



MSS 001: Gus Kahn Collection

COLLECTION OVERVIEW

Scope & contents: The collection consists of scrapbooks, photos, sheet music, manuscripts, and other material documenting the personal and professional life of Gus Kahn.

Accession number: A2008-001

Dates of collection: 1909-2007

Creator/collector: Gus Kahn

Language: English

LOCAL SUMMARY

Acquisition information: Received from Kahn's daughter-in-law, Margaret Kahn.

Accruals: None

Location: Archive, Shelf 08.A.06

Extent of collection: 1 page box, 3 document boxes of varying sizes; 3 linear feet.

Custodial history/provenance: The collection passed to family members upon Kahn's death. Son Donald Kahn maintained the collection until his death. His widow Margaret Kahn donated the materials to the Songbook Foundation on 18 November 2008.

Repository: Library & Archives, Great American Songbook Foundation, Carmel, IN 46032

Processed by: Lisa Lobdell, May 2012. Finding Aid rewritten by Elisabeth Hedges, December 2023.

Conservation notes: The scrapbooks contain brittle newspaper clippings. A cocktail napkin found in a scrapbook contains the original lyrics for "I'll see you in my dreams;" upon inspection by Ramona Duncan-Huse, conservator at IHS, the decision was made to retain the scrapbook page as is. Photos and original compositions are in good to excellent condition and require little, if any, conservation.

Separated materials: Materials relating to the life and career of Gus Kahn's son, Donald Kahn, have been removed from this collection and are located in MSS 044 Donald Kahn Papers.

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Restricted materials: None

Citation: Gus Kahn Collection, MSS 001, Great American Songbook Foundation.



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ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTION

Abstract of collection: The collection consists of scrapbooks, photos, sheet music, manuscripts, and other material documenting the personal and professional life of Gus Kahn.

Biography notes: Gus Kahn (1886-1941) was born Gustav Gerson Kahn in Koblenz, Germany. He moved from Chicago to Hollywood in 1932 to work as a lyricist for MGM and RKO. He was married to Grace LeBoy and had two children, Donald and Irene.

Processing information: The collection has been organized into six series: Papers, Compositions [copies], Original compositions, Sheet music, Photos, and Framed Documents.

Additional staff notes: Finding Aid rewritten to conform to new format in 2023.

SUBJECTS & SUBJECT HEADINGS

Kahn, Gus, 1886-1941
Sinatra, Frank, 1915-1998.
Whiting, Richard A., 1891-1938

CONTENTS AND INVENTORY LIST

Contents	Box	File
Papers		
"I'll See You in My Dreams", Final [Script] - 1951 July 18	1	1
"Mrs. Gus Kahn Oral History" by Irene Kahn Atkins - 1976 January 30-February 13	1	2
"Ain't We Got Fun" by Donald Kahn [Gus Kahn bio-Chapter 1] - undated	1	3
Letter: Donald Kahn to Lauren Keiser [Gus Kahn song origins] - 1981 August 27	1	4
"Memories of Gus Kahn", <i>Joslin's Jazz Journal</i> , Vol. 26, No. 1 [copy] - 2007 February	1	5
Gus Kahn Memorial Service [program] - 1941 October 10	1	6
Condolence telegrams [Files 1 & 2] - 1941 October	1	7-8
Notepad of flower and charity contributions - 1941	1	9
Ziegfeld telegrams re: Whoopee! - ca. 1927	1	10
"Whoopee" script - undated	1	11
Gus Kahn entry for American Lyricists, 1920-1960 by Marty Minchin [discography] - undated	1	12
Canadian Songwriters Hall of Fame induction of "Ain't we got fun?" [Award] - 2007 January 28	1	13
ASCAP agreement - 1935 August 13	1	14



Contents	Box	File
Songwriters Guild of America thank you to estate of Gus Kahn - 1991 April 30	1	15
"Do You Know What Makes a Popular Song?" <i>The American Magazine</i> : 54-55 - 1927 June	1	16
"Lo, the Poor Lyric Writer." <i>Esquire: the magazine for men</i> : 47, 120 - 1935 February	1	17
Typed and handwritten lyrics [includes 64mo notepad] - undated	1	18
New Amsterdam Theatre program [original and copy] - 1929	1	19
"The Jazz Singer" World premiere [program] - 1927 October 6	1	20
Grace Kahn correspondence - 1949-1950.	1	21
News clippings [publicity] - 1915-937	1	22
Newspaper clippings ["Whoopee" predominates] - 1918-1929	1	23
Newspaper clippings - 1918-1926	1	24
"I'll see you in my dreams" [handwritten lyrics on cocktail napkin] [This item pulled for display in archives.] - undated	1	25
Gus Kahn royalty earnings - 1923-1949	1	26
Publicity scrapbook [originals] - 1934	1	27
Gus Kahn and Grace LeBoy Kahn discographies - 1940, 1997	1	28
Hollywood Bandwagon song schedule [vaudeville act] - ca.1936-1937	1	29
Grace Kahn correspondence with North Carolina State Archivist re: <i>Carolina in the morning</i> - 1962 September	1	30
Original Compositions (copies)		
A Day away from town, Lyrics: Gus Kahn Music: Richard A. Whiting - undated	1	31
A New Day Dawnin', Lyrics: Gus Kahn Music: Richard A. Whiting - undated	1	32
By an Old Winding Lane, Lyrics: Raymond B. Egan Music: Richard A. Whiting - undated	1	33
Craving You, Lyrics: Raymond B. Egan Music: Richard A. Whiting - undated	1	34
Cuckoo, Lyrics: Gus Kahn, Music: unknown - undated [original]	1	35
I gave my heart to you, Words and Music: Gus Kahn and Bennie Krueger - undated [original]	1	36
I'm just a fool in love with you, Lyrics: Gus Kahn Music: Neil Moret - undated	1	37
I've Had My Moments, Lyrics: Gus Kahn Music: Richard A. Whiting - undated	1	38
Moments, Lyrics: Gus Kahn Music: Richard A. Whiting - undated	1	39
My Swanee River Folks, Lyrics: Raymond B. Egan Music: Richard A. Whiting - undated	1	40
<i>So Lonesome So Long</i> [lyrics only] - undated	1	41
South Sea Island Baby, Lyrics: Gus Kahn Music: Richard A. Whiting - undated	1	42
Swanee Blackbird, Lyrics: Gus Kahn Music: Richard A. Whiting - undated	1	43
Sweet Regret, Lyrics: Gus Kahn Music: Richard A. Whiting - undated	1	44
Two Together, Lyrics: Gus Kahn Music: Richard A. Whiting - undated	1	45
Where the shy little violets bloom, Lyrics: Gus Kahn Music: Richard A. Whiting - undated	1	46



Contents	Box	File
Where the Weeping Willows Grow, Lyrics: Gus Kahn Music: Richard A. Whiting - undated	1	47
Sheet music		
<i>Danger!</i> Lyrics: Gus Kahn Music: Isham Jones - 1925	1	48
<i>Gotta getta girl</i> , Lyrics: Gus Kahn Music: Isham Jones - 1924	1	49
<i>I picked the wrong one to love</i> , Lyrics: Gus Kahn Music: Murray Bloom, 1924 [ukulele arrangement].	1	50
<i>Some other day-some other girl</i> , Lyrics: Gus Kahn Music: Isham Jones - 1924	1	51
Original compositions , Gus Kahn with various composers. [Kahn-Whiting compositions unpublished]	2	
Photos-predominantly B&W		
24 various sizes, Grace Kahn with friends, including Ed Sullivan, 1960's.	3	1
6 Photos autographed to Grace LeBoy Kahn [includes Frank Sinatra] - 1909-1930s	3	2
6-8x10 Gus Kahn with Eddie Cantor [back of 1 st photo reads: Gus Kahn and Eddie Cantor during the making of the film version of "Whoopee" - 1930	3	3
5- 8x10 Gus Kahn, Judy Garland, Walter Jurmann and Bronislau Kaper during making of "A Day at the Races" [back of 1 st photo reads: Kindly credit M-G-M Photo by Virgil Apger] - ca.1937	3	4
6-8x10 bandleaders and composers - 1920's – 1930's	3	5
22-8x10 Gus Kahn with various actors and composers - ca. 1930's	3	6
6-8x10 Gus Kahn "crony" photos - 1914 - 1930's	3	7
5 – 8x10 "Shantytown" photos - undated	3	8
13-8x10 Gus Kahn, alone - 1907 – 1930's	3	9
9 Family photos, Christmas cards [includes cards from Berlin, Jolson and Jones families, Jolson card separate] - 1930's	3	10
10 various sizes, celebrity photos - 1914-1940	3	11
21 oversized photos [unfiled] - 1910-1930's	3	13
Photos and scrapbooks - 1910's – 1950's	4	
Framed documents [unboxed]		
35 All-time best selling songs, ca. 1929.		1
Gus Kahn ASCAP membership, 1/20/1921.		2
Gus Kahn "Songwriters Hall of Fame" certificate, ca. 1969.		3
Gus Kahn Academy Award nomination for <i>Waltzing in the Clouds</i> , 12/31/1940.		4
Grace LeBoy Kahn ASCAP membership, 10/30/1930.		5