SUMMARY INFORMATION

Title: Charlie Spivak Papers
Dates: 1913-1982 and undated
Accession #: 0000-006
Creator: Spivak, Charlie, 1907-1982
Physical Description: 1.38 linear feet (2 boxes)
Languages: Collection material in English.
Processing Information: This collection was processed by Julia A. Cowart in 2012, and the finding aid updated in 2017.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition:
The Charlie Spivak Papers were found in Special Collections in 2004. These materials were probably donated to Furman University in January 1983 as part of the Charlie Spivak Music Collection.

Custodial History:
Spivak’s widow, “Dubby” Lambert Spivak, gave the Music Collection to Furman music professor, Dan Ellis, in January 1983 to be housed in the Duke Library. In July 2008 the Music Library had possession of the Charlie Spivak Music Collection and it was transferred by Jenny Colvin, Music Librarian to Special Collections and Archives for housing (Acc. 2008-063).

Biographical Sketch:
Charlie Spivak was an American trumpeter and bandleader, best known for his big band in the 1940s. Among his better recordings were his theme "Let's Go Home," "Autumn Nocturne" and "Star Dreams."

Charlie Spivak was born on February 17, 1907 in Kiev, Ukraine. He immigrated to the United States with his parents in 1910 and grew up in New Haven, Connecticut where he began playing the trumpet at an early age.
He was a member of Don Cavallaro’s orchestra before joining Phil Sprecht’s band in 1924. Spivak continued to move from group to group, joining Ben Pollack in 1931, the Dorsey Brothers and later Ray Noble in 1934, Bob Crosby and Tommy Dorsey in 1938, and finally Jack Teagarden in 1939.

Spivak formed his own band in November, 1939 (financed by Glenn Miller) and, although his first orchestra failed within a year, his second attempt shortly after was more successful as he kept his band together until 1959.


Spivak passed away March 1, 1982.

The following sources provide additional information on Spivak’s personal and professional life.

- [http://www.bigbandlibrary.com/charliespivak.html](http://www.bigbandlibrary.com/charliespivak.html)
- [http://bandmuseum.tripod.com/id20.html](http://bandmuseum.tripod.com/id20.html)

USING THE COLLECTION

Access Restrictions: None.

Preferred Citation: [Identification of item], Charlie Spivak Papers, Acc. 0000-006 [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections and Archives, Furman University, Greenville, S.C.

SCOPE AND CONTENT
The Charlie Spivak Papers span the years 1913-1982, and include music scores, photographs, newspaper clippings, identity documents, awards and proclamations, telegrams, legal documents, programs, magazine pages, and a yearbook.

ARRANGEMENT
The Charlie Spivak Papers are arranged by format.

Related Material:
- George and Elaine Howard Collection of Charlie Spivak Memorabilia, Acc. #: 2015-065
- Charlie Spivak Music Collection, Acc. 2008-063
- South Caroliniana file – Charlie Spivak Biography
Contents Inventory

Box 1

Folder

1 – Music Scores, 1941, 1946 and undated

- Handwritten score of “Stardreams,” October 8, 1941.
- Score of “One Raindrop Doesn’t Make Shower,” a number featured by Spivak’s orchestra, lyric by Gene Doyle and Mack Kay, music by Abner Silver, Ben Bloom Music Corp, Broadway, New York.

2 – Photographs, undated

- B&W photo of Charlie Spivak, undated, stamp on back “Sidney Studio, New Haven, Conn.”
- B&W photo of Charlie Spivak playing trumpet in front of an orchestra, undated, stamp on back “Arsene Studio, New York.”
- Gelatin silver print of Charlie Spivak with band, undated. The front head of the kit bass drum has band logo “The Paragon Orchestra Concert Dance.”
- B&W headshot photograph of Charlie Spivak, undated.
- B&W photograph in paper frame of older couple, possibly Spivak’s parents, undated.

3 - Newspaper clippings, 1943 and undated; *The Orchestra Magazine*, November 1913


- U.S. passport, 1926
- U.S. GPO Booklet “Notice to Bearers of Passports,” 1926
- U.S. Certificate of Naturalization, Solomon Spivak, 1926
- Selective Service System, Certificate of Fitness, Charles Alexander Spivak, 1944
- Declaration of Domicile and Citizenship, Charlie Spivak, Coral Gables, Fla., 1957
• Certificate of Baptism, Saint Mary’s Church, Greenville, SC, 1973
• Membership cards, 1980s
• S.C. Drivers’ license

5 – Awards and Proclamations, 1945, 1949, 1979, 1982
• Charlie Spivak voted to Peter Potter’s Platter Parade All-American Band, 1945
• Certificate of Award, Ohio State University Jazz Forum, Winter 1949
• Proclamation, Office of the Mayor, City of Rossville, Charlie Spivak Day, May 24, 1979
• S.C. Resolution H. 3640, “To extend the sympathy of the members of the general assembly to the family and friends of Charlie Spivak of Greenville, known for playing the ‘Sweetest Trumpet in the World’, who died Monday, March 1, 1982.”

6 – Telegrams from Glenn Miller, 1941 and 1942

7 - Legal documents, 1947 and undated
• General Release, Helen D. Miller to Charlie Spivak, September 8, 1947
• General Release, Don W. Haynes to Charlie Spivak, September 12, 1947
• General Release, David MacKay to Charlie Spivak, September 15, 1947
• Answer and Counter Claim, Helen D. Miller vs. Charlie Spivak, Bergen County Court of Common Pleas, undated
• Promissory Note, Charlie Spivak to Helen D. Miller, September 5, 1947

8 - Senior Class Book, New Haven High School, 1922


Box 2

Ken magazine pages, vol. 2 no. 2, July 28, 1938
Pages 49-60, full-page photographs of Gene Krupa, Benny Goodman, other musicians and swing dancers. Ken magazine was a large format news type magazine published by Esquire in 1938-1939.