

**BRYAN, CHARLES FAULKNER
COLLECTION
PAPERS AND TAPES
1892-[1941-1955]-1978**

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INTRODUCTION

The papers and tapes of Charles Faulkner Bryan were donated to Tennessee Technological University on July 14, 1981 by Mrs. Charles Bryan. The music scores were donated to Tennessee Technological University by Mrs. Bryan prior to January 1980. The collection consists of 6 linear feet, 9 reels, 2 oversized folders, and 1 oversized box of materials.

Charles Faulkner Bryan was born on July 26, 1911, near McMinnville, Tennessee. He attended Warren County Public Schools and graduated from McMinnville High School in 1930. His education in music began at the age of ten when he started studying piano under Mrs. Maimie Worley. Upon graduation from high school Mr. Bryan entered the Nashville Conservatory School of Music. In 1934 he graduated from the Conservatory with a Bachelor of music degree with certification in voice, piano, and public school music.

In 1935 Mr. Bryan was appointed as the director of the Music Department at Tennessee Polytechnic Institute (presently Tennessee Technological University) in Cookeville, Tennessee. He remained in this position until 1939. While at Cookeville Mr. Bryan began his extensive study of folk music, and his compositions began to reflect folk themes. During this time he and his wife, Edith Hillis Bryan, wrote and produced an operetta, "Rebel Academy." He also developed techniques for teaching music in elementary and secondary schools. By the time he left Tennessee Technological University he had received a Bachelor of Science degree with majors in English and languages.

In 1939 Mr. Bryan accepted a teaching fellowship at George Peabody College for Teachers to teach choral music at the Peabody Demonstration School. In 1940 he received his Master of Arts degree in music education from Peabody.

For his thesis Mr. Bryan submitted the "White Spiritual Symphony"; this was the first time an original musical composition had ever been used as a thesis at Peabody.

In 1940 Mr. Bryan was appointed to direct the state music project of the Work Projects Administration. In 1941 he was placed in charge of the state programs of music, education, art, writers, recreation, and library projects. He was promoted to supervisor of these projects for the southeastern region in 1942. From 1942 to 1944 Mr. Bryan served as the Regional Consultant for Civilian Defense; in 1944 he returned to Tennessee as the Assistant State Director of Civilian Defense. Mr. Bryan's work in music was not neglected during his years of government service. In 1942 his "White Spiritual Symphony" was performed by the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Eugene Goossens.

Mr. Bryan was granted the Guggenheim Fellowship in Music in 1945, but he decided to postpone the award for one year to further his education. From 1945 to 1946 he studied composition under the famous composer Paul Hindemith at Yale University. The resulting work of the Guggenheim award was the folk cantata, *The Bell Witch*, which premiered in April of 1947 at Carnegie Hall under the direction of Robert Shaw. The American "Folk Music," a textbook written with Dr. George Pullen Jackson, was published in 1947.

In the fall of 1947 Mr. Bryan began teaching at George Peabody College for Teachers. While at Peabody he directed five summer operas and the high school choral music programs, traveled giving folk music lectures and concerts, worked in high school music festivals, and was active in the Tennessee Folklore Society. In 1950 Mr. Bryan and Brianerd Cheney collaborated in writing the musical, "Strangers in this World." In 1950 he was awarded a Carnegie Grant which in 1952 resulted in the completion of his folk opera, "Singin' Billy," written with Donald Davidson; this opera was one of his most important works.

In the summer of 1952 Mr. Bryan wrote and recorded the music for "Florida Aflame," a musical about the Seminole Indians. In the fall he left Peabody to accept the position of music master at Indian Springs School for boys in Alabama. During the summer of 1954 Mr. Bryan and his wife made a trip to Europe, and he did some investigation into the origin of the dulcimer. on July 7, 1955, Mr. Bryan died of a heart attack at the age of 43.

During his career he had gained a national reputation as a composer, recitalist, and authority on folk music. Mr. Bryan is accredited with one hundred twenty-two works including fifty-five choral, ten instrumental, eight choral and instrumental, forty-one vocal solos, and eight essays. He had also acquired a collection of dulcimers, folk music, and folklore.

Mr. Bryan was married to Edith Inez Hillis on December 21, 1935. He and his wife had two children: Betty Lynn, born on March 17, 1941, and Charles, Jr., born on December 10, 1946.

The collection reflects Mr. Bryan's career as a composer, folklore collector, performer, and teacher. The collection includes correspondence, biographical and financial papers, newspaper clippings, programs, teaching notes, folk music and folklore collections, professional publications, composition scores and scripts, posters, photographs, and tapes.

Important subjects covered in the collection are:

"The Bell witch Cantata"

"Florida Aflame"

Folklore and folk music

Guggenheim Fellowship

Indian Springs School

"Singin' Billy"

"White Spiritual Symphony"

Work Projects Administration

Yale University

Among the correspondents are:

Wilfred C. Bain

J. Robert Bradley

Donald Davidson

Joseph A. Fischer

Eugene Goosens

George Pullen Jackson

Woodrow Luttrell

Gladys Pitcher

Irving Wolfe

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Series I, Drawer 1, Correspondence 1935-1976.

This series contains the correspondence of Charles Faulkner Bryan including letters, postcards, telegrams, and memorandums. The correspondence reflects Mr. Bryan's work as a teacher, composer, performer, folklore collector, and officer in civil defense. Important topics are: White Spiritual Symphony, the Guggenheim Fellowship and Bryan's studies at Yale, his work with George Pullen Jackson, Florida Aflame, and Singin' Billy. The material is arranged chronologically.

Series II, Drawer 2, Memorabilia 1925-1978.

Series II consists of memorabilia reflecting Mr. Bryan's activities and accomplishments throughout his career. This series includes newsclippings, performance and lecture programs, and a scrapbook. oversized posters and photographs have been removed and are stored in oversized folders. A second scrapbook has also been removed and is stored in an oversized box. The material is arranged first alphabetically by the type of document and then chronologically.

Series III, Drawers 2-4, Subjects 1892-1976, predominantly 1942-1955.

Series III contains various papers including Mr. Bryan's notes on music, folklore, and his compositions; financial receipts, statements, insurance policies, and loans; lecture notes and teaching plans; research articles, journals, and bulletins dealing with music, education, or folklore; legal papers; biographical material including applications and educational records; and scripts of some of his compositions. The folders are arranged alphabetically according to the subject.

Series IV, Drawer 5, Music scores undated and 1921-1963, predominantly 1944-1955.

Series IV contains music scores by Mr. Bryan including compositions for chorus, orchestra and solo performances. The folders are arranged alphabetically according to title of the compositions.

Series V, Drawer 6, Sound recordings undated and 1950-1976.

Series V contains copies of recordings made at the Country Music Hall of Fame, Nashville, Tennessee, for inclusion in the Charles Faulkner Bryan Collection.

Non-Manuscript Material

Eleven photographs, four negatives, and five postcards relating to Mr. Bryan, his dulcimers, or his performances have been removed and are stored in an oversized folder. Oversized materials including two memorial certificates, an orchestra filing envelope, seven posters advertising performances or rehearsals, and a scrapbook dating from 1931-1949 have been removed and are stored in oversized folders.

CONTAINER LIST

Series I

Reel 1

Correspondence, 1935-1976. Series I consists of letters, telegrams, postcards, and memorandums reflecting the professional career of Charles Faulkner Bryan. The correspondence relates information concerning his work as a composer, teacher, performer, folklore collector, and civil defense officer. Important topics include: the performance of the "White Spiritual Symphony"; Bryan's receiving the Guggenheim Fellowship, his studies at Yale, and the composition of "The Bell Witch Cantata"; his work with Dr. George Pullen Jackson and their joint publication of the textbook, *American Folk Music*; the performances of "Florida Aflame"; and the creation and performance of "Singin' Billy," a folk opera written with Donald Davidson. The series is arranged chronologically.

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13. Correspondence, May 1953-August 1953
14. Correspondence, September 1953-October 1953
15. Correspondence, November 1953-December 1953
16. Correspondence, January 1954-March 1954

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16. Correspondence, January 1954-March 1954
17. Correspondence, April 1954-June 1954
18. Correspondence, July 1954-December 1954
19. Correspondence, 1955-1956; 1975-1976

Series II

Reel 2

Memorabilia, 1925-1978. This series consists of memorabilia reflecting Mr. Bryan's activities and accomplishments throughout his career. Series II includes newsclippings, performance and lecture programs, and a scrapbook. oversized posters and photographs have been removed and placed in oversized folders. A second scrapbook has also been removed and is stored in an oversized box. The material is arranged alphabetically by the type of document and then chronologically.

Drawer 2

1. Newsclippings, undated
2. Newsclippings, 1940-1951
3. Newsclippings, 1952-June 1955
4. Newsclippings, July 1955-May 1978
5. Programs, undated
6. Programs, 1934-1947
7. Programs, 1948-1949
8. Programs, 1950-1952
9. Programs, 1953-1954
10. Programs, 1955-1976

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10. Programs, 1955-1976
11. Scrapbook, 1925-1929
12. Scrapbook, 1930-1933

Series III

Reel 3

Subjects, 1892-1976, predominantly 1942-1955. Series III contains Mr. Bryan's notes on music, folklore, and his compositions; financial receipts, policies, and loans; his lecture notes and teaching plans; research papers and published journals and bulletins dealing with music or folklore; legal contracts; biographical material including applications and resumes; and scripts of his compositions such as Florida Aflame and Singin' Billy. The material is arranged alphabetically according to the subject.

13. "The Bell Witch Cantata," undated
14. Biography, 1942-1955
15. "Candlemas Night," undated
16. Carnegie Grant, 1950-1952
17. Christmas Playlet, undated

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18. Composer and Publisher Association
 Bulletins, 1953-1954, 1975
19. Composition requests, undated
20. Contest applications, 1952, 1954
21. Criticism of music, undated
22. Donald Davidson, final exam, 1953
23. "Elements of Administration," undated
24. Facsimile of letter, Wolanck to Beethoven, December 15, 1892
25. Financial, ledgers, 1945-1953
26. Financial, policies and loans, 1943-1955
27. Financial, receipts, 1945-1955
28. Financial, royalty statements, 1944-195

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4. Florida Aflame, script, 1951
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6. Folklore, pamphlets, 1949-1953
7. Folklore, research articles, 1946-1951
8. Folklore, superstitions and beliefs, undated

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9. Folk music, bibliography, 1946-1951
10. Folk music, lyrics, undated
11. Folk music, notes, undated
12. Folk music, research papers, 1939-1952
13. Guggenheim Foundation, 1943-1944
14. Guggenheim Foundation, 1945-1946, 1950
15. Indian Springs, general education, 1952-1954
16. Indian Springs, glee club, undated
17. Indian Springs, 9th grade, 1953-1954
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21. Legal, 1945-1955
22. Lyrics, undated
23. Master tape dub, undated
24. Memoriams, 1943-1957, 1975
25. Modern music, notes, undated
26. Musical America, April 25, 1945
27. Musical and educational journals, 1947-1955

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27. Musical and educational journals, 1947-1955
28. Music education, notes, 1947-1952
29. Music Educators National Conference, 1947-1959
30. Music festivals, 1951-1955

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2. Music notes, jazz, undated
3. Music notes, Peabody class notes, undated
4. Music notes, voice and piano, undated
5. Music Tutorial, undated
6. National Association of Teachers Singing, 1944-1954
7. "Naughty Marietta," undated
8. New York seminar and adult education, 1949-1952
9. *Opera News*, 1955
10. "Pan Pipes," 1955, 1965
11. Peabody College Bulletins, 1945-1953
12. "Peabody Reflector," 1940-March 1951
13. "Peabody Reflector," April 1951-1966
14. Personal notes and calendars, undated
15. Pitch hearing tests, 1945
16. "Shooting the Stars," April 1955

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17. "Singin' Billy," notes, 1952-1954
18. "Singin' Billy," script, 1950
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23. Symphony and choir lists, undated
24. Tennessee Federation of Music Clubs, undated
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27. "White Spiritual Symphony," undated
28. Work Projects Administration, ca. 1940
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30. Works published, J. Fischer and Brother, 1944-1966
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7. And the Sheperd (SATB), undated
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9. Angels From Realms of Glory (SATB), undated
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11. Ballad of the Harp Weaver, 1945
12. Barleycorn, 1941
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14. Begone Dull Care, undated
15. Bells of St. Mary's (Trio for violins), undated
16. Bell Witch Cantata, 1946
17. Bell witch Cantata, 1946
18. Bell Witch Cantata, 1946
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20. Birmingham Suite (Fragments and sketches), 1921

21. Blessed Is He That Cometh, undated
22. Blues In The Night, undated
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64. Hark! The Vesper Hymn, 1954
65. Hasten the Day (S), 1943
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72. Home on the Range, undated
73. Home Sweet Home (SATB), 1941
74. How Do I Love Thee, 1935
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76. If a Maiden Thinks of Marry, undated
77. If I Had You, undated
78. I Have A Mother In The Heavens, 1943
79. I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day, undated
80. I Like to Chase the Fireflies, undated
81. I Love a Fiddle, undated
82. I Love a Fiddle, undated
83. In Lowly Manger, undated
84. Into the Lake, undated
85. Into the Woods My Master Went, 1936
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96. Liza (SATB) (Male Chorus), 1945
97. Liza (SATB) (Male Chorus), 1945
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99. Longing, 1939
100. Look to the Past, undated
101. The Lord's Prayer, undated
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103. A Mighty Fortress, undated
104. Manuscript Fragments, undated
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106. My Father Has A Garden, 1949
107. My Heart I Give To Thee, undated
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109. Night and Day
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111. Now The Day Is Over, 1953
112. O Perfect Love
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115. Oh Mother, undated
116. Oh Suzanne! (In French), undated
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124. The Promised Land (SATBB) & solo, 1943
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126. Rain, undated
127. Rebel Academy, Orchestra Overture (Misc. original sketches and parts) (Operetta), 1939
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141. Skeeter, undated
142. Skip To My Lou, 1944
143. Snow, undated
144. Softer Still, 1951
145. Sonnet For Violin and Harp, undated
146. Southern Folk Songs for Elementary Schools, 1947
147. Stout Hearted Men, undated
148. Stars Fell on Alabama, undated
149. Strangers in This World-, 1952
150. Sun of My Soul, 1953
151. Swing Low, undated
152. Swingy Little Thingy, undated
153. Symphony No. 1, 1927
154. The Tailor and The Crow, undated
155. Tennessee Folk Songs, 1950
156. That's Why I'm Singing Today, 1930
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167. Thou Wouldst Be Loved, undated
168. To A Hall, 1949
169. To Men A Savior's Given, 1947
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170. Pullen Jackson, undated
171. Triad, undated
171. Jesse James, undated
171. Dirge of the Three Kings, undated
172. Turtledoves A Callin, undated
173. Turtledoves A Callin, undated
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175. We Thank Thee Lord, 1950
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177. Welcome Every Guest, undated
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194. Singing Billy (Piano red. complete, libretto, orchestra score, descriptive summary, extra sheets, vocal books, manuscript parts and fragments), 1952
195. Singing Billy (Piano red. complete, libretto, orchestra score, descriptive summary, extra sheets, vocal books, manuscript parts and fragments), 1952
196. Singing Billy (Piano red. complete, libretto, orchestra score, descriptive summary, extra sheets, vocal books, manuscript parts and fragments), 1952
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