Myles O'Malley Papers
circa 1925-1996 (bulk 1930-1953)
IMC.M069

http://hdl.handle.net/2345/3337
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Summary Information

Library Unit  Irish Music Center

Creator  O'Malley, Myles

Title  Myles O'Malley papers

Date [inclusive]  circa 1925-1996 (bulk 1930-1953)

Extent  2.5 Linear feet (3 boxes)

Language  English

Abstract  This collection documents highlights in the public career of saxophonist and whistle player Myles O'Malley, who was known as the "Tin Whistle King." The collection consists primarily of photographs. It also includes audio recordings, correspondence, fliers, graphic materials, musical instruments, music manuscripts, news clippings, and royalty statements from Decca Records.

Preferred Citation note

Identification of item, Box number, Folder number, Myles O'Malley Papers, IMC.M069, John J. Burns Library, Boston College.
Administrative Information

Publication Information

Processed by Elizabeth Sweeney, December 2013. This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit.

Conditions Governing Access note

Collection is open for research. 78-rpm recordings and unpublished sound cassettes are restricted for playback purposes; request digital use copies instead.

Copyright restrictions

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Provenance

Biographical note

Myles O'Malley (1910-2000) was born in Everett, Massachusetts to Irish emigrants Michael and Mary O'Malley. He studied music from a young age, becoming a talented clarinetist and saxophonist. While a saxophonist in the Truman Carew Big Band in Boston, O'Malley taught himself to play the whistle. His performances of Irish melodies on whistle led to his doing regular commercial radio broadcast work. Decca Records invited him to New York City in the mid 1930s to record Irish melodies for the Decca label. His renditions of traditional Irish melodies were extremely popular, earning him the nickname of "Tin Whistle King." After four years in the U.S. Navy, O'Malley returned to Boston in 1947 to resume his music career, playing jazz regularly and Irish music on Thursdays.

Sources


Scope and Contents note

The Myles O'Malley papers document career highlights of Myles O'Malley, including his rise to fame as a tin whistle player in the 1930s and his career in the U.S. Navy.

The collection consists primarily of photographs. It also includes advertisements, audio materials, correspondence, fliers, musical instruments, music manuscript books, and royalty statements from Decca Records.

Arrangement note

This collection is arranged alphabetically. Folders include advertisements; audio materials; correspondence; essay; fliers; musical instruments; music manuscript books; news clippings and business card; photographs; and royalty statements.
Collection Inventory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Box/Folder Details</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advertisements for Calvert whiskey featuring O'Malley, circa 1950</td>
<td>Oversize Folder 1-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audio materials: 78-rpm records on the Decca label, 1936-1937</td>
<td>Box 3 Folder 1-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audio materials: Reformatted Decca 78s circa 1984</td>
<td>Box 3 (master) Cassette 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audio materials: Myles O'Malley interviewed by Mick Moloney 1984</td>
<td>Box 3 (master) Folder 11 (access copy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correspondence, 1984-1996</td>
<td>Box 2 Folder 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay, &quot;Irish Music in Boston&quot;, circa 1985</td>
<td>Box 2 Folder 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fliers, 1953</td>
<td>Box 2 Folder 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Musical instruments, undated</td>
<td>Box 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music manuscript book, tenor, undated</td>
<td>Box 2 Folder 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music manuscript book, tenor sax, undated</td>
<td>Box 2 Folder 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music manuscript book, 3rd alto sax, undated</td>
<td>Box 2 Folder 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>News clippings and business card, circa 1946-circa 1953, undated</td>
<td>Box 2 Folder 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Photographs, circa 1928-circa 1955, undated</td>
<td>Box 2 Folder 8-9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Royalty statements from Decca Records, 1949-1951

Box 2  Folder 10