

Finding Aid to the Don Roseland Collection

Roseland, Don

Don Roseland Collection, 1944-1981

.6 linear ft.

Collection number: Mss 372

[Biography](#)

[Scope and Content](#)

[Box and Folder List](#)

OVERVIEW

Links: Finding aid to [Don Roseland Photograph Collection](#) (Photo 503)

Access: The collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Institute.

Provenance: Donated by Audrey Roseland Scott, 1997 (Acc. 2535).

Property rights: The Institute for Regional Studies owns the property rights to this collection.

Copyrights: Copyrights to items in this collection is held by the Institute only if owned by Audrey Roseland Scott.

Citation: [Identification of item]. Don Roseland Collection (Ms 372), Institute for Regional Studies, North Dakota State University, Fargo.

BIOGRAPHY

Donald Dean Roseland was born January 27, 1920 in Kanabec County, Minnesota to Abraham and Stella (Olson) Roseland. The family moved to Fargo, N.D. where Don graduated from high school in 1938. He received his musical education at the Concordia College Conservatory of Music, in Moorhead, Minn. He began his musical career at the age of fifteen when he and a partner were winners of the network radio show 'The Major Bows Amateur Hour.' He also worked at Fargo's WDAY Radio as a piano player. He

played with various bands and groups throughout the United States before moving to Hollywood. There his music career included hotel and nightclub engagements, recordings, motion pictures, television and song writing. Don became known for his nightclub act called 'The Three Dons and Ginny' and they produced a number of recordings. Don was a composer and pianist, also appearing in a number of Hollywood movies as a piano player, including the movies *A Foreign Affair*, *The Big Sleep*, *Here comes the Waves*, and *My Reputation* among others.

In 1959 he returned to Fargo and began appearing on WDAY-TV where he was the pianist on WDAY's local television program, Party Line. He married Verna S. Newell on May 5, 1962 in Clay County, Minn. and were later divorced. He returned to California where he married Karen Y. Vonottenfel on July 3, 1970 in Los Angeles and were later divorced. On July 2, 1978 he married Fargo native Audrey Nellermeo in San Diego. Don died September 20, 1989 in Palm Desert, California. He was survived by his wife Audrey and daughter RoJean.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The **Don Roseland Collection** consists of items kept by his widow Audrey Roseland-Scott, giving a glimpse into his musical career, primarily at the national level including composing music, performing and appearing in Hollywood movies. The collection has been organized by the format of the material, into five series: Sheet music, Music arrangements, Subject files, 78 rpm phonograph records and Audio & Film tapes.

The **Sheet Music Series** consists of four songs for which Don Roseland either composed the music or was done in collaboration with others. The sheet music spans from 1948 to 1954. The titles include *Broke*, *Barefoot and Starry-Eyed*, *Don't Say Goodbye When You Go*, *Flo from St. Joe, Mo.*, and *Hit and Run Affair*.

The **Music Arrangements Series** consists of four songs composed by Roseland. Each is a single sheet, some are original handwritten items. The titles include *God Is*, *God Knows*, *God Does*, *He's Never More Than Just a Touch Away*, *Nothing is Impossible*, and *Nothing is Impossible*, which is the earliest item in the collection, copyrighted in 1944.

The **Subject File Series** includes only a single item, an issue of the Fabulous Las Vegas weekly publication which features an advertisement for The Three Dons and Ginny which had been performing at the Flamingo Hotel. The item includes a photograph of Don, Eddy, Buddy and Ginny Greer.

The **78 rpm Phonograph Record Series** consists of three original 78 rpm records. Two of them were published by Coral Records and have printed on the label 'Sample Copy, Not for Sale.' All are vocal performances by The Three Dons and Ginny with orchestra or musical accompaniment.

The **Audio & Film Tape Series** is an eclectic collection of item recording performances by The Three Dons and Ginny and Don Roseland. The information found in the folder listing was taken from the original item or container.

SEPARATION RECORD

Photographs

- Eight photographic prints of Don Roseland performing, including in a number of movies (Institute Photo 503)

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box/Folder	Content
1/1	Finding aid, and Biographical information
	Sheet Music Series
1/2	<i>Broke, Barefoot and Starry-Eyed</i> , words by Ray Cormier, music by Don Roseland, 1953
1/3	<i>Don't Say Goodbye When You Go</i> , words and music by Ray Cormier and Don Roseland, 1953
1/4	<i>Flo from St. Joe, Mo.</i> , Words and music by Don Roseland and Ed McDermott, 1948
1/5	<i>Hit and Run Affair</i> , words and music by Don Roseland, Ray Cormier, Mel Van, 1953-1954
1/6	<i>Hit and Run Affair</i> , in '40 More Hits of Our times,' 1954 (page 44)
	Music Arrangements Series
1/7	<i>God Is, God Knows, God Does</i> , by Don Roseland, a Frank Scott arrangement
1/8	<i>He's Never More Than Just a Touch Away</i> (Hawaiian Song of Praise), words and music by Don Roseland, 1981
1/9	<i>Nothing is Impossible</i> , words and music by Don Roseland, n.d
1/10	<i>Sez Here</i> , words and music by Don Roseland, 1944
	Subject Files Series
1/11	"The 3 Dons and Ginny" advertisement in <i>Fabulous Las Vegas</i> , May 15, 1954
	78 rpm Phonograph Records Series
1/12	<i>The Jones Boy</i> (side 1); <i>Just another Chance</i> (side 2), performed by The Three Dons and Ginny, vocal quartet with instrumental accompaniment (Coral record # 61102)
1/13	<i>Say You're Mine Again</i> (side 1); <i>Tutti-Frutti Baby</i> (side 2), performed by The Three Dons and Ginny Greer (Allied Record Sales Co. record # ARS-5000)
1/14	<i>Too Late Now</i> (side 1); <i>Don't You Care</i> (side 2), performed by the Three Dons and Ginny, vocal with orchestra (Coral record # 60996)

Audio & Film Tapes Series

- 1/15 The Three Dons and Ginny (7 inch tape)
- 1/16 "Protection copy, original 4-track, Don Roseland" (7 inch tape)
- 1/17 Cormier Chevrolet spot, with text, 1968? (5 inch tape)
- 1/18 Seven songs listed on box (Love like Ours, Just Before I Go to Sleep, At the Zoo, That Song, I like It (Do It Again), Hands in Prayer, Million Dollar Smile) "Property of Don Roseland) (5 inch tape)
- 2/1 Don and Audrey Roseland sing 'Jesus Loves You' and 2 more (5 inch tape)
- 2/2 'I Don't Want to Read Your Letter', by Don Roseland, Fargo, N.D. (3 inch tape)
- 2/3 'Don' ('Kindly return to Don Lasser, .. Norwich, Conn.' Stamped on back of box (3 inch tape)
- 2/4 The Three Dons & Ginny (16mm film)