

Guide to the Bing Crosby Arrangements (Mss057)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Title: Bing Crosby Arrangements
Accession Number: A2012-022
Dates: ca. 1970s
Quantity: 0.75 lft; 2 document boxes
Language: English

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COLLECTION OVERVIEW

The collection consists of 10 band arrangements used by crooner Bing Crosby in the early 1970s near the end of his career, and one photo of the singer.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

Singer and actor Harry Lillis “Bing” Crosby (May 3, 1903 – October 14, 1977) was born to a working-class family of Irish-Anglo origins in Spokane, Washington. He was one of seven children. He completed high school and attended Gonzaga University but never graduated. Crosby belonged to several vocal groups in the 1920s, before he and friend Al Rinker were discovered by the Paul Whiteman Orchestra. He toured with the Whiteman organization beginning in 1926, and had his first #1 hit “Ol’ Man River” with them in 1928. He then made his solo debut in September 1931. Crosby went on to star in numerous films and produce solo albums, mostly under the Decca label.

Crosby’s career spanned almost 50 years. He was able to repeatedly take advantage of technological advances to aid his career, particularly the microphone, and invested both time and money into developing sound recording and production equipment. He created his own production company so that he could record and edit his radio shows with top-of-the-line equipment, and invested heavily in Ampex and the United Western Recorders studio complex.

Like many musicians with extended careers, Crosby’s vocal style changed as he got older, transitioning from a “crooner” in the early 1930s to a clearer, less nuanced “phraser” in the late 1940s and ‘50s. His most famous single is Irving Berlin’s “White Christmas”, but Crosby recorded almost 400 charting singles, among which 41 reached #1—43, if you consider that “White Christmas” reached #1 in 1945 and 1947 as well as 1942 (its original release). His most common recording partners were the Andrews Sisters, and on screen he was often paired with Bob Hope.

Although his popularity declined sharply in the 1960s, Crosby continued to tour and perform worldwide. He died suddenly from a massive heart attack shortly after playing a round of golf with friends in Madrid in October 1977.

Sources

<http://bingcrosby.com/bing-bio>

"Bing Crosby." *Wikipedia*. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bing_Crosby

ACQUISITION

Presented by Scott Ables on May 8, 2012.

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SUBJECTS

Crosby, Bing

PREFERRED CITATION

Cite as: Bing Crosby Arrangements, The Great American Songbook Foundation.

COLLECTIONS INVENTORY

Abbreviations: pno= piano, cond= conductor, synth= synthesizer, clar=clarinet, trpt=trumpet, tbn=trombone, perc=percussion/drums, gtr=guitar

Key signatures are in parentheses; a slash (/) means the piece modulates.

Contents

Arrangements

	Box	File
"As Time Goes by," arr. Alan Cohen, July 1976. [3 Full Score Copies, separate parts: pno, Fl.Horn (marked as 3&4), tbn (2), trpt (2), violin I(4), violin II (4), viola (2), celli (2), sax: alto I & II, tenor, bari, gtr, bass, drums, harp, (Ab)]	1	
"Delivery," arr. Peter Matz, August 9, 1974. [Full Score Copy, separate parts: pno, horn, tbn (4), trpt (3), violin (4), viola, cello, reeds (2 clar., bass clar., sopr. sax) perc (3), gtr, bass, drums, harp, PLUS, onion skins: violins, percussion, piano(?) (Bb/F#/Bb)]	1	
"It's All in the Game," arr. Glen D. Hardin, no date. [Full Score Copy, separate parts: Bing, pno-bass (4), Fl.Horn(2), Fr, horn (2), tbn (2), trpt (3), violin (6), celli (6), perc (tymp;vibes), gtr (3), drums, choir (2),(Cb)]	1	
"Just for Tonight," arr. Glen D. Hardin, no date. [Full Score Copy, separate parts: pno-bass(3), Fr.Horn, celli (3), tbn (2), trpt (2), violins (6), perc (tymp;vibes), gtr: rhythm (2), elect (2), drums, voices (2), (Bb)]	1	

“Livin’ on Lovin’,” arr. Glen D. Hardin, no date. [Full Score Copy, separate parts: pno-bass(3), celli (6), tbn (2), trpt (2), tuba (2), violins (6), perc , rhythm gtr (2), drums, voices (2), handwritten lyrics, (C)]	2
“More and More,” arr. Glen D. Hardin, no date. [Full Score Copy, separate parts: pno-bass (4), Tbn (2), tbn (2), trpt/Fl. horn (2), violin (A, B & C-2 each), celli (A, B & C), elec. gtr, rhythm gtr. (2), drums, voices (3), (A)]	2
“Nevertheless,” arr. Alan Cohen, July 1976. [Full Score Copy, separate parts: pno, Fl.Horn (4), tbn (2), trpt (2), violin I(4), violin II (4), viola (2), celli (2), sax: alto I & II, tenor, bari, gtr, bass, drums, harp, (F)]	2
“The Night is Young (and You’re so Beautiful),” arr. Alan Cohen, no date. pno, celli (2), clar (3), bass clar, Fl. Horn(2), tbn (2), violin I(4), violin II (3), viola (2), gtr, bass, drums, harp, (G)]	2
“Once in a While,” arr. Alan Cohen, July 1976. [Full Score Copy, separate parts: pno, Fl. horn (2), violin I(4), violin II (4), viola (2), celli (2), Flute (3), gtr, drums, harp, lyrics sheet. (Ab)]	2
“The Straight Life,” arr, Glen D. Hardin, no date. [Full Score Copy, separate parts: pno-bass (3), Fl. Horn/Tuben (2), tbn (3), trpt/Fl. Perc, gut string gtr, gtr 2-3, drums, voices, girls, boys, (Bb)]	2
Photo	
Bing Crosby, 11” X 14”, B & W, circa 1950s.	2