

# Local Composers Collection

**Collection ID:** MS.015

## Collection Information

Inclusive dates: 1902-1981

Size: .5 linear ft.

Processed: 9/2017 by Denise Rosenblatt

## Scope and Content

This is a collection of printed sheet music and original musical manuscripts collected by Bonita resident Lee Whitney. She was an actress, dancer, voice and stage teacher. Referred to as the "Prima Donna of Great Waltz" the soprano performed opera and concerts in France and throughout the United States. She returned to San Diego County and worked through the 1940s from Thearle Music Store in downtown San Diego.

The collection holds materials from 1902-1990. Some materials are un-dated. There is little obvious that ties the contents together except that the composers represented have varied relationships to music in Southern California and were notable in their era. They worked in the region as composers, teachers, songwriters, and in the film industry. Some were affiliated with cultural venues like the Hollywood Bowl (Charles Wakefield Cadman), the Old Globe Theater (Conrad Susa), the Spreckles organ (Humphrey Stewart) and the El Cortez Hotel (Madalyn Akers Phillips). Others were nationally acclaimed mavericks. Carrie Jacobs Bond was the first female composer to sell over a million copies of her sheet music. Constance Mills Herreshoff was the longtime music critic for several San Diego newspapers. Dorinda Morgan was the first to produce a recording by the Beach Boys. There is a large collection of the self-published work of the obscure Thelma Hester Jones, and material by the actor and author Harrison Dowd.

A wide range of music is represented. Lyrics are in English, French, Italian, Latin and Spanish. There are religious songs included masses, carols, and one written for the rededication of the Mission San Diego. There are the poems of Edna St. Vincent Millay, A. E. Houseman and Robert Hillyer set to music, patriotic songs, novelty songs, film scores and love songs.

The first part of the collection is copyrighted printed scores and photocopies. The second part of the collection is original manuscripts, most un-dated. The last section is multiple copies of printed scores.

## Container List

Box	File	Contents	Dates
1	1	Collection Register; lists composers and songs	undated
	2	Bond, Carrie Jacobs. Printed music, 4 items	1902-1925
	3	Buchanan, Rose. 1 item	1989
	4	Cadman, Charles Wakefield. 2 items	1909-1924
	5	Griffin, Vashti Rogers. 3 items	1926-1927
	6	Grossmayer, Dolce. 1 bound folder	1946

Box	File	Contents	Dates
1	7	Haring, J. E. 1 item	1909-1918
	8	Hodges, Kellori (Buchanan). 1 item	1990
	9	Kunels, Harry. 7 songs, some multiple photocopies	1974-1981
	10	Morgan, Dorinda. 1 item	1951
	11	Reese, Lee Fleming. Photocopies	1981
	12	Shelton, Larry. 2 printed items	1964
	13	Stewart, Humphrey. 1 item	1907
	14	Susa, Conrad. 10 items, multiple printed copies	1967-1976
	15	Anonymous, "Serenade of Passion" Italian and English	undated
	16	Babcock, Joy. 2 songs	undated
	17	Britain, Radie. Composer, 4 songs, unpublished	1938-39, undated
	18	Dowd, Harrison. 7 items, 4 songs, Poems of A. E. Houseman, Edna St. Vincent Millay	1932-1933
	19	Herreshoff, Constance. 1 song 2 pages	1940
	20	Hillyer, H. Stanley. 1 song, 2 items	1948?
	21	Hutchinson, Josephine. 4 songs	1946
	22	Lagourgue, Charles. 2 songs	undated
	23	Mason, Carroll. 1 song, 2 items	undated
	24	Phillips, Madalyn. 8 songs	1941, 1946, undated
	25	Vargas. 1 item in Italian	undated
	26	di Vatolla, A. 13 items, 11 compositions In Italian and English, with dedications	1937- 1947, undated
	27	I. A. Y., Italian and English, 16 items, fragments	1941-1943, undated
	28	Herreshoff, Constance, music by; 3 collections, 41 items	1929
	29	Jones, Thelma Hester. Music by, 47 items, 17 songs	1918-1968
	30	Jones, Thelma Hester. 3 copies, bound song books.	1970
	31	Correspondence	

## Names and Notes

**Joy Babcock.** A composer and local violinist, she was most active in 1920 performing in San Diego and New York. Popular Songs include "Indian Village", "Prelude" "Jade" and "Hilarity."

**Carrie Jacobs Bond** (1862-1946). The first female composer to sell over a million copies of her sheet music. She lived in Hollywood California from the early 1920s until her death in 1946. Her hit song, "I Love You Truly" was written in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Radie Britain** (1899-1994). A music teacher and composer, Britain incorporated musical idioms from the southwestern United States into her compositions. She performed internationally and at the White House. Her autobiography, *"Ridin' Herd to Writing Symphonies"* is available in the San Diego Central Library.

### Kellori Hodges Buchanan

**Charles Wakefield Cadman** (aka) Charles William Wakefield (1881-1946). He helped to found and often performed as a soloist with the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra. He wrote chamber music, operas, film scores, and was considered one of Hollywood's top cinema composers. He was renowned for the use of American Indian motifs in his compositions.

**Harrison Dowd** (aka Frank Harrison Dowd, F. H. Dowd) (1897-1964) songwriter, novelist, composer, actor. Part of a circle of composers setting to music the poetry of Edna St. Vincent Millay and A. E. Houseman.

**Vashti Rogers Griffin.** Originally from St. Louis, she moved to San Diego in 1916. She wrote an operetta and many pieces for piano.

**Dolce Grossmayer.** A composer and music teacher from Denver, she performed in San Diego in 1919, and was by 1920 a resident.

### J. E. Haring

**Constance Mills Herreshoff** (1907-...). A concert pianist, music teacher, songwriter and composer. Set poems of Edna St. Vincent Millay to music. She was also the music critic and writer for the San Diego Union in the 1940s - 1950s and before that for the San Diego Sun. In 1938 she testified before the Bureau of Fine Arts: Hearings, Subcommittee of the Committee on Education and Labor, United States Senate, Seventy-fifth Congress, Third Session, on S. 3296, on a Bill to Provide for a Permanent Bureau of Fine Arts.

**H. Stanley Hillyer** (1895-...) He was a composer of art songs and other music, some written to accompany the poems of his brother, Robert Hillyer.

**Stewart Humphrey.** Wrote the Mass in D Minor, for the 1931 re-dedication of Mission San Diego.

**Josephine Alide Janes Hutchinson** (aka) J.A.J. Hutchinson (b. 1903- ) collaborated with Margaret Olive Jordan and Catherine Malloy Bloom. Actress (unconfirmed).

**Thelma Hester Jones** (1900-2000) Oceanside. Wrote scores and popular songs.

**Harry Kunels.** There are two registered copyrights from 1974, he was [self] published locally by Cathel Publishers in Fullerton, California.

**Charles Lagourgue** (1875-...). Composer, arranger, and author of books on singing, including *The secret: vocal feelings and reactions*.

**Carroll Mason**

**Dorinda Morgan.** A music producer from Southern California, she was first to record the Beach Boys with her husband Hite Morgan in 1961.

**Madalyn Akers Phillips** (1889- 1949). She was a composer and songwriter of national repute, notable compositions include: *Abraham Lincoln walks at midnight*. From 1935-1949, she was the organist at El Cortez Hotel in San Diego. A more complete collection of her materials is at the Charles E. Young Research Library UCLA Library Special Collections.

**Lee Fleming Reese** (1914-...) Author, composer,

**Larry Shelton**

**Humphrey Stewart.** In 1915, Stewart took a position as organist at the Panama-California Exposition in San Diego, and stayed in that city for many years, continuing to play open-air organ concerts at Balboa Park. Among his works were operas, music for plays, orchestral works, choral and church music, popular songs and general instrumental works.

**Conrad Susa** (1935-2013). From 1959 to 1994, Susa was composer-in-residence for the Old Globe Theater in San Diego, California, producing music for over 200 productions there. A longtime professor of composition at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Susa wrote five operas, including "The Dangerous Liaisons".

**Vargas**

**A. Di Vatolla**

**I.A.Y.** [sic]

## **Bibliography of Related Titles**

Britain, R. *Ridin' Herd to Writing Symphonies*. Lanham, Md.: Scarecrow, 1996.

Ussher, B.D. Ed. *Who's Who in Music and Dance in Southern California*. Hollywood, CA  
Bureau of Musical Research, 1933

Gates, F. W., Ed. *Who's Who in Music Southern California*. Los Angeles: Colby and Prybil, 1920.