograph lead sheet <i>Laid in:</i> Photocopied clippings and sheet music covers</p>
BOX-FOLDER 1/6	<p>Jungle Rhythm (Drums in the Moonlight), 1968 Printed lead sheet</p>
BOX-FOLDER 1/7	<p>Love Me Forever, 1965 By Henry Friedman and Lou Herscher Printed lead sheet</p>
BOX-FOLDER 1/8	<p>Lucky Jim, 1968 By Charles Horwitz and Fred V. Bowers; arranged by Lou Herscher Printed score for voice and piano <i>Laid in:</i> Photocopied photograph, clippings, and sheet music (1896)</p>
BOX-FOLDER 1/9	<p>My Heart Belongs to You, 1928 Photocopied sheet music cover and clippings</p>
BOX-FOLDER 1/10	<p>Old Love Letters (Bring Memories of You), 1934 By Lou Herscher, Dwight Butcher, and Jimmie Rodgers</p>

Music, 1896-1968

Container	Contents
	Holograph lead sheet
BOX-FOLDER 1/11	On My Ukulele (Tra la la la la), 1924 By Lou Herscher, Mike Morris, and Mitchell Parish Holograph lead sheet
BOX-FOLDER 1/12	Orange Blossoms, 1956 By Ruth Graham and Lou Herscher Holograph lead sheet <i>Laid in:</i> Photocopied sheet music covers
BOX-FOLDER 1/13	The Scarlet Lady, 1923 Compiled by James C. Bradford Photocopied silent film cue sheet <i>Includes:</i> Themes by Lou Herscher
BOX-FOLDER 1/14	Song of the N.R.A. (National Recovery Administration), 1934 Lyrics by William I. Sirovich Holograph lead sheet
BOX-FOLDER 1/15	There Are Just Two I's in Dixie (Two Blue Eyes that Mean the World to Me), 1919 Holograph lead sheet <i>Laid in:</i> Photocopied sheet music covers
BOX-FOLDER 1/16	Wake Up Little Girl (You're Just Dreaming Pretty Dreams), 1923 By Lou Herscher and Joe Burke Holograph lead sheet <i>Laid in:</i> Photocopied clippings
BOX-FOLDER 1/17	When Jimmie Rodgers Said Good-bye, 1933 Lyrics by Dwight Butcher Holograph lead sheet
BOX-FOLDER 1/18	Years Ago, 1933 By Lou Herscher, Barry Richards, and Jimmie Rodgers Ozalid of manuscript lead sheet
BOX-FOLDER 1/19	You're Free to Go, 1955 By Don Robertson and Lou Herscher Holograph lead sheet <i>Laid in:</i> Photocopied sheet music cover
BOX 1	Miscellany, 1936 and undated This series consists of a description of a photograph of Stephen Foster's daughter, an article and clippings about Jimmie Rodgers, and a photograph from the 25th anniversary celebration of Irving Berlin's "Alexander's Ragtime Band." Arranged alphabetically by subject.
BOX-FOLDER 1/22	Alexander's Ragtime Band, 25th anniversary celebration, 1936 Photocopy of photograph from an event celebrating Irving Berlin's composition
BOX-FOLDER 1/20	Foster, Marion, undated Description of a 1929 photograph of Stephen Foster's daughter Marion at an ASCAP dinner
BOX-FOLDER 1/21	"Jimmie Rodgers", undated Article and photocopied clippings