



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Leslie Schinella Collection of Gene Krupa Materials

NMAH.AC.1220

Anne Jones

2012

Archives Center, National Museum of American History

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Collection Overview

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| Repository: | Archives Center, National Museum of American History |
| Title: | Leslie Schinella Collection of Gene Krupa Materials |
| Date: | 1945-1970. |
| Identifier: | NMAH.AC.1220 |
| Creator: | Schillinger, Leslie (Collector) |
| Extent: | 0.15 Cubic feet (1 box) |
| Language: | English . |
| Summary: | The collection consists of printed materials relating to Gene Krupa and other big band musicians and band leaders, including Guy Lombardo and Benny Goodman. |

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Donated to the Archives Center in 2011 by Leslie Schillinger.

Related Materials

Materials at the National Museum of American History

The Division of Culture and the Arts holds artifacts related to this collection including, twenty two pieces of a Slingerland drum set with accessories and a stool used by Gene Krupa when playing in the Benny Goodman orchestra in the 1930s. In addition, there is an album containing eleven sound recordings of Gene Krupa and his Orchestra. See Accession numbers 2010.0242 and 2010.3098.

Processing Information

Processed by Anne Jones (volunteer), July 2012; supervised by Vanessa Broussard Simmons, archivist.

Preferred Citation

Leslie Schillinger Collection of Gene Krupa Materials, 1945-1970, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions on Access

Collection is open for research and access on site by appointment. Unprotected photographs must be handled with gloves.

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Biographical / Historical

: Gene Krupa was born in Chicago, Illinois in 1909 to devout Roman Catholic parents who hoped he would enter the priesthood. He began playing drums professionally in the mid 1920s and in 1927 made his first recordings with Eddie Condon and other notable jazz musicians of the "Chicago" scene. After joining Benny Goodman's band in 1934, he became nationally famous. His interludes on the hit "Sing, Sing, Sing" were the first drum solos ever commercially recorded. With his own orchestra, he appeared in several movies during the Swing era of the 1940s and as himself in biographical films during the 1950s. Still performing in the 1960s, he also opened a music school. Gene Krupa died in 1973.

Scope and Contents

The collection documents the musical career of Gene Krupa, including a biography from a magazine. There are four souvenir programs from concerts by notable musicians and orchestras. Two of these feature Gene Krupa. Others include Benny Goodman, Louis Armstrong, Ahmad Jamal, Dakota Staton, Guy Lombardo, Frankie Carle, Bob Crosby, Freddy Martin and Margaret Whiting. In addition, a list of hits from a radio station and a photograph of Krupa from a magazine are found among the materials.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in one series.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Big band music
- Jazz

Types of Materials:

- Concert programs
- Magazines (periodicals) -- 20th century
- Photographs -- 20th century

Names:

- Goodman, Benny (Benjamin David), 1909-1986
- Krupa, Gene, 1909-1973
- Lombardo, Guy, 1902-1977

Container Listing

Box 1, Folder 1 [Gene Krupa," by Arnold Shaw, 1945](#)

Box 1, Folder 2 Jazz concert program, 1953

Box 1, Folder 3 America's Top Jazz Concert, circa 1960

Box 1, Folder 4 Guy Lombardo and His Royal Canadians in Concert, 1972

Box 1, Folder 5 Big Band Cavalcade, 1972

Box 1, Folder 6 Top hits , 1940-1959

Box 1, Folder 7 Photograph, undated