

## Margaret Parker Performing Arts Collection, 1892-2002

### Collection Summary

**Creator:** Parker, Margaret

**Title:** Margaret Parker Performing Arts Collection

**Inclusive Dates:** 1892-2002

**Summary/Abstract:** This collection of ticket stubs, souvenir programs, photos, correspondence, contracts, and publications documents performances – music, dance, drama, ballet, lectures -- at various Nashville venues (primarily the Ryman Auditorium) between 1892 and 2002 (strongest for 1945-1994). Materials come from the donor's own many years of employment with WSM, National Life, and Opryland Hotel, and her association with Harry Draper, violinist, booking agent, and manager (c. 1955-1963) of the Ryman Auditorium, who generated many of the photos and documents herein.

**Physical Description/Extent:** ca. 0.43 cubic feet

**Accession Number:** RT-111

**Language:** English

**Stack Location:** Closed stacks SCC range 3 section 3

**Repository:** Special Collections Division, Nashville Public Library, Nashville, Tennessee

### Biographical/Historical Sketch

A native of Dover, Tennessee, Margaret Parker joined the National Life & Accident Insurance Company in 1943, serving as secretary to medical directors Dr. Lloyd C. Miller and Dr. Garth Fort. She was head usher at the Ryman Auditorium in the 1950s, working closely with Ryman manager Harry Draper. In 1966, she transferred to the affiliated WSM-TV, where she became secretary to Irving Waugh. Ms. Parker was named corporate sales manager for Opryland Hotel in January, 1977 (some months before its actual opening), and remained in that capacity until her retirement in December 2005, thus serving some 62 years with the same corporate employer. She won the Lady Executive of the Year Award from National Women Executives in 1977, and has served as President of Executive Secretaries, Inc., and Beta Sigma Phi businesswomen's sorority. She has been a member of the Nashville Symphony Guild, the Tennessee Historical Society, and the Sumner County Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities.

Harry H. Draper (1906-1993), a native of Springfield, Tennessee, was a classical violinist who studied at Chicago Conservatory, DePauw University, the Royal Conservatory in Leipzig, Germany, and the Neues Conservatory in Vienna, Austria. He came to Nashville in 1944, played for the Nashville Symphony and worked for WSM as a staff violinist. Branching into concert promotion, Draper brought the ballet, the circus, Broadway shows, humorists, plays, lectures, Spanish dancers, classical quartets, and opera to Nashville for many years. Associated with the Ryman Auditorium between 1950 and 1963, Draper served as its manager (and Lula Naff's successor) from 1955-

1963. He later managed venues in St. Petersburg and Sarasota, Florida, and Jackson, Tennessee, returning to Nashville in the late 1970s. He died in Adams, Tennessee, August 25, 1993, where he is buried. Some of Draper's papers, passed along to Margaret Parker and thence here, form the core of this collection.

### **Scope and Contents of the Collection**

Print, manuscript, and photographic materials document Nashville programs at a variety of local venues (though primarily the Ryman Auditorium) between 1892 and 2002, with concentration on the years between 1945 and 1994. Materials include news clippings and reviews, ticket stubs, souvenir programs, publicity and news photos, correspondence, and personal appearance contracts between venues and performers. While most of the documented performances took place at the Ryman Auditorium, a few programs from the War Memorial Auditorium, Vanderbilt University, and the new Grand Ole Opry House are documented. These Nashville performances run the stylistic gamut of those booked by Mr. Draper in his biography above (ballet, circus, concerts classical and popular, dance, drama, etc.). A small number of personal papers from Mr. Draper and Ms. Parker are included, as are a few photographs of Nashville locations and from the 1993-1994 renovation of the Ryman Auditorium.

### **Organization/Arrangement of Materials**

**Organization:** By type of material then by subject into the following series:

- I. Realia
- II. Ryman Auditorium Chronology
- III. Scanned Photographs
- IV. Scrapbook Copies
- V. Personal Papers
- VI. WSM Memoranda
- VII. Correspondence (Copies)
- VIII. Correspondence
- IX. Photographs (Celebrities)
- X. Photographs (Harry Draper)
- XI. Photographs (Nashville)
- XII. Publications
- XIII. Souvenir Programs (Copies)
- XIV. Souvenir Programs
- XV. Contracts
- XVI. Stationery
- XVII. Clippings

**Arrangement:** Chronological

### **Restrictions**

**Restrictions on Access:** In library use only.

**Restrictions on Use and Reproduction:** This material may be protected by copyright (Title 17 U.S. Code).

## **Index Terms**

### **Personal Names:**

Borge, Victor, 1909-2000  
Draper, Harry, 1906-1993  
Greco, Jose, 1918-2000  
Liberace, 1919-1987  
Shaw, Robert, 1916-1999

### **Corporate Names/Organizations:**

WSM (Radio station : Nashville, Tenn.)  
Ryman Auditorium (Nashville, Tenn.)

### **Subjects:**

Ballet dancers  
Concert agents  
Entertainers – Tennessee – Nashville  
Entertainment events – Tennessee – Nashville  
Performing arts – Tennessee -- Nashville  
Pianists – United States – 20<sup>th</sup> Century  
Popular Music – 1941-1950  
Popular Music – 1951-1960

### **Places:**

Nashville (Tenn.) – Social life and customs  
Nashville (Tenn.) – History – 20<sup>th</sup> Century

### **Genre/Document Types:**

Clippings  
Correspondence  
Photographs  
Scrapbooks  
Souvenir programs

## **Associated and Related Material**

Margaret Parker has donated similar materials to the Ryman Auditorium and Carnegie Hall.

## **Administrative Information**

**Copyright:** This material may be protected by copyright (Title 17 U.S. Code)

**Preferred Citation:** Margaret Parker Performing Arts Collection, Special Collections Division, Nashville Public Library

**Immediate Source of Acquisition:** Acquired by the Special Collections Division from Margaret Parker in donations since 2002.

**Ownership and Custodial History:** This collection was compiled and donated incrementally by Margaret Parker.

**Processing Information:** Processed by Ronnie Pugh in 2007

**Accruals:** Accruals expected.

## **Detailed Description of the Collection**

### **Series I. Realia**

#### **Abstract/Description & Arrangement**

#### **Box 1 of 2**

##### **Folder 1 - Realia**

1 ticket envelope for Margaret Parker:

Ryman Auditorium concert season, 1954-1955

2 Ticket stubs:

Liberace, War Memorial Auditorium, Sept. 27, 1962

Liberace, Grand Ole Opry House, Feb. 13, 1978

### **Series II. Ryman Auditorium Chronology**

#### **Abstract/Description & Arrangement**

##### **Folder 2 – Ryman Auditorium Chronology**

1892-1999 (Typescript, 41 pages – strongest for 1892-1962)

### **Series III. Scanned Photographs**

#### **Abstract/Description & Arrangement**

##### **Folder 3 – Scanned Photographs**

Noontime Neighbors Cast – WSM Studio (c. 1949)

Harry Draper; Hereford Sale @ Grand Ole Opry House (2 on 1 page)

Three color images of Ryman Auditorium renovations, 1993-1994

Sally Rand, fan dancer, autographed (5-5-75)

Public Square Mural @ Opryland Hotel

### **Series IV. Scrapbooks (Copies)**

#### **Abstract/Description & Arrangement**

##### **Folder 4 – Scrapbooks (Copies)**

(Almost entirely ticket stubs)

Scrapbook I – c. 29 pages

Scrapbook II – c. 12 pages

### **Series V. Personal Papers (Copies)**

#### **Abstract/Description & Arrangement**

**Folder 5 – Personal Papers (Copies)**

Tennessee State Championship Spelling Bee – April 10, 1937 (4 pages)  
Nashville Banner certificate as Champion Speller at Mulberry Hill School,  
Stewart County, Tennessee, March 11, 1938  
Guest Pass – Clinton Engineer Works, Oak Ridge, TN. – August, 1944 (for  
Margaret Parker to visit Nancy Norman)  
First Lutheran Church – Nashville, TN. – Service Bulletin for June 10, 1945  
(folded into four pages)

**Series VI. WSM Memoranda**  
**Abstract/Description & Arrangement****Folder 6 – WSM Memoranda**

Wire story regarding riots & desertions in Fascist Italy, January 28, 1945  
July 14, 1969 – Schedule of coverage of Apollo XI – first manned moon landing  
NBC News Press Release – “A Chronology of NBC News’ Coverage of Manned  
Space Flights.” Dated 8/18/71, covers flights between May 5, 1961 and August 7,  
1971

**Series VII. Correspondence (Copies)**  
**Abstract/Description & Arrangement****Folder 7 – Correspondence (Copies)**

Harry Draper Resume – Photocopied – c. 1955  
Telegraph: Harry Draper to Liberace – 7-8-54  
Letters:  
    Maxwell Benson to Harry Draper, 11-20-61  
    Merle Evans to Harry Draper, 2-6-63  
    Lucy C. Mulcahey to M. Parker, 6-30-71  
    Grace Wallace to Jud Collins, 2-28-74  
    Grace Wallace to M. Parker, 3-20-74  
    Helen Hayes to M. Parker, 1-4-79 (2 copies)  
    Margaret Truman Daniel to M. Parker, 2-22-85

**Series VIII. Correspondence**  
**Abstract/Description & Arrangement****Folder 8 -- Correspondence**

Adam Garner to Harry Draper, April 16, 1949  
Philadelphia Orchestra Association to Harry Draper, April 22, 1949  
Paul Stoes to Harry Draper, April 26, 1947  
Joseph A. Lippman to Harry Draper, July 1, 1949  
James A. Davidson Mgt. to Harry Draper, September 27, 1949 (2)  
Boston Symphony Orchestra to Harry Draper, October 31, 1949  
James A. Davidson Mgt. to Harry Draper, January 4, 1950  
(Telegram) W. Colston Leigh Inc. to Harry Draper, October 16, 1951

Seymour N. Heller to Harry Draper, October 21, 1953  
Seymour N. Heller to Harry Draper, January 18, 1954  
Seymour N. Heller to Harry Draper, June 24, 1954  
Seymour N. Heller to Harry Draper, September 30, 1954  
Walter P. Speight, Jr., to Harry Draper, October 15, 1954  
George J. Liberace to Harry Draper, November 17, 1954  
Gov. Buford Ellington to Mme. Amelita Galli-Curci, November 9, 1961 (copy)  
Merle Evans to Harry Draper, January 12, 1962 (1 typed; 1 handwritten)  
Victor Borge to Harry Draper, December 13, 1972  
Thomas L. Cummings, Jr., to Margaret Parker, May 7, 2002

**Series IX. Photographs (Celebrities)**  
**Abstract/Description & Arrangement**

**Folder 9 – Photographs (Celebrities)**

Fritz Kreisler (autographed, March 1933)  
Robert Merrill (faintly autographed)  
Victor Borge montage  
Victor Borge at piano  
Victor Borge, white piano on beach  
Don Cossack Chorus & Dancers (8x10)  
Don Cossack Chorus & Dancers ()  
Phil Ford & Mimi Hines (autographed)

**Series X. Photographs (Harry Draper)**  
**Abstract/Description & Arrangement**

**Folder 10 – Photographs (Harry Draper)**

As WSM staff violinist, c. 1947  
Greeting Eugene Ormandy @ Nashville's Union Station, 1949  
With Patrice Munsel, November 1950  
With Nelson Eddy, April, 1951  
With Liberace, Madison Sarratt & police escort, 1953 (Banner photo, Jack Gunter)  
3 snapshots (two color) at Liberace's Sherman Oaks, California home, 1954  
With pet waterfowl eating from his table, St. Petersburg, Florida, 1960s  
With Bobby Kimbro and D. Webster Johnson (one print and proof sheet), photos by Les Leverett, Oct. 21, 1988

**Series XI. Photographs (Nashville)**  
**Abstract/Description & Arrangement**

**Folder 11 – Photographs (Nashville)**

2 color snapshots, Margaret Parker @ John Geist & Sons, Germantown, 1989  
2 color snapshots, Ryman Auditorium renovations, c. 1993-1994

- 1 color photo of downtown Nashville (by Paul Stephens)
- 1 color photo of gingko tree, Nashville, 1999 (by Dean Dixon)

## **Series XII. Publications**

### **Abstract/Description & Arrangement**

#### **Folder 12 -- Publications**

- 1 pamphlet sermon: "The Problem of Equality" (Dr. Walter R. Courtenay, First Presbyterian Church, Nashville, TN., September 15, 1963)
- 1 map – "The Battle of Nashville" (text & illustrations on reverse)
- 1 menu (reprint) – Christmas 1879 Maxwell House Hotel menu
- 1 booklet – History of the Colonna Club 1923-1991 (softbound, 44 pgs.)
- 1 PR booklet – *Borge* (Victor Borge) (24 pgs., ill., c. 1970s)
- Tennessee Bicentennial Arts & Entertainment Festival: Celebration of the Centuries – May 1996
- 2 issues, *The Ryman Times* – Vol. 1 (June 20, 1997), Vol. 2 (Oct. 1997)

## **BOX 2 of 2**

## **Series XIII. Souvenir Programs (Copies)**

### **Abstract/Description & Arrangement**

#### **Folder 13 – Souvenir Programs (Copies)**

- Helen Hayes in Victoria Regina – Ryman Auditorium, March 30, 1938 (2 pages)
- Fritz Kreisler – Ryman Auditorium – Wednesday, January 24 (1945) (2 pages)
- The Trapp Family Singers – War Memorial Auditorium – December 3, 1948 (3 pages)
- The Singing Boys of Norway – Ryman Auditorium – February 13, 1952 (4 page foldout)
- The Robert Shaw Chorale & Orchestra – December 7, 1952 – Ryman Auditorium (cover only)
- The Robert Shaw Chorale & Orchestra – Mass In B Minor – War Memorial Auditorium, February 29, 1960 (4 separate pages)
- Furbelows and Fanfare of 1961, starring Tennessee Ernie Ford
- 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – The Ryman Auditorium Presents The American Ballet Theatre – November 29, 1961 – 8:15 P.M.
- Grand Ole Opry – January 2-3, 1970 (w. picture of audience guest that weekend, Maria Tolstoy and Margaret Parker)
- Country Music Hereford Sale – Monday, March 19, 1973 – On The Stage of the Grand Ole Opry (Ryman Auditorium then), Nashville, TN. (2 pages)
- Sally Rand – Skull's Rainbow Room, Printer's Alley, Nashville, TN. – Opening May 5 (1975)
- 1 invitation: The Ryman Celebrates Its First Century, May 18, 1992 (2 pages)

## **Series XIV. Souvenir Programs**

### **Abstract/Description & Arrangement**

#### **Folder 14 – Souvenir Programs**

Gilbert Miller presents Helen Hayes in *Victoria Regina* (20 pages, much wear & tear) – Ryman Auditorium, March 30, 1938

VE Day Celebration, First Anniversary – Hymn of Praise – Nashville Community Chorus & Orchestra – Ryman Auditorium, May 8, 1946 (10 pages), plus six stapled pages as supplement

The Lipscomb Artist Series Presents Arthur Rubinstein, Pianist – Ryman Auditorium, February 17, 1948

Harry Draper Presents The First Piano Quartet – Ryman Auditorium – March 2, 1949 (7-page booklet)

The International Company of *Oklahoma!* – Ryman Auditorium – December 19-20, 1951 (folded, 4 pages)

Ballet Theatre – Ryman Auditorium – January 22, 1952 (folded, 4 pages)

Presenting Guy Lombardo & His Royal Canadians – Ryman Auditorium – February 29, 1952 (one sheet)

The Robert Shaw Chorale and Orchestra – Ryman Auditorium – December 7, 1952 (folded, to make 4 pages)

Ballet Theatre – Ryman Auditorium – January 20, 1953 (folded, 4 pages)

Sonja Henie and her 1954 Ice Revue – Fairgrounds Coliseum – March 29-April 4, 1954 (folded mail order blurb)

Madame Butterfly – Ryman Auditorium – November 3, 1954 (folded, 4 pages)

Eddie Bracken in *The Seven Year Itch* – Ryman Auditorium – January 31 – February 1, 1955 (folded, 4 pages)

*Guys & Dolls* – Ryman Auditorium – March 24-25, 1955 (one sheet, both sides)

*Guys & Dolls* – Ryman Auditorium – March 24-25, 1955 (folded, 4 pages)

Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo – The Tennessee Theatre – November 18, 1955

Touring Players, Inc. – *Richard III* (January 30, 1956), *The Corn Is Green* (January 31, 1956) – Ryman Auditorium (one sheet, both sides)

National Ballet of Canada – Ryman Auditorium – March 7-8, 1956 (3 pages)

*Tea and Sympathy* (Maria Riva, Alan Baxter) – Ryman Auditorium – April 2, 1956 (one sheet)

*The Best of Steinbeck* – Ryman Auditorium – October 17, 1956 (folded, 4 pages)

Jose Greco and his Spanish Ballet – Ryman Auditorium – February 18, 1957 (folded, 4 pages)

Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo – Ryman Auditorium – November 26, 1957 (one sheet)

*Back To Methuselah* (Tyrone Power, Faye Emerson, Arthur Treacher) – Ryman Auditorium – January 27, 1958 (folded, 4 pages)

Jose Greco and his Spanish Ballet (with Lola De Ronda and Jose Molina) – Ryman Auditorium – February 13, 1959 (4 pages, folded)

Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo – Ryman Auditorium – November 16, 1959 (folded, 4 pages)

Jose Greco and his Spanish Ballet (with Lola De Ronda) – Ryman Auditorium – March 16, 1960 (folded, 4 pages)



*Judas Maccabaeus* (The Little Orchestra Society, Inc.) – Ryman Auditorium – November 16, 1960 (large sheet, folded into four pages)  
 Booklet – 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – *The Ryman Auditorium Presents – The American Ballet Theatre* – November 29, 1961 (10 pages)  
 Hal Holbrook – “Mark Twain Tonight!” – War Memorial Auditorium – Nov. 9, 1962 (2 single sheets, plus Xeroxed inscription by Holbrook from *The Complete Works of O. Henry*)  
*Camelot* (Jeannie Carson, Biff McGuire) – Ryman Auditorium – March 9-10, 1964 (folded, 4 pages)  
 Guarneri String Quartet – Vanderbilt University, Underwood Auditorium – November 19, 1972 (autographed, folded 4 pages, plus single page bio)  
 New London Ballet, w. Special guest Margot Fonteyn – New Grand Ole Opry House – Tuesday, April 1, 1975 (5 pages—booklet)  
 Ella Fitzgerald – Spring Pops Concert '75 – Grand Ole Opry House – May 21, 1975 (folded, 4 pages)  
*Sammy Cahn: Mr. Words and Mr. Music* – Grand Ole Opry House – December 11, 1975 (folded, 4 pages)  
 Marcel Marceau, w. Pierre Verry – The Community Concert Association – No Venue – Season 1975-1976 (8 pages)  
 U.N. Visits Tennessee – Grand Ole Opry (Ralph Sloan, Bill Monroe, Charley Pride, Hank Snow, Ernest Tubb, Bashful Brother Oswald & Charlie Collins, Dolly Parton) – Grand Ole Opry House – June 7, 1976 (8 pages)  
 Hometown Saturday Night – Featuring Mr. Jack Daniel’s Original Silver Cornet Band – No Venue – c. 1981 (one sheet, both sides)  
 (Roy) Acuff’s Golden Celebration (Roy Acuff Roast) – Hyatt Regency Ballroom – September 20, 1981 (Foldout single page)  
 Chet & Owen – NARAS Gala Honoring Chet Atkins and Owen Bradley – Loews Vanderbilt Plaza – August 31, 1994 (12-page booklet)  
 “Always – Patsy Cline: A Musical Production” – Ryman Auditorium – May 4-October 28, 1995 (folded, 4 pages, hole-punched)  
 Ryman Auditorium – Daytime Tour (self-guided tour brochure) – c. 2001

## **Series XV. Contracts**

### **Abstract/Description & Arrangement**

#### **Folder 15 -- Contracts**

Singing Boys of Norway with Harry Draper Concerts – June 19, 1951  
 Basil Rathbone with Harry Draper – October 16, 1951  
 Singing Boys of Norway with Harry Draper Concerts – December 11, 1951  
 Box Office Figures – Liberace Concert @ Vanderbilt – November 3, 1953  
 Payment Record – Liberace Concert @ Vanderbilt – October 30, 1954

## **Series XVI. Stationery**

### **Abstract/Description & Arrangement**

#### **Folder 16 -- Stationery**

The Ryman Auditorium Corporation (1 page) (c. 1958)  
Harry Draper, Concert and Promotion Manager (1 page) (c. 1958)

**Series XVII. Clippings**  
**Abstract/Description & Arrangement**

**Folder 17 – Clippings**

“The Community Chest,” *Nashville Tennessean*, Oct. 21, 1929 (1 page)  
“History of WSM,” *Broadcast News*, November 12, 1932 (54 pages)  
“The Story of the Shield,” c. 1940s, color copied, front & back of 8 pages  
“Area News,” *Nashville Banner*, August 17, 1951 (1 page)  
“Candelabra Changing Pronunciation,” *Nashville Banner*, October 14, 1954 (1 page)  
“Liberace Arrives Thursday,” *Nashville Banner*, October 26, 1954 (1 page, with ad for concert plus Liberace family Christmas card)  
“Liberace Shows His Swimming Pool,” *Nashville Tennessean*, October, 1954 (1 page, with “To Appear Here,” *Nashville Banner*, p. 12, Sept. 22, 1962)  
“Liberace Program To Be Different,” *Nashville Banner*, October 27, 1954 (1 page)  
“Liberace Gate Sets Mark,” *Nashville Tennessean*, October 31, 1954 (3 pages)  
“Top O’ The Mornin’,” unknown, c. November, 1954 (1 page)  
“We’ll Have Ballet,” letter to the editor by Harry Draper, *Nashville Tennessean*, November 1957 (1 page)  
“Exciting in Any Old Garb,” review of Jose Greco performance, *Nashville Tennessean*, February 1959 (1 page)  
“Galli-Curci Asked to Visit Nashville,” *Nashville Tennessean*, November 6, 1961 (with “From Earlier Days,” *Nashville Banner*, November 30, 1961)  
“Exciting Week Ahead Here,” *Nashville Tennessean*, November 26, 1961  
“70 For Ryman,” *Nashville Tennessean*, November 26, 1961 (6 pages)  
“Critic Disagrees With Critic,” *Nashville Tennessean*, July 11, 1965 (1 page)  
“WSM Souvenir Edition,” *Home Office Shield*, May/June 1969 (18 pages – copied to both sides)  
“Fans Were Priceless in Torrid Old Ryman,” *Minnie’s Memories, Nashville Banner*, May 18, 1987 (1 page)  
“Old McGannon Hall Served Many Needs,” *Nashville Banner*, October 7, 1987  
“Helen Hayes Has Wealth of Memories,” *Nashville Banner*, June 16, 1990  
“A Grand Dame’s Encore” and “A Star In Our Crown: You’ve Done It Well,” *Victoria*, September 1991 (11 pages)  
“The Ryman Turns 100,” *Nashville Tennessean*, January 12, 1992 (1 page)  
“Mother Church sees Century,” *Nashville Banner*, May 16, 1992 (4 pages)  
“A Summer Revival,” *Nashville Tennessean*, November 26, 1993 (4 pages)  
“Exploring Your Own Backyard,” *ROI*, May 1994, pp. 10-11  
“Historic Ryman Still Has Class,” *The Tennessean*, September 1, 1996 (1 pg.)  
“Ryman Auditorium – Nashville, Tennessee,” Unknown, January-February 1997 (1 page)

“The Ryman Brings the World to Nashville,” Unknown, December-January 1996-1997 (1 page)  
“Ryman Auditorium Restoration Receives the Phoenix Award,” *The News*, June 5, 1997 (1 page)  
“Tabernacle of Good Taste,” *Nashville Life*, n.d., p. 59 (1 page)  
“Vienna Choir Boys Still Angelic after 500 Years,” *Tennessean*, January 30, 2000 (1 page)