

Barry Sisters Papers



**Music Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2023**

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 Maya Lerman, 2023 July
Revised 2023 August

Collection Summary

Title: Barry Sisters Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1950s-2006

Bulk Dates: 1950-1975

Call No.: ML31.B28

Creator: Barry Sisters

Extent: approximately 4,725 items

Extent: 15 containers

Extent: 6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English and Yiddish

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2020570071>

Summary: The Barry Sisters (Merna and Claire Barry) was a popular American Jewish vocal group whose careers as Yiddish jazz singers spanned from the late 1930s through the early 1970s. They made their first recordings on Victor Records, and they performed on the radio and television, at New York's Catskill resort hotels, and toured in the United States and abroad. The collection chiefly documents their musical careers through musical scores, parts, and lead sheets, as well as other related documentation.

Acquisition Information

Gift, Joy Pargman, 2016

Custodial History

Joy Pargman, Claire Barry's daughter, held custody of the collection prior to donation.

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Processing History

Maya Lerman and Shantel Lambert processed the Barry Sisters Papers, and Lerman coded the finding aid, in 2023.

Transfers

Eighty-six sound and video recordings from the Barry Sisters Papers have been transferred to the Library of Congress Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division, where they are identified as part of the Barry Sisters Collection (MAVIS no. 17845). An inventory of this material is available in the Music Division's collection file.

Copyright Status

Materials from the Barry Sisters Papers 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 Barry Sisters Papers 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], Barry Sisters Papers, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

The Barry Sisters was a popular Jewish-American vocal group whose careers spanned from the late 1930s through the early 1970s. They were born Minnie and Clara Bagelman and made their first recordings for Victor Records in the late 1930s, leading them to gain popularity as Yiddish jazz singers. The sisters changed their names to the Americanized stage names Merna and Claire Barry before joining songwriter and musician Sam Medoff's WHN radio program *Yiddish Melodies in Swing*. They regularly sang jazz and popular tunes in Yiddish on the radio program from the late 1930s until the mid-1950s.

The Barry Sisters performed in New York's Catskills' largely Jewish resort hotels, as well as in Miami Beach and other areas with large Jewish communities. Later in their careers, they toured with musician and comedian Mickey Katz and made television appearances on *The Ed Sullivan Show*, *The Jack Paar Program*, and *The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson*. Ed Sullivan invited the Sisters to tour in the Soviet Union during the Cold War in 1959, creating a Russian fan base that smuggled their records into the Soviet Union. The sisters also performed for Israeli troops during the Yom Kippur War in 1973. Merna Barry died in 1976 at age 53, and Claire Barry died in 2014 at age 94.

Scope and Content Note

The Barry Sisters Papers span the years 1950 to 2006, the bulk of which date from 1950 to 1975. The materials primarily document the Barry Sisters's repertoire. The [Music](#) series consists of scores, parts, and lead sheets for performance arrangements, many of them by Stan Applebaum, Jerry Graff, Bob Kaye, Ron Roullier, and Jim Tyler. The small [Miscellany](#) series includes promotional and publicity materials about the Barry Sisters's careers, such as photographs, clippings, programs, and scrapbooks.

Organization of the Barry Sisters Papers

The collection is arranged in two series:

- [Music, 1950-1975](#)
- [Miscellany, 1950-2006](#)

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

Applebaum, Stan, 1922-2019.

Barry, Claire, 1920-2014.

Barry, Merna, 1923-1976.

Graff, Jerry.

Kaye, Bob (Pianist)

Roullier, Ron.

Tyler, Jim, 1929-2005.

Organizations

Barry Sisters--Archives.

Barry Sisters.

Subjects

Jazz.

Klezmer music--United States.

Popular music--United States--History and criticism.

Singers--United States--Biography.

Form/Genre

Albums (Books)

Arrangements (Music)

Biographies.

Clippings (Information artifacts)

Jazz.

Klezmer music.

Lead sheets.

Photographs.

Programs (Publications)

Scores.

Songs.

Description of Series

Container
BOX 1-14

Series
Music, circa 1950-1975

Scores, lead sheets, and parts for arrangements performed by the Barry Sisters. Notable arrangers include Stan Applebaum, Jerry Graff, Bob Kaye, Ron Roullier, and Jim Tyler. Arranged alphabetically by song title.

BOX 14-15

Miscellany, circa 1950-2006

Photographs, scrapbooks, and other publicity materials from the Barry Sisters's career. Arranged alphabetically.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-14	Music, circa 1950-1975 Scores, lead sheets, and parts for arrangements performed by the Barry Sisters. Notable arrangers include Stan Applebaum, Jerry Graff, Bob Kaye, Ron Roullier, and Jim Tyler. Arranged alphabetically by song title.
BOX-FOLDER 1/1	Acknowledgements Arranged by Jim Tyler Score; piano-conductor score; parts
BOX-FOLDER 1/2	After You've Gone Arranged by Bob Kaye Piano-conductor score
BOX-FOLDER 1/3	All I Ever Need Arranged by Jerry Graff Lead sheet
BOX-FOLDER 1/4	And I Love Him So Arranged by Larry Wilcox Piano-conductor score
BOX-FOLDER 1/5	Ata Echad Arranged by Jerry Graff Score/lead sheet
BOX-FOLDER 1/6	Back in My Life Again By Addy Fieger Lead sheets; guitar part
BOX-FOLDER 1/7	The Barrys (medley) Arranged by Jerry Graff Score/lead sheet
BOX-FOLDER 1/8 to 2/2	The Barrys (medley) Arranged by Jerry Graff Parts
BOX-FOLDER 3/1	The Barrys (medley - short version) Parts
BOX-FOLDER 3/2	Barry's Sequence II Arranged by Jerry Graff Piano-conductor score; parts
BOX-FOLDER 3/3	Bei Mir Bist Du Schoen Piano-conductor score; parts
BOX-FOLDER 3/4	Bei Mir Bist Du Schoen (bows) Orchestrated by Christopher Hardin Parts
BOX-FOLDER 3/5	Bei Mir Bist Du Schoen (walk-on) Piano-conductor score; parts
BOX-FOLDER 14/1	Berlin Medley Arranged by Stan Applebaum and Jerry Graff Full score

Music, circa 1950-1975

Container	Contents
BOX-FOLDER 4/1-4/2	Berlin Medley Arranged by Stan Applebaum and Jerry Graff Piano-conductor scores; parts
BOX-FOLDER 4/3	Cabaret Arranged by Jerry Graff Scores/lead sheets
BOX-FOLDER 4/4	Cabaret Arranged by Jim Tyler and Jerry Graff Piano-conductor scores <i>Note:</i> Multiple versions
BOX-FOLDER 4/5	Chiribim Parts
BOX-FOLDER 5/1	City of Gold Arranged by Stan Applebaum and Jerry Graff Piano-conductor score; parts
BOX-FOLDER 5/2	City of Gold (bows) Parts
BOX-FOLDER 5/3	Claire Bows Arranged by Jim Tyler Piano-conductor scores; parts
BOX-FOLDER 14/2	Come in from the Rain Arranged by Glenn Osser Full score
BOX-FOLDER 5/4	Come in from the Rain Arranged by Glenn Osser Score/lead sheet; piano-conductor score; parts
BOX-FOLDER 5/5	Come Prima Arranged by Pete De Angelis Parts
BOX-FOLDER 5/6	Come Rain or Shine Parts
BOX-FOLDER 5/7	Disco II Arranged by Jerry Graff Score/lead sheet
BOX-FOLDER 14/3	Don't Cry Out Loud Arranged by Larry Wilcox Full score
BOX-FOLDER 5/8	Don't Cry Out Loud Arranged by Larry Wilcox Piano-conductor scores; parts
BOX-FOLDER 6/1	Don't Destroy Your World Arranged by Jerry Graff Score/lead sheet; lyric sheet
BOX-FOLDER 6/2	Fiddler on the Roof Score/lead sheet (incomplete)
BOX-FOLDER 6/3	Forget Me Not Lead sheet
BOX-FOLDER 6/4	The Girl Singers Arranged by Ron Roullier

Music, circa 1950-1975

Container	Contents
	Piano-conductor scores; parts
BOX-FOLDER 6/5	The Girls Who Sang with the Band Score/lead sheet
BOX-FOLDER 6/6	Git mir op Mazel Tov By Sholom Secunda; words by Jacob Jacobs Scores/lead sheets; score for voice and piano; parts
BOX-FOLDER 6/7	The Good Life Arranged by Larry Wilcox Piano-conductor score
BOX-FOLDER 6/8	Hands Lyrics by Molly Picon Piano part
BOX-FOLDER 6/9	Happy Songs Arranged by Jerry Graff Score
BOX-FOLDER 14/4	He Believes in Me Arranged by Ron Roullier Full score
BOX-FOLDER 6/10	He Believes in Me Arranged by Ron Roullier Score/lead sheet; piano-conductor scores; parts
BOX-FOLDER 7/1	He Gives Me Love Arranged by Jerry Graff Scores/lead sheets
BOX-FOLDER 14/5	Hello Arranged by Jerry Graff Full score
BOX-FOLDER 7/2	Hello Arranged by Jerry Graff Score/lead sheet; piano-conductor score; parts
BOX-FOLDER 7/3	Here's to You Lead sheet
BOX-FOLDER 7/4	Hold All of Me Arranged by Jerry Graff Score/lead sheet
BOX-FOLDER 7/5	Hosheeyaw et ame'cham Lead sheet
BOX-FOLDER 14/6	The House I Live In Arranged by Jerry Graff; orchestrated by Ron Roullier Full score
BOX-FOLDER 7/6	The House I Live In Arranged by Jerry Graff; orchestrated by Ron Roullier Piano-conductor scores; parts; lyric sheets
BOX-FOLDER 14/7	How Do I Say I Love You Again Arranged by Ron Roullier Full score
BOX-FOLDER 7/7	How Do I Say I Love You Again Arranged by Dick Hyman Piano-conductor scores; parts; lyric sheet

Music, circa 1950-1975

Container	Contents
BOX-FOLDER 7/8	How Do I Say I Love You Again Arranged by Ron Roullier Piano-conductor score; parts
BOX-FOLDER 7/9	I Could Write a Book Arranged by Bob Kaye Parts
BOX-FOLDER 7/10	I've Grown Accustomed to His Face Parts
BOX-FOLDER 7/11	I Said No Lead sheet
BOX-FOLDER 8/1	I Wanna Be Around Score/lead sheet (incomplete)
BOX-FOLDER 8/2	If He Walked into My Life Arranged by Dick Lieb Piano-conductor scores; parts
BOX-FOLDER 8/3	If I Ruled the World Parts
BOX-FOLDER 14/8	If We Only Have Love Arranged by Ron Roullier Full score
BOX-FOLDER 8/4	If We Only Have Love Arranged by Ron Roullier Score/lead sheet; piano-conductor score; parts
BOX-FOLDER 8/5	Inka Dinka Doo Parts
BOX-FOLDER 8/6	Israeli Medley Arranged by Jerry Graff Piano-conductor scores; parts
BOX-FOLDER 14/9	Italian Sequence Arranged by Jerry Graff Full score
BOX-FOLDER 8/7	Italian Sequence Arranged by Jerry Graff Piano-conductor score; parts
BOX-FOLDER 8/8	Jewish radio project Miscellaneous scores/lead sheets
BOX-FOLDER 8/9	Letters Arranged by Jerry Graff Scores/lead sheets
BOX-FOLDER 8/10	Love Medley Scores/lead sheets
BOX-FOLDER 14/10	Lover Come Back Orchestrated by Ron Roullier Full score
BOX-FOLDER 9/1	Lover Come Back Orchestrated by Ron Roullier Score/lead sheet; piano-conductor scores; parts

Music, circa 1950-1975

Container	Contents
BOX-FOLDER 9/2	A Lovely Way to Spend an Evening Arranged by Bob Kaye Parts; lyric sheet
BOX-FOLDER 9/3	Lovely Way/I Want to Be Happy Arranged by Bob Kaye Parts
BOX-FOLDER 9/4	Mazi or Molly and Us Arranged by Jerry Graff Score/lead sheet; piano-conductor-score; parts
BOX-FOLDER 9/5	Miscellaneous songs and other materials Fragments of scores and parts; lyric sheets; introductory remarks
BOX-FOLDER 9/6	Moscow Nights Piano part
BOX-FOLDER 14/11	My Way Arranged by Larry Wilcox Full score
BOX-FOLDER 9/7	My Way Arranged by Larry Wilcox Piano-conductor score; parts
BOX-FOLDER 9/8	New Barrys Orchestrated by Stan Applebaum and Jerry Graff Scores; parts
BOX-FOLDER 10/1	Off Comes the Makeup Arranged by Bob Kaye Parts
BOX-FOLDER 10/2	Once in a Lifetime Arranged by Jerry Graff; orchestrated by Larry Wilcox Piano-conductor score; parts
BOX-FOLDER 10/3	Once in My Life Arranged by Jerry Graff Score/lead sheet
BOX-FOLDER 10/4	Orchichornia Parts
BOX-FOLDER 10/5	Overture Arranged by Jim Tyler Piano-conductor score; parts
BOX-FOLDER 10/6	Parade Opener Score/lead sheet
BOX-FOLDER 10/7	Pennies from Heaven Score/lead sheet
BOX-FOLDER 10/8	The Promise Arranged by Jerry Graff Lead sheet
BOX-FOLDER 10/9	Raindrops Arranged by Jerry Graff Score/lead sheet
BOX-FOLDER 11/1	Raisins and Almonds Lead sheet

Music, circa 1950-1975

Container	Contents
BOX-FOLDER 11/2	Sh'lom Ba'it By Joel Herron Score
BOX-FOLDER 11/3	Solos Medley Score/lead sheet
BOX-FOLDER 11/4	Spanish Medley Arranged by Jerry Graff Scores/lead sheets
BOX-FOLDER 11/5	Special Material for Claire Barry By Steve De Pass, Marvin Lewis, and George Scheck Lead sheet
BOX-FOLDER 14/12	Sunshine of My Life Arranged by Jerry Graff; orchestrated by Ron Roullier Full score
BOX-FOLDER 11/6	Sunshine of My Life Arranged by Jerry Graff; orchestrated by Ron Roullier Score/lead sheet; piano-conductor score; parts
BOX-FOLDER 11/7	That's What Friends Are For Orchestrated by Larry Wilcox Piano-conductor score; parts
BOX-FOLDER 11/8	Them There Eyes Arranged by Bob Kaye Piano-conductor score; parts
BOX-FOLDER 11/9	This One's for You Arranged by Jerry Graff Score/lead sheet
BOX-FOLDER 14/13	Through the Years Arranged by Jerry Graff and Stan Applebaum Full score
BOX-FOLDER 11/10	Through the Years Arranged by Jerry Graff and Stan Applebaum Score/lead sheet; piano-conductor score; parts
BOX-FOLDER 11/11	Tomorrow is Another Day Arranged by Ron Roullier Score/lead sheet; piano-conductor score; parts
BOX-FOLDER 11/12	V'shuvit chem Lead sheet
BOX-FOLDER 12/1	Weekend in New England Scores/lead sheets
BOX-FOLDER 12/2	What Can I Say, Dear, After I Say I'm Sorry? Piano-conductor score; parts
BOX-FOLDER 12/3	What Did I Come Here For? Score/lead sheet
BOX-FOLDER 12/4	What I Did for Love Arranged by Jerry Graff Score/lead sheet
BOX-FOLDER 12/5	Whoopee Piano-conductor scores; parts

Music, circa 1950-1975

Container	Contents
BOX-FOLDER 12/6	Why Did I Choose You Score/lead sheet
BOX-FOLDER 12/7	World Opener Arranged by Jerry Graff Score/lead sheet; piano-conductor scores; parts
BOX-FOLDER 14/14	Wrap Your Troubles Arranged by Bob Kaye Full score
BOX-FOLDER 12/8	Wrap your Troubles Arranged by Bob Kaye Piano-conductor scores; parts
BOX-FOLDER 13/1	Yes I Can Arranged by Jerry Graff Score/Lead sheet
BOX-FOLDER 13/2	Yiddishe Momme Arranged by Jim Tyler Piano-conductor score; parts
BOX-FOLDER 13/3	You and Me Against the World Orchestrated by Ron Roullier Piano-conductor score; parts
BOX-FOLDER 14/15	You Made Me Love You Arranged by Larry Wilcox Full score
BOX-FOLDER 13/4	You Made Me Love You Arranged by Larry Wilcox Piano-conductor score; parts
BOX-FOLDER 13/5	Young at Heart Arranged by Jerry Graff Score/lead sheet
BOX-FOLDER 13/6	You're Nobody Arranged by Bob Kaye Parts
BOX 14-15	Miscellany, circa 1950-2006 Photographs, scrapbooks, and other publicity materials from the Barry Sisters's career. Arranged alphabetically.
BOX-FOLDER 14/16, 15/1	Clippings
BOX-FOLDER 15/2	<i>A Night in the Catskills</i> Photographs; program; promotional material; clippings
BOX-FOLDER 15/3	Photographs Promotional and publicity photographs from performances and tours. Includes prints from the Barry Sisters's Israeli tour
BOX-FOLDER 14/17, 15/4	Programs and publicity materials
BOX-FOLDER 14/18, 15/5	Scrapbooks
BOX-FOLDER 15/6	Yiddish lyrics and adaptations