

The John Mehegan Collection

Misc. Ms. 354



September 1996

1996-2007

120 High Street

PO Box 208240

New Haven, CT 06520

musicspecialcollections@yale.edu

<https://guides.library.yale.edu/MusicSpecialCollections>

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Gilmore Music Library
120 High Street
PO Box 208240
New Haven, CT 06520
musicsspecialcollections@yale.edu
<https://guides.library.yale.edu/MusicSpecialCollections>

CALL NUMBER: Misc. Ms. 354

CREATOR: Mehegan, John

TITLE: The John Mehegan Collection

DATES: undated (20th century)

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1 linear foot (1 box)

LANGUAGE: Materials chiefly in English.

SUMMARY: Transcriptions of jazz standards and a pedagogical work on jazz improvisation

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/music.misc.0354>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/music.misc.0354>.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open to researchers by appointment. There are no restricted materials in the collection. Please contact the [Special Collections staff](#) to schedule an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use

The John Mehegan Collection is the physical property of the Irving S. Gilmore Music Library of Yale University. Copyrights belong to the composers and authors, or their legal heirs and assigns.

Preferred Citation

Misc. Ms. 354, The John Mehegan Collection in the Irving S. Gilmore Music Library of Yale University.

Biographical / Historical

John Mehegan was born in Hartford, Connecticut on June 6, 1916. (Later he would list his birth date as 1920 or 1922.) After beginning as a violinist, he switched to the piano. He studied at the Hartt School of Music in Hartford, but he was largely self-taught. By the early 1940s, he was active as a jazz pianist in New York; he played in clubs, and composed and performed the incidental music for *A Streetcar Named Desire* on Broadway. Mehegan was a prolific author; he wrote several instructional works (including the four-volume *Jazz Improvisation*), and he worked as a critic for the New York *Herald Tribune* and other publications. He had a long pedagogical career, teaching at Metropolitan Music School, the Juilliard School, Columbia University, the University of Bridgeport, and Yale University (from 1974 to 1983). John Mehegan died in New Canaan, Connecticut on April 3, 1984.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists mainly of transcriptions (probably by Mehegan) of popular standards. Most contain just the melody and chord symbols, but some also include a left-hand part. The collection also includes Mehegan's résumé and one of his pedagogical works, *How to Play Jazz Piano*.

Arrangement

In 2 series as follows: I. Miscellaneous. II. Jazz Transcriptions.

Collection Contents

Series I: Miscellaneous

- | | |
|------------|---|
| b. 1, f. 1 | Résumé of John Mehegan
<i>2 sheets ; 28 cm.</i>
Typescript |
| b. 1, f. 1 | <i>How to play jazz piano</i> / by John Mehegan. -- S.l. : s.n., n.d.
<i>34 p., bound ; 31 cm.</i> |
-

Series II: Jazz Transcriptions (probably by Mehegan)

Subseries II.A: Original Holdings

b. 1, f. 2	<p><i>57 Varieties (ASCAP)</i> / by Earl "Fatha" Hines <i>21 manuscript sheets of music ; 36 cm.</i> Hines, Earl Manuscript (photocopy) For piano with chord symbols On t.p.: rec. on "A Jazz Piano Anthology" manufactured by Columbia Records PG32355</p>	n.d.
b. 1, f. 2	<p><i>Carolina shout</i> / by James P. Johnson <i>16 manuscript sheets of music ; 36 cm.</i> Johnson, James P. Manuscript (photocopy) On t.p.: copyright 1925 by MCA Music, div. of MCA Inc., 445 Park Ave. N.Y. N.Y. 10022...played by Thomas "Fats" Waller rec. 5/13/41 rec. on "One never knows, do one?" (Fats Waller and his Rhythm) RCA Victor, LPM-1503</p>	n.d.
b. 1, f. 2	<p><i>Keep off the grass</i> / James P. Johnson <i>24 manuscript p. of music ; 32 cm.</i> Manuscript in ink For piano with chord symbols</p>	n.d.
b. 1, f. 2	<p><i>Indiana</i> / Art Tatum ; transcribed by Bruce Murray <i>9 manuscript p. of music ; 31 cm.</i> Tatum, Art Manuscript in ink For piano with chord symbols On t.p.: from "Art Tatum Masterpieces" MCA2-4019 "Leonard Feather Series"</p>	1944
b. 1, f. 2	<p>Nice work if you can get it <i>[9] manuscript sheets of music ; 32 cm.</i> Tatum, Art Manuscript (photocopy, negative) For piano with chord symbols</p>	1949

Subseries II.B: Later Additions, Part 1

b. 1, f. 3	Jazz transcriptions, A-I
b. 1, f. 4	Jazz transcriptions, J-Z

Subseries II.C: Later Additions, Part 2

b. 1, f. 5	Transcribed solos
b. 1, f. 6	Solo piano arrangements
b. 1, f. 7	Standards

Subseries II.C: Later Additions, Part 2 (continued)

b. 1, f. 8

Theory: scales, block chords
