Guide to the Cal McKinley Collection of Tune-Dex Cards

This finding aid was created by Joyce Moore and Hana Guiterrez on July 06, 2018. Persistent URL for this finding aid: http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f13s4g
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Summary Information

Contributor: Goodwin, George
Creator: McKinley, Cal
Collector: Arnold Shaw Popular Music Research Center
Title: Cal McKinley Collection of Tune-Dex Cards
ID: MS-00616
Date [inclusive]: 1943-1950
Physical Description: 0.45 Linear Feet (2 boxes)
Language of the Material: English
Abstract: The Cal McKinley Collection of Tune-Dex Cards spans from 1943 to 1950 and contains a collection of index cards called Tune-Dex Cards that provide the lyrics and melodies of popular tunes from the late 1940s.

Preferred Citation


Biographical Note

Musician Cal McKinley was born on December 13, 1918. McKinley was a guitarist during the Big Band Era. McKinley toured with the Andrew Sisters and the Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey Bands. He also did guitar work in Bing Crosby and Bob Hope movies, and did studio work for Decca Records. A native of Chicago, Illinois he moved to Las Vegas, Nevada in 1967. He was active in Las Vegas as a talk show host and later he portrayed the bumbling character "Vinnie Van Gogh" in television commercials. He passed away on September 9, 1989.
Historical Note

In May 1942, George Goodwin, a radio station director released the first Tune-Dex cards. They were printed on 3" x 5" cards. Goodwin provided lyrics, melodies, and chord symbols as well as copyright information. Professional musicians could subscribe and get the cards by mail. The subscriber had no choice in the cards they received, however they were always the popular music of the day. Goodwin promoted the cards until 1963 when poor health forced his retirement.

According to Barry Kernfeld's book, *The Story of Fake Books*, by the 1950s gangsters were duplicating the Tune-Dex information into bound fake books with prices between $10 to $25.

Scope and Contents Note

The Cal McKinley Collection of Tune-Dex Cards spans from 1943 to 1950 and contains a collection of index cards called Tune-Dex Cards that provide the lyrics and melodies of popular tunes from the late 1940s.

Arrangement

The cards are divided alphabetically, but not within each letter.

Administrative Information

Access

Collection is open for research.
Publication Rights
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Acquisition Note
Materials were donated in 2010 as a gift of Cal McKinley's estate; accession number 2010-013. Materials were collected by the director of the Arnold Shaw Popular Music Research Center and transferred to Special Collections.

Processing Note
Material was processed by Joyce Moore in 2010. In 2014, as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, Hana Gutierrez revised and enhanced the collection description to bring it into compliance with current professional standards. Subsequently Hana Gutierrez entered the data into ArchivesSpace.

Revision Description
The finding aid was revised by Hana Gutierrez to bring it into compliance with DACS. July 2014

Names and Subjects
- Popular music -- Twentieth century
- Big band music