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Guide to the Eddie "Memphis" Curtis Collection

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CENTER FOR BLACK MUSIC RESEARCH COLLECTION

The Eddie “Memphis” Curtis Collection, 1954-1983

EXTENT

4 boxes, 3 linear feet

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Eddie Curtis (Memphis E. Curtis), 1927-1983, was a composer, arranger, and singer. The collection consisting chiefly of manuscript lead sheets of Curtis's original compositions, manuscript scores and parts, and other materials relating to his musical career.

PROCESSING INFORMATION

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Eddie Curtis (a.k.a., Memphis E. Curtis) was a composer, arranger, and singer who was born in Galveston, Texas, on July 17, 1927. He became interested in music at an early age, and by the age of 15 had led his own band. He received his education at the Boston Conservatory of Music, the Berklee School of Music, and UCLA, and took private music instruction at Pepperdine University. Curtis composed hundreds of songs, including the R&B hits "Lovey Dovey" (recorded by the Clovers and other artists) and "It Should've Been Me" (made famous by Ray Charles). He also wrote several songs that were recorded by Connie Francis. Curtis died of prostate cancer on August 22, 1983, in New York.

SCOPE & CONTENT/COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The collection primarily consists of Curtis's original compositions. The majority of these are manuscript lead sheets, although the collection also includes a number of manuscript scores and parts. These lead sheets, scores, and parts comprise the first three boxes of the collection. The materials in Box 4 include music from Curtis's musical comedy *This Is the Day!!*, songs from *The Folk Album*, and a financial proposal for a musical comedy entitled *Ever Since Eve!!*. The last folder in Box 4 includes a publicity photograph of Curtis. At the end of the collection is a 12-inch 45-rpm record of his "The Oreo Cookie Gang!!"

ARRANGEMENT

The collection is arranged in five series:

1. Manuscript Music - Each title represents a one-page lead sheet unless otherwise indicated
2. Music from *This Is the Day!!* – a musical comedy
3. Songs from *The Folk Album*
4. Materials for *Ever Since Eve!!* – a musical comedy
5. Other Materials

ACQUISITION SOURCE

Donated by Joe Lewis, March 2001

SUBJECT HEADINGS

Lead sheets, African-American composers, musical theater, African-American- Music, Music-20th Century, Composers-Black

ACCESS STATEMENT

The collection is open and available for research use.

RIGHTS STATEMENT

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PREFERRED CITATION

The Eddie "Memphis" Curtis Collection, Center for Black Music Research Collection, Columbia College Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.

EDDIE 'MEMPHIS' CURTIS COLLECTION INVENTORY

SERIES 1: Manuscript Music

(Each title listed represents a one-page lead sheet unless otherwise indicated)

Box 1

Afternoon in a-minor.

Ain't that funky!! c1981.

Ali fit the battle of Zaire. (pages 2 and 3 only). Part: violins?

All thru the nite. c1981.

Along came you!! c1981. 2 p.

Alto, the monkeys funky jungle band!! Parts: alto sax, tenor sax, tuba.

And now you say you're sorry. Parts: 2nd guitar (two different keys).

Anytime you want me snap your fingers. c1981.

Baby darlin'. Photocopy

Baby!! Ain't I lovin' you good!! c1981.

Baby!! I'm so crazy 'bout you. c1981.

Baby, don't worry (I'll be home in a hurry). c1966. Photocopy.

Baby, I wanna live with you. c1981.

Baby, I'm the man!! c1981.

Baby, please!! c1981.

(Baby, you got) somethin' good!! c1981.

Baby, you're blowin' my mind!! c1981.

Banjo man. Part: 2nd guitar.

Bet on the pancake or the donkey (and you'll win!! ...boy!!). c1980.

Big wind blowin'. Lead sheet and part: violins.

Blue again ('caus my womans gone). c1980.

The bet bird boogie!! (How them birds can dream!!).

Blues letter. Photocopy.

Bring it on home!! c1981.

Broadway Cowboy. c1981.

Broadway serenade. c1980.

Bug off!! You fool!! c1983.

Bumpity bump!! (Along the magic highway of love!!). c1981.

Burn like fire!!

see *(You make my body) burn like fire!!*

Burn my foolish lover. c1959. Lead sheet (photocopy) and part: 2nd guitar.

Carnal. c1981.

Caroline!! (Where are you now?). c1981.

Cherie!! c1981.

Come on!! (Baby!! Baby!! Baby!!). c1982.

Come on down. c1965. Photocopy.

Come out of the darkness children. Part: 3rd trumpet.

Dawn!!

Don't cry for yesterdays lovers. c1981.

Don't let our love grow cold. c1981.

Don't play God with me. c1982.
Don't turn around. c1981.
Diane, my Diane (You're gonna love me someday). Photocopy.
Did you call? Photocopy.
Do you love me too?? c1960.
Don't be afraid to fall in love. c1966. 2 p.
Eddie's all night long!! (Ticky-ticky-tock-tick!!). c1981.
Ever since Eve. c1956.
Ev'rybody dreams sometime. c1980.
The family jewels (They're gone!! Gone!! Gone!! Gone!! Gone!!).
 see (Who stole?) The family jewels (They're gone!! Gone!! Gone!! Gone!! Gone!!).
The feeling of love!! c1981.
(The) Fiftieth Street Bet Biro's!! c1980.
Fine and foxy. c1966. Photocopy.
Fire inside!! c1977. Revised 1981. 3 p.
Freedom road (The finale). Vocal score (6 p.).
Fool!! c1980.
Forever I'll love you!! c1981.
Foxy baby. c1965. Photocopy.
Frog legs!! c1966. Lead sheet (photocopy) and parts: 1st guitar, 3rd trumpet, drums.
(The) F.S.B.B.!!
 see (The) Fiftieth Street Bet Biro's!!
Furs, pearls 'n' Cadillacs (and lotsa money too). c1954. [3] leaves.
Gee!! You're lookin' fine!! c1981.
Gimme jus' a little luvv!! c1981. 2 p.
Gittin' on home!! c1982. 2 p.
God loves to hear you sing!!
 see (Sing!! Sing!! Sing!! Sing children!!) God loves to hear you sing!!
God's always with me. c1982.
Goodbye, Elaine. c1957. Photocopy.
Got a need for your lovin' (Its alright!! Its alright!!).
Gotcha now!! c1981.
Gotta be cool!! c1980.
Gruntin' and groanin!! c1981.

Box 2

He kissed and told. c1964. Photocopy.
Hello Baby!! c1980.
Here I go again, again. c1981.
Hey Baby!! c1981.
Hey Girl!! (Lets get it on!!). c1980.
Hip shakin' mama with a sexy jelly roll!!
 see (I want a) hip shakin' mama with a sexy jelly roll!!
Home Girl!! c1983.
Hometown!! c1982.
Honey, I need some money!! c1963. 2 p.

Honey pot!! c1981.
Honey tree.
 see *(She calls me) honey tree.*
Hot for your lovin'!! c1981.
Hot! Gittin' hotter!! Parts: violins, all rhythm.
Hot honey lovin'!! c1981.
Hot tamales, tortillas, and beans. c1963. Photocopy.
Houston County line!! c1982.
I cried in someone's else's arms. c1980.
I didn't know how much I love you. c1981.
I got it. Parts: 3rd trumpet, drums.
I got that feelin'!! c1981.
I had me a woman!! c1981.
I had me a woman (Shame on me!!). c1981.
I make the scene (the story of a songwriter). c1965. Photocopy.
I sing the blues. c1983.
(I want a) hip shakin' mama with a sexy jelly roll!! c1983.
I want some satisfaction!! c1980.
The icy fire!!
 see *(Love is) the icy fire!!*
(If you really truly love your children) think about that!! c1981.
I'll be loving you!! c1980.
If you see my baby!! c1981.
I'll be lovin' you right thru it all!! c1981.
I'm a rollin' stone!!
 see *(Woman dont'cha marry me!!) I'm a rollin' stone!!*
I'm gonna be with you!! c1981.
I'm gonna git me some!! c1980.
I'm gonna love you (the indigo jungle). c1963. [2] leaves. Photocopy.
I'm the happiest man in town!! Part: all rhythm.
Indigo cowboy. c1981.
It feels so good!! c1981.
It's a fat cats game (but the skinny cats play). c1980.
It's gonna be a beautiful day!! (And I'm feelin' good!!). c1980.
It's gonna happen between you and me!! c1981. 2 p.
It's in the stars for you and me. c1980.
It's over now. c1981.
Jus' because' you luvv me!! c1982.
Jus' you n' me!! c1982.
(Keep on) rollin' it away!! c1983. 2 p.
Kiss my tears away. c1982.
The lady in purple!! c1981.
Lady of the night wind. c1983.
(Let me love you) till the mornin' time!! c1981.
Let's get it on!! c1981.
A little loving care. Part: 1st guitar.

Livin' the good life. Lead sheet and part: all rhythm (photocopy).
A long, lon'ly time ago – last nite. c1981.
Lookin' good!! c1981.
Losin' my mind!! c1980.
Love ain't always enough!! c1981.
(Love is) the icy fire!! c1981.
Love! Oh love! (How sweet you are). c1977.
Love sounds. c1981.
Love!! Sweet love's comin' your way!!
Lucky Lady!! (Knock some more!!) (from the screeplay "F.S.B.B.") c1980.
Luv!! O' precious luv!! c1981. 2 p.
Maggie, darlin'. c1962. Photocopy.
Mandingo. c1962. 2 leaves. Photocopy.
Mandingo. c1959. 2 p. Photocopy.
Melancholy melody. c1981. 2 p.
Miss Candy Ann!! (Oooh!! la!! la!!) c1981.
Mister Hurricane!!
 see *(You ain't seen nothin' till you've seen) Mister Hurricane!!*
Money! Money! Money! c1980.
Movin' on down the line!! c1978. Revised 1981.
A mule named Jesse!! c1982.
My divine Maylanne. c1955. Photocopy.
My love for you. c1982. 2 p.
Never take off your mask!! c1981.
Night lady. c1981.
Night wind. c1980.
Nobody knows how I feel inside. c1980.
Now!! I gotta luvv you now!! c1981.

Box 3

On top o' the world!! c.1981.
Oooh girl!! c1981.
Oooh!! Let me make love to you!! c1981.
Oooh!! What a feelin'!! c1981.
Oooh!! What the hell am I to do?? c1980.
Oooh!! What you're doin' to me!! (Its drivin' me wild!!) c1981.
Ooonka!! Ooonka!! Part: lead voice.
A pretty girl like you!! c1981.
Prime time soap!! (The new super-star on the T.V. scene!!) c1982.
Ride that raunchy mare!! c1981.
Ride the pleasure wind. c1982.
River of love. c1981.
Rollin' it away!!
 see *(Keep on) rollin' it away!!*
Shake and walk (USA). c1966. 2 leaves. Photocopy.
(She calls me) honey tree. c1981.

(Shes a) young mans glory and a old mans heart attack. c1979. Revised 1981. New copyright 1980. Lead sheet and score (2 p.).
Shook!!-Shooky-Shook!! c1965. Photocopy.
The signifying Monkey!! - 1982. Photocopies. Lead sheet (5 p.), parts: guitar, all rhythm, tuba.
(Sing!! Sing!! Sing!! Sing children!!) God loves to hear you sing!! c1982.
Singin' my blues away. c1981. 2 p.
Skunky MacFunky. c1981.
Sleep, little baby. c1962. Photocopy.
Slow down, Johnny, slow down!! c1965. Photocopy.
Soft like a baby!! c1981.
Soft, warm sexy lady!! c1981.
Some' o' your luvv!! c1981.
Somethin' good!!
 see *(Baby, you got) somethin' good!!*
The song of songs. c1982.
A sweet, kind, warm, gentle, lovin, sentimental man. c1966. 2 leaves. Photocopy.
A sweet one. Part: 2nd guitar.
The swinging astronauts. c1963. Photocopy.
Ten!! c1981.
That good luv you got!! c1981.
That's black power. c1978.
Thats what life is all about. Part: bass [trom]bones.
They call me lover man. c1980.
Think about that!!
 see *(If you really truly love your children) think about that!!*
This here bird flys high!! c1980.
This is my life. c1980.
This – is the time for lovin'. c1981.
Till the moon turns blushing red!! c1981.
Till the mornin' time!!
 see *(Let me love you) till the mornin' time!!*
A tribute to Muhammad Ali. Parts: voices, cellos.
The truth is the light!! c1980.
Theres no man in the world like my man. c1981.
Tonite I'm giving all my love to you. c1980.
Too much woman (for any man but me!!). c1982. 2 p.
Turn on the heat!! c1981.
A walk on the ceiling. c1980.
Warm and sexy. c1981.
We can do this thing!! Vocal score (5 p.).
Well I'll be dadgumm'd!! c1981.
What will they say about our love tomorrow? c1977. Revised 1981. 2 p.
What will you do!! c1982.
Whatever it takes to get next to you. c1981.
Whatta ya say girl!! c1981.

When I look in the mirror (I like what I see!!) (A self-portrait). c1982. 2 p.
When the summer sun comes back to Appletown. c1983.
While I was lovin' you!! c1981.
While I'm lovin you!! c1981. 2 p.
Who really knows?? c1980.
Who really know?? (About love!!). c1981.
(Who stole?) The family jewels (They're gone!! Gone!! Gone!! Gone!! Gone!!). c1981.
The wine of love. c1981.
(Woman dont'cha marry me!!) I'm a rollin' stone!! c1981.
Woman got love. Part: 2nd guitar.
(You ain't seen nothin' till you've seen) Mister Hurricane!! c1981.
You ain't the man (You never were, and you never will be). c1980.
You do it so good!! c1981.
You got it baby!! (And I want what you got!!). c1981.
You gotta believe in your dream!! c1981.
(You make my body) burn like fire!! c1981.
Young mans glory and a old mans heart attack.
 see (*Shes a) young mans glory and a old mans heart attack.*

SERIES 2: Music from the musical comedy *This Is the Day!!*

Box 4: Pieces in order of appearance:

This is the day!! (Title song and opening theme). c1978. Lead sheet (6 p.), vocal score (4 p.) and parts.
Master. c1978.
Am I what I am? c1978.
Blackies-whiteys!! (The confrontation). c1978. Lead sheet (4 p.), vocal score (4 p.) and parts.
Black lover. c1978.
Love never says goodbye. c1978.
Lonely searchin man. c1978.
Melanfunkerino. c1978.
Melanfunkerino (part II). c1978.
Black and beautiful. c1978.
Luv!! Luv!! c1978.
Sittin' in the mornin' sun (with nothin' to do, Lawd, Lawd). c1978. 2 p.
Sittin' in the mornin' sun (with nothin' to do, Lord, Lord). Vocal score (6 p.).
When I sing black freedom (Whitey disappears). c1978.
Thats soul. c1978. 3 p.
How black can you get, black man? c1978. Lead sheet and "special rehearsal version" (photocopy).
We can do this thing!! (Yeah!! Yeah!! Yeah!!). c1978. [5] p.
Free as the wind. c1978.
Oceans of love. c1978.

Pieces for which order of appearance could not be determined:

I like you much better (now that I know you). c1978. 2 p. Photocopy.

Lets walk together!! (In peace and love!!). c1981. 2 p.

Love me again. c1981.

Poor, black, and angry. c1978.

Ruby!! Sing it baby!! p. 2 only.

This land (is our home). c1979. Revised 1981.

The transformation. Vocal score (3 p.).

SERIES 3: Songs from *The Folk Album*

Side One:

Sing little mockingbird.

I'll be with you, my darling (Schubert serenade).

Pretty one (Billy Boy).

Never again alone (Come back to Sorrento).

O'l Dan Cupid (O Susanna).

I'm still in love with you, Angelle (I'll take you home again, Kathleen).

You, lover, just you (Sometimes I feel like a motherless child).

Side Two:

I'm afraid you'll leave me – I'll never leave you (O solo mio).

Cherry, my love (Beautiful dreamer).

Ol' country boy (De camptown races).

What is love? (Maria, Mari!!).

Goodbye, money (Goodnight, ladies).

SERIES 4: Materials relating to the musical comedy *Ever Since Eve!!*

Financial proposal (includes Curtis's resume).

Act I (Treatment).

Act I (Song Index).

Act I (Lead sheets):

Overture I – Eden. c1982.

Ever since eve!!

Woman got love!! c1982.

Baby you're a happening!! 2 p.

I love it when you talk dirty!! (to me). c1982.
I love it when you talk dirty!! c1982.
Wishin' it was you!! c1982.
That sweet sexy smile!! c1982.
This nite is mine. c1982.
(Be my lover!!) Seduce me!! c1982. 2 p.
Oooh!! What a feeling when I'm with you!! c1982.
Ten!! c1981.
(Keep lovin' me) Luvv!! c1982.
Sexy!! c1982.
Good lovin' don't need no shovin'!! c1982.
Baby, make the time go slower!! c1976. 2 p.
You're gonna remember tonite!! c1981. 2 p.
Baby, do it one more time. c1980.
I am beautiful!!
Mighty like a woman!! c1980. 2 p.
Your kinda lovin'!! (is the only kind lovin'!!) c1982.

Act II (Treatment).

Act II (Song Index).

Act II (Lead sheets):

Overture II – Womanizin'!! c1982.
Jus' for your lovin'. c1982.
(Soft walkin', hard balkin'!!) Sweet talkin' Candy Green!! c1982. 2 p.
Hey! Sweetie Baby!! c1982.
Com' to Daddy!! c1982.
(Would'nt you like to be) one o' my ladies. c1982. 2 p.
Downtown around Broadway!! (I've been there!!). c1982.
Mercenary mama.
So we danced!! (How we danced!!). c1982. 3 p.
She's only tryin' to please. c1980.
I love you, you!! c1982.
Lovin' on a jet plane!! (Passin' the time away!!). c1982.
Leavin'!! c1981. 2 p.
Mah' man!! c1982.
Manbird (Stay – don't fly away). c1982. 2 p.
Get yourself together. c1980.
Luvv, staty with me!! c1982.
Nobody loves me like you do!! c1978. 2 p.

Supplementary songs (lead sheets):

Sizzle!! (The hipshaker!!). c1982. 2 p.
Sender her to me!! c1982.

My darlin' country butterfly. c1982.

Your love!! c1982.

Actin' like a man!! (When a woman...). c1982.

I never make love the way they do in the movies. c1982.

SERIES 5: Other materials

Photograph (8 x 10 in., color) of Eddie Curtis.

“The Scales of Love” (photocopy; January 27, 1975).

Clipping from *Variety* (photocopy; November 28, 1962).

List of six compositions with title: “New Love” (photocopy).

“The Oreo Cookie Gang!!” (photocopy). c1979.

45 rpm record (12”). “The Oreo Cookie Gang!!” (vocal version) / “The Oreo Cookie Gang!!” (instrumental version). Performed by Eddie Curtis, Edna Williams and the Velvet Sunrise Orchestra. “The rock-disco theme from the forthcoming screen production *Incomplete!!*”