

DORALICE FONTANE PAPERS

Mss. 3622

Inventory

Compiled by
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Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections
Special Collections, Hill Memorial Library
Louisiana State University Libraries
Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University

2014

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SUMMARY

Size.	1.0 linear ft.
Geographic locations.	Baton Rouge, LA
Inclusive dates.	c. 1910 – 1980
Bulk dates.	1947 – 1978
Language.	English
Summary.	Composer of several songs including “Give Me Louisiana,” which was designated as a Louisiana State Song, and “Let’s March Together (People of the World),” an anthem created to inspire peace in light of the Korean war. Papers include correspondence, sheet music, newspaper clippings, and personal documents.
Restrictions on access.	If microfilm is available, photocopies must be made from microfilm.
Copyright.	For those materials not in the public domain, copyright is retained by the descendants of the creators in accordance with U.S. Copyright law.
Citation.	Doralice Fontane Papers, Mss. 3622, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
Stack locations.	Z:22; Vault:1; OS:F

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Doralice Fontane was born in December, 1905 in Moreauville, La. She married Henry Cassano but used her maiden name in her musical career. A graduate of LSU, she was a composer, and a voice, piano, and organ teacher from 1927 and taught at the Sacred Heart School in Baton Rouge. Fontane composed several songs, notably “Give Me Louisiana,” which was adopted as an official state song of Louisiana on July 9, 1970, and “Let’s March Together (People of the World),” created during the Korean War. Also, a business woman, she operated her home, Fontane House, as a “house of weddings.” She died on August 20, 1981.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists primarily of letters from Ms. Fontane promoting her music and acknowledgements from various individuals who were given complimentary copies of her song, “Let’s March Together (People of the World).” Among those responding are governors, mayors, U.S. Senators, diplomats, United Nations delegates, religious leaders, radio and music industry directors, and directors of some national organizations and clubs. In addition, there are letters of acknowledgement from Eleanor Roosevelt, J. Edgar Hoover, and John F. Kennedy.

Another group of papers deals with Ms. Fontane’s attempt to have her song, “Give Me Louisiana,” declared the state song. It later received that distinction in the Louisiana Legislature.

The collection includes sheet music and arrangements for songs that Ms. Fontane composed, for songs she co-authored, and also from various other composers. The lead printing plates for the sheet music of “Give Me Louisiana” are also included.

LIST OF SERIES

Series I. Personal Papers

Series II. Sheet Music

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS**Series I. Personal Papers (c. 1910 – 1978)**

This series consists primarily of the letters of acknowledgment Doralice Fontane received in response to the complimentary copies of her music she sent to individuals. It also includes the writings of Doralice Fontane, official and legal documents, music education pamphlets, printed materials, and materials relating to making “Give Me Louisiana” the state song. Two photographs of Doralice Fontane are also present. The correspondence from the lyricist Columbus Willma Allen and Marshall Rogers, the vaudeville musical glasses player is also included.

Letters of note include personal letters of acknowledgement from Eleanor Roosevelt, and J. Edgar Hoover, and a signed response from John F. Kennedy. There are form letters of appreciation from the secretaries of Eleanor Roosevelt and Bess Truman. In addition, there is a telegram from the mayor of Baton Rouge, Fred S. Leblanc, concerning the singing of “March on America” at LSU stadium; the telegram was sent Sept. 9, 1941. In 1974, Governor Edwin Edwards’ administration sent a copy of the band arrangement for “Give me Louisiana.” Governors who sent letters of acknowledgement and thanks were from the states of Florida, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Oklahoma, New York, Nevada, Ohio, Mississippi, Kentucky, Georgia, South Dakota, Maine, California, Minnesota, Texas, Puerto Rico, and Governor Robert F. Kennon of Louisiana.

Letters of acknowledgement and thanks from foreign officials are also included, notably the Hon. Secretary to Winston Churchill, and close friend and advisor of Francisco Franco, Francisco Franco Salgado Araujo. Letters were also received from the Swiss Confederation, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Israel, and Secretary for External Affairs of Canada.

U.S. Embassy officials who sent letters of acknowledgement and thanks include the embassy in Canada, Guatemala, Greece, Yugoslavia, Italy, Chile, Venezuela, Paraguay, Australia, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The wife of the ambassador to Egypt, Madame Ahmed Hussein, and Ms. Fontane corresponded when Ms. Fontane hosted a reception for Mme. Hussein in 1954.

Religious organizations who sent letters of acknowledgement and thanks include the Diocese of Brooklyn, the Archbishop of Chicago, the Diocesan House of Boston, the Diocese of Maryland, and the Diocese of Missouri. Letters from the secretaries of Pope Pious XII and Billy Graham are also included.

Music and television stations that sent letters of acknowledgment and thanks include, NBC, the Mutual Broadcasting System, the RCA, and the Andy Williams Show. Music personalities include Eddie Cantor and PanFilo DiCenzo.

Series II. Sheet Music (1935 – 1977)

This series contains sheet music composed by Doralice Fontane, specifically copies of “Give Me Louisiana,” “March on Louisiana,” “March on America,” and “Let’s March Together.” It also includes sheet music co-authored by Doralice Fontane, sheet music by composers others than Doralice Fontane, unfinished compositions and the lead printing plates for the sheet music of “Give Me Louisiana.”

INDEX TERMS

Fontane, Doralice, 1905 – 1981.	I-II.
Women Composers—Louisiana.	I-II.
Correspondence.	I.
Sheet Music.	II.
State songs—Louisiana.	I.
Hoover, J. Edgar (John Edgar), 1895-1972.	I.
Kennedy, John F. (John Fitzgerald), 1917-1963.	I.
Roosevelt, Eleanor, 1884-1962.	I.

CONTENTS LIST

<u>Stack</u>			
<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents with dates</u>
Series I. Personal Papers (1910 – 1978)			
Z.22	1	1	Photographs, c. 1910, c. 1950
		2	Correspondence, 1936 – 1975
Vault:1		3	Correspondence, J. Edgar Hoover, John F. Kennedy, and Eleanor Roosevelt, 1949 – 1961 (Restricted access, photocopy available)
		4	Correspondence, federal agencies concerning “Let’s March Together,” 1941 – 1965
		5	Correspondence, Marshall Rogers, 1949 – 1964
		6	Correspondence, City mayors concerning “Let’s March Together,” May 28, 1951 – June 5, 1951
		7	Correspondence, Senators concerning “Let’s March Together,” May 28, 1951 – June 6, 1951
		8	Correspondence, professional clubs concerning “Let’s March Together,” May 28, 1951 – December 13, 1951
		9	Correspondence, businesses concerning “Let’s March Together,” Aug. 14, 1951
		10	Correspondence, Officials at the United Nations concerning “Let’s March Together,” 1951 – 1952
		11	Correspondence, Governors concerning “Let’s March Together,” 1951 – 1953
		12	Correspondence, foreign officials concerning “Let’s March Together,” 1951 – 1954
		13	Correspondence, embassy officials concerning “Let’s March Together,” 1951 – 1960
		14	Correspondence, religious organizations concerning “Let’s March Together,” 1951 – 1966
		15	Correspondence, Music/television production companies, 1951 – 1978
		16	Writings, April 25, 1952 – May 10, 1952, undated.
		17	Academic institutions concerning “Let’s March Together,” 1952 – 1955

<u>Stack</u>			
<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Contents with dates</u>
		18	Columbus Willma Allen, June 22, 1967 – June 23, 1967, undated.
	2	1	Music education pamphlets, 1937 – 1945 undated
		2	Official and legal documents, 1952 – 1970.
		3	Printed materials, 1954 – 1980
Z.22	1	19	Materials relating to “Give me Louisiana” as a state song, 1976 – 1978, undated.
	3	1	Materials relating to making “Give Me Louisiana” the state song, 1970 – 1977
OS:F	Oversize Folder 1		Seating Arrangement, La. House of Representatives, 1976 Session

Series II. Music (1935 – 1977)

Z.22	2	4	Sheet music (1 of 2), 1935 – 1965.
		5	Sheet music (2 of 2) undated.
		6	Sheet music, co-authored by Doralice Fontane, undated.
		7	Unfinished compositions (1 of 2) undated.
		8	Unfinished compositions (2 of 2) undated.
	3	2	“Let’s March Together,” 1951, undated.
		3	“Give Me Louisiana,” 1974 – 1975, undated.
		4	“March On Louisiana,” Oct. 23, 1977.
		5	“March On America!” undated.
		6	By composers other than Doralice Fontane, 1935 – 1961, undated.
	4		Lead printing plates for sheet music of “Give me Louisiana” undated.