



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Irving Riskin Music Collection
Manuscript Collection No. 847**

Collection Summary

Title	Irving Riskin Music Collection
Dates	1960-1974
Collection Number	MS-847
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Riskin, Irving
Extent	0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)
Language of the Material	English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch Irving "Itzy" Riskin was a jazz pianist and composer who recorded and toured with such acts as Frankie Trumbauer, Bix Beiderbecke, and the Jean Goldkette Band. When Goldkette disbanded in 1927, Riskin spent some time arranging and composing for various commercials, and radio and television shows. He worked as Chief Arranger for the popular and long-running network show The Lucky Strike Hit Parade. Perhaps most notably, he composed the iconic Ajax jingle, one of the first commercial heard on television in the United States.

His career as a composer changed dramatically when he attended a bar mitzvah, where he met a cantor who needed a choir leader. After that meeting, Riskin immersed himself in the world of Jewish music. He eventually began working as the Director of Music at Temple Beth El in Hollywood, California. He composed music for countless services and even incorporated popular music into temple services by regularly holding jazz services at the temple.

He married his wife, Dolly Dawson, in 1929. They had two daughters.

-- Adapted from a recording by Irving "Itzy" Riskin about his life after the disbandment of the Goldkette band in 1927. (<http://bixography.com/aftergoldkette.html>) Accessed December 1, 2011.

Scope and Content This collection consists of sheet music composed and arranged by Irving "Itzy" Riskin during his time as Director of Music at Temple Beth El in Hollywood, California. Traditional Jewish music used in services at the temple is included along with music from the "Jazz Services" that Riskin introduced at the temple and other miscellaneous musical compositions. Among these are: Medley of Chanukah Songs, Medley of Passover Songs, and Medley of Purim Songs. There are also several children's songs arranged by Riskin for the school and children's choir. Music arrangements sometimes contain sheet music for several different instruments including: piano, violin, 1st and 2nd trumpets, percussion, bass, etc. Also included is one folder of correspondence expressing interest and appreciation for the jazz services along with programs and announcements for those services.

Arrangement This collection is arranged in one (1) series: A. General.

Terms of Access The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.

Preferred Citation Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Irving Riskin Music Collection and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-847. Irving Riskin Music Collection. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance Received from Lucille Riskin Gechtman, 			Encino, Calif., April 1990.

Processing Information Processed by Michelle Wirth Detroit, December 2011.

This collection was arranged and described according to minimal-processing standards. Funding, in part, for the arrangement and description of this collection was provided by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

Index Terms

Subjects	Jazz / Jewish composers / Synagogue music
Corporate Names	Temple Beth El (Hollywood, Calif.)

Media

Sheet music

Series A. General, 1960-1974

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1-19. A-G.

Box 1. Folder 20-47. H-N.

Box 1. Folder 48-62. O-T.

Box 1. Folder 63-71. U-Z.