

Guide to the Donald Kahn Papers (Mss 044)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Title: Donald Kahn Papers

Accession No: A2008-001

Dates: 1930-2007

Quantity: 1.5 cft; 1 document box, 1 clamshell box

Language: English

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COLLECTION OVERVIEW

The collection consists of sheet music, manuscripts, correspondence, and other material documenting the career of Donald Kahn. The son of well-known lyricist Gus Kahn, Donald was also a musician, songwriter, and arranger. His most popular work “A Beautiful Friendship” was a favorite of Rosemary Clooney. Donald Kahn also wrote music for Sesame Street and Golden Books publications. A few items in the collection belonged to Grace LeBoy Kahn, Donald’s mother.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Donald Gustav Kahn (July 17, 1918—April 11, 2008), the only son of Gus and Grace LeBoy Kahn, was born in Chicago during the early phase of his father’s songwriting career. He realized as a five-year old that he wanted to follow in his father’s musical footsteps, but as a composer and arranger, not a lyricist. Donald studied music at Pomona College and served in the Air Force during World War II. In 1956, he collaborated with noted lyricist Stanley Styne to create his most popular work, “A Beautiful Friendship.” The song was recorded by a number of artists including Ella Fitzgerald, Margaret Whiting, Frank Sinatra, and Nat King Cole. In the 1970s, Donald wrote music for Sesame Street. Although he labored in the shadow of his father, he worked tirelessly to keep his father’s legacy alive and was a strong proponent for *Whoopee!*, a 1990s revival of *Whoopee*.

ACQUISITION

The Donald Kahn Papers were received by the Michael Feinstein Great American Songbook Initiative as a gift from Margaret Kahn on November 18, 2008.

RESTRICTIONS

Access

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SUBJECTS

Kahn, Donald

PREFERRED CITATION

Cite as: Donald Kahn Papers, The Great American Songbook Foundation.

SEPARATED MATERIALS

This collection was separated from materials relating to the life and career of Gus Kahn, which are located in *Mss 001 Gus Kahn Papers*.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

Contents	Box	Folder
Sheet music with lyrics by Donald Kahn, ca. 1950s	1	1
<i>A beautiful friendship; Dream, on a summer night; The honeymoon is over; The silent treatment; (When he takes me in his arms) Mmm . . . ; Music makes your life more fun (The Muzak song); Come Thursday; Busy as a beaver; I can't believe it's true; On the outside lookin' in.</i>		
Autographed celebrity photos, ca. 1930's.	1	2
Original Compositions and Arrangements		
<i>Chip off the old block</i> , Words and Music: Barry Ashton, n.d.	1	3
<i>I'll drink to that</i> , Words and Music: Donald Kahn, 1976.	1	4
<i>We want for you</i> , Lyrics: Sammy Cahn Music: Donald Kahn, 1981. [from ERA TV special]	1	5
<i>They've got a song</i> , Lyrics: Sammy Cahn Music: Donald Kahn, 1983.	1	6
<i>The heart fund</i> , Lyrics: Sammy Cahn Music: Donald Kahn, 1969.	1	7
<i>Climb a tree</i> , Lyrics: Spence Maxwell Music: Donald Kahn, 1968.	1	8
<i>Winter-summer</i> , Words and Music: Donald Kahn, n.d.	1	9
<i>I just love being me!</i> Lyrics: Sammy Cahn Music: Donald Kahn, n.d. [Sesame Street]	1	10
<i>Sesame Street</i> songs, Lyrics: Sammy Cahn Music: Donald Kahn, ca. 1980's.	1	11
<i>1st Commandment</i> , ca. 1980's.	1	12
<i>Dream, on a summer night</i> Words and Music: Donald Kahn Arranged: Shirle Goedike, n.d.	1	13
<i>Worth Remembering</i> Lyrics: Sammy Cahn Music: Gus Kahn, 1969.	1	14
<i>Donkey-Hootie</i> Words and Music: Bernie Wayne and Donald Kahn, June 1972. [includes script]	1	15
<i>Monte Carlo romance</i> , Lyrics: Donald Kahn Music: Aimé Barelli, n.d.	1	16
<i>To be young forever</i> Lyrics: Sammy Cahn Music: Donald Kahn, 1980.	1	17
<i>In my brand new automobile</i> Words and Music: Donald Kahn, n.d.	1	18
<i>Long as we can sing</i> Lyrics: Sammy Cahn Music: Donald Kahn, 1969.	1	19
<i>When you least expect it</i> , Words and Music: Bill Carey and Donald Kahn, n.d.	1	20

<i>In the midst of winter (It was spring)</i> , Lyrics: Donald Kahn Music: Ted Grouya and Frank deVol, n.d.	1	21
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<i>A beautiful friendship</i> , Lyrics: Stanley Styne Music: Donald Kahn, 1956.	1	23
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<i>My Usual Self Again</i> , Lyrics: Stanley Styne Music: Donald Kahn, 1956.	1	26
<i>Single-O</i> , Lyrics: Johnny Mercer Music: Donald Kahn, n.d.	1	27
<i>Iris</i> , Lyrics: Stanley Styne Music: Donald Kahn, 1956.	1	28
<i>It's not Christmas without you</i> , Lyrics: Lori Halligan Music: Donald Kahn, 1985.	1	29
<i>They've got a song</i> , Lyrics: Sammy Cahn Music: Donald Kahn, 2/3/1983.	1	30
<i>I'm always drunk in San Francisco (A hymn to her)</i> , Words and Music: Tommy Wolf, 1962 & 1987.	1	31
<i>The Dixie Belle</i> , Lyrics: Unknown Music: Donald Kahn, n.d.	1	32
<i>Pastures of heaven, n.d.</i>	1	33
<i>Too late to say goodbye</i> , Lyrics: Gus Kahn Music: Donald Kahn, 1939 and 1997.	1	34
<i>Dream on a summer night</i> , Words and Music: Donald Kahn, n.d.	1	35
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<i>What a little child learns</i> , Words and Music: Donald Kahn, 1977. [written for the 75 th anniversary of Francis Parker School]	1	37
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<i>Along came you</i> , Lyrics: Mickey Miller Music: Donald Kahn, 1967.	2	4
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<i>Chip off the Old Block</i> , Lyrics: Stanley Styne Music: Donald Kahn, 1962.	2	7
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<i>Love is a merry-go-round</i> , Words and Music: Houston Levers, 1964.	2	18
<i>Monte Carlo romance</i> , Lyrics: Donald Kahn Music: Aime Barelli, n.d.	2	19

<i>My old love</i> , Words and Music: Grace Kahn and Arthur Williams, 1953.	2	20
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