
Tune-Dex cards, circa 1942-1963 PASC-M.0274

Melissa Haley, 2015; machine-readable finding aid created by Caroline Cubé.

UCLA Library Special Collections

Finding aid last modified on 8 March 2016.

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Language of Material: English

Contributing Institution: UCLA Library Special Collections

Title: Tune-Dex cards

creator: Goodwin, George, 1900-1966

Identifier/Call Number: PASC-M.0274

Physical Description: 3.4 Linear Feet(17 shoe boxes)

Date (inclusive): circa 1942-1963

Abstract: Collection consists of two sets of Tune-Dex cards and unfiled cards.

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Restrictions on Access

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Preferred Citation

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UCLA Catalog Record ID

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Biography/History

The Tune-Dex card system was introduced in 1942 by George Goodwin, a radio station program director, as a subscription service for radio stations, music professionals, and musicians to keep track of popular songs. Each index card included song title, songwriter, date of original publication, licensing and rights information, and arrangements and orchestrations available, with keys and prices noted. The cards also provided the basic melody or chorus and lyrics for each song. The cocktail lounge music trend in the 1940s and 1950s, which often required musicians to take requests and know numerous songs, contributed to the popularity of the Tune-Dex card system. Goodwin created approximately 25,000 cards over the course of the service's existence. Tune-Dex ceased operations in 1963 and Goodwin died in 1965. The concept of the Tune-Dex system eventually morphed into the more-portable fake books.

(See Barry Kernfeld, *The Story of Fake Books: Bootlegging Songs to Musicians*; Scarecrow Press, 2006.)

Scope and Content

This collection consists of two sets of Tune-Dex cards, each arranged alphabetically by title, as well as a small amount of unfiled cards. Songs are mostly pop tunes from the 1940s and 1950s, and include titles such as "From a School Ring to a Wedding Ring" (1956), "Marshmallow Moon" (1952), and "E-Bob-O-Lee-Bop" (1946).

Organization and Arrangement

The collection is organized into the following series:

Series 1. Set 1

Series 2. Set 2

Series 3. Unfiled cards

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Popular music -- Fake books

Series 1. Set 1

box 1	Titles A - Bo
box 2	Titles Br - Di
box 3	Titles Do - Gl
box 4	Titles Go - I Don't

box 5	Titles I Double - I'm Nothing
box 6	Titles I'm On - Let
box 7	Titles Let's - Mi
box 8	Titles Mo - OI
box 9	Titles On - R
box 10	Titles Sa - St
box 11	Titles Su - To
box 12	Titles Tr - Which
box 13	Titles While - Z

Series 2. Set 2

box 14	Titles A - III
box 15	Titles I'm - Sh
box 16	Titles Si - Z
box 17	

Series 3. Unfiled cards

Scope and Content

Some unfiled cards are in their original, pre-folded state.