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L.A.'s Rich Musical History Revealed in "Songs in the Key of L.A." Exhibit Opening July 1 at Central Library, 630 W. Fifth St.

**Exhibit Features Illustrated Sheet Music Covers from
the Library's Collection, Displayed for the First Time**

LOS ANGELES (June 27, 2013) – "Songs in the Key of L.A.," an exhibit of historic sheet music covers from the Los Angeles Public Library's collection, offers a rare view of the powerful role music has played in defining the image of Los Angeles and Southern California. The exhibit, which displays selections from the sheet music collection for the first time, opens July 1 at the Central Library's First Floor Galleries, 630 W. Fifth St., downtown. Presented in conjunction with the Library Foundation of Los Angeles, the exhibit is free and open to the public.

The 46 covers on view feature richly illustrated cover artwork and represent a diverse mix of jazz, pop, Mexican folk and blues songs about Los Angeles and Southern California. Titles include "Make Your Mind Up to Wind Up in California," "Way Out West in Hollywood," "Los Angeles, Los Angeles, I Wish I'd Come Before," "San Fernando Valley (I'm Packing My Grip)," "La Serenata de la Fiesta," and "Catalina Honeymoon."

The selection of songs form a singular portrait of the early history of the city's music industry, the civic music culture, the role of music in shaping Los Angeles, and the artistic, cultural, social and political currents that influenced the region in the 19th and 20th centuries.

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Peter Persic, Public Relations & Marketing Director

“We are thrilled to shine a light on this fascinating view of Los Angeles history, which is revealed through one of the library’s most remarkable special collections,” said City Librarian John F. Szabo. “Thousands of professional and amateur musicians and music lovers throughout Los Angeles already use our music collection. With this exhibit, we hope to encourage everyone to come and explore the wonderful resources and treasures at the Los Angeles Public Library. We look forward to highlighting the Library’s other special collections and using them in a similar way to tell the story of our great city.”

“Songs in the Key of L.A.” was created through a partnership between the Los Angeles Public Library and Library Foundation of Los Angeles, and was curated by USC Professor Josh Kun, director of “The Popular Music Project” at USC Annenberg’s Norman Lear Center, and scholar Inna Arzumanova.

Working with the librarians in charge of the collection at Central Library, Kun, Arzumanova, and a group of USC students, combed through roughly 50,000 pieces of sheet music from the collection, which ranges from the 1850s through 1950s, to create this one-of-a-kind exhibit.

“From boosterism to beaches, mythic missions to citrus utopias, the rise of the railroad to the rise of Hollywood, this original sheet music cover art reveals a city being shaped in dynamic full color,” said Kun.

“Songs in the Key of L.A.” is on view in the Central Library’s First Floor Galleries and is free and open to the public during library hours: Monday & Wednesday: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Tuesday & Thursday: 12:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday: 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. The library is closed holidays. For more information about this and other special collections, visit www.lapl.org.

The exhibit is part of the larger “Songs in the Key of L.A.” project, which during the summer will showcase the sheet music through a comprehensive anthology, new recordings, a free concert with Grand Performances, and an ALOUD program at the Central Library.

The Library Foundation of Los Angeles provides critical support to the Los Angeles Public Library resulting in free programs, resources and services available to the millions of adults, children and youth of Los Angeles. Through fundraising, advocacy and innovative

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programs, the Library Foundation strengthens the Los Angeles Public Library and promotes greater awareness of its valuable resources. For more information, please visit www.lfla.org.

The Los Angeles Public Library serves the largest population of any library in the country through its Central Library, 72 branch libraries, over six million books and other items, state-of-the-art technology, and its Web site (www.lapl.org). These resources and its more than 18,000 public programs provide everyone with free and easy access to information and the opportunity for life-long learning. For more information, visit www.lapl.org.

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