

Kurt Weill  
Suffern, N.Y.

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Dear Ira,

thanks a lot for your sweet letter. I am so sorry that you didn't feel well all these last weeks, but I hope that the Californian spring weather will cure your cough. Even here we have at last warmer weather now, and Lenya's shoulder is much better the last days.

The Lawrence album is musically very nice, but her voice sounds pretty shaky. If she would only stop singing those high notes! I give you a list of the records as far as I know them:

Hildegard album

Lawrence album

Danny Kaye (Tschaikowsky and Jenny, excellent; also "My Ship" and Fairy Tale, just out and one or two more to come) ~~Stax~~ Columbia.

Benny Goodman

Eddy Duchin

Sammy Kaye

Mitchell Ayres

Bob Chester

Mildred Bailey

Reisman

Cy Walter (Piano arr. Liberty record)

That makes about 17 records which is more <sup>than</sup> twice the number of records any other show in town has got. Max Dreyfus showed me a weekly statement about the sale of sheet music of all Chappell and Crawford songs, some weeks ago. Jenny was at the top of the list, with 350 copies (which is, according to Max, equivalent to about 4000 copies if we would be on the air). Next on the list was "My Ship", then followed "The last time I saw Paris" and a couple of popular songs, then "This is new" and then a songs from "Pal Joey". All the small independant stations are playing "My Ship" and "Jenny" all day long and there is no

doubt that both songs would be on the Hit Parade when as and if. Jack Mason, the arranger told me that all the important bands have already their own arrangements of the songs ready. But unfortunately there is no sign of a settlement yet. I hear that representatives of "Columbia" are meeting with ASCAP to-day. If there is no settlement within the next few weeks, the results might be catastrophic for the publishers.

You have done very nicely with the proofs for the piano score and we all appreciate the speed of your work. Sirmal thought it was not necessary to send you back the third proof because we all checked the words with the original manuscript of the lyrics. I've read the final proofs yesterday, and in about 10 days the score will be ready. The cover will read:

Lady in the Dark

Vocal score.

The inside cover will have only the names of the three authors, the next page will give all the credits and cast of the original production and on the following page we print a very nice little preface by Moss. The score will have 139 pages.

The show is doing wonderful business, even this week (Holy week) while all other shows dropped. Victor Mature had an appendix operation this week, but the understudy is alright. Our main concern is Gertie's determination to go to England during the summer. Everybody - Moss, Bobby, Aldrich, even your girlfriend Holzman - tried to talk her out of it, but she is very stubborn about it and she has talked herself too deep into it and has made a lot of publicity here and in England. Moss had a long talk with her Tuesday night and she promised to think it over, but yesterday I heard her talking about it again as an absolute fact. The terrible thing is that we have no idea if and when she can come back, and whenever she comes back she will be so upset that she will need another 2 months of vacation. The whole thing is extremely childish of her because she could do much more for her country if she would stay and send the money to England, but it seems impossible to talk to her about it, and we don't know what to do.

Moss in wonderful spirits, dashing around like mad and enjoying life thoroughly. We talked several times about possibilities for a new show and we always agreed that we three should do another one, but we haven't found the right subject yet. Moss insists that we shouldn't do just another musical comedy, but something on the line or lets say in the form of "Lady" - and, as you know, that is very hard to find. We plan to spend the next weekend together and talk about different ideas. We both feel that it would be very important to continue the form "Lady" as soon as possible with another show, because otherwise it would be an isolated experiment. Moss is writing a little dramatised Fairy Tale and I'll write the music for it and Gertie will do it in a big Broadcast for Britain on April 22.

As far as my own plans are concerned, I might do another show with Max Anderson. He has an interesting idea and we try to work it out. He is just finishing a new play. I am also still interested in my old idea of making a musical out of Sidney Howard's last play and Polly Howard as well as the Playwrights seem quite interested in this project (This is still a great secret, so please don't mention it to anybody). Harold Freedman talked to Sam Behrman this week, and Sam mentioned that Gabbo will have a couple of songs in her next picture and that it might be something for us. He said that they will get in touch with you soon. I would love to do that. By the way, if you talk to Sam, ask him about the musical "The Pirate" which I had started with him two years ago. When I saw him, just before he went to California, he said he was still very interested and he would talk to you about it. I think it has a great chance right now. It could be a kind of "Dreigroschenoper", a comedy with songs.

Freedman thinks the movie contract will come through in about two weeks. He got the first draft a few days ago and sent it back with some necessary changes (according to the first draft, you and I wouldn't get any credit, unless they use the lyrics and music, but Harold changed it so that they have to say: based on the play by Moss Hart, with Lyrics by... and music by....) I hope it will be settled soon because I have bought the Brook House, the one I told you about and

I want to pay it cash as soon as the movie money comes in. We are very excited about the house and we have started to look around for furniture etc. It is a lovely place and not difficult to furnish and to run.

I am very glad that Warner's is going ahead with the Gershwin Cavalcade. That can be a very important and distinguished picture. I hope the Civic Light Opera is going through with the revival of Porgy and Bess. I am sure they will do a good job.

Well, that's all for to-day.

Lenya sends her love to you ~~Max~~ and Lee,  
and I do the same,

*Anna*

