

Florodora Recordings (1901-1902): Discography

The following lists recordings of songs related to *Florodora* made in 1901-1902, during and immediately following the show's original New York run. Part 1 lists recordings of songs from the show, in the approximate order they were made. Part 2 lists parodies of the songs, another reflection of the show's immense popularity. Part 3 contains a few modern reissues.

The following information is shown, from left to right:

1. Title.
2. Rec Date: Original recording date, in most cases estimated. Due to primitive recording technology recordings were often remade during this period. The date shown reflects the first take. Copies bearing higher take numbers may be from a later date.
3. Artist: performance type is shown where artist is unknown. In some cases different artists were substituted on later takes.
4. Label and Number: In order to conserve space, the three most common record labels have been abbreviated as follows: "Vic" for Victor, "Col" for Columbia, "Ed" for Edison and "Zon" for Zonophone. Victor, Zonophone and Climax are disc records; Edison and Lambert are cylinders. Columbia may be either; in this listing those numbered in the 31000s are cylinders, while all others are discs. Alternate numbers for the same recording generally indicates different disc sizes; 7", 9" and 10" discs were common at this time.
5. Release date (rel): shown in parentheses, if known.
6. Changes: major renumberings or relabelings that took place during the period covered are shown in brackets. For example, all Climax disc records still in the catalog were relabeled Columbia during the Summer of 1902.

Part 1: Songs from Florodora

Rec. Date *Artist, Label (release date)*

“Tell Me, Pretty Maiden” (sung in show by mixed chorus)

- 1/21/01 Vess L. Ossman, banjo, Vic 624 (7")/Vic 3049 (10") (rel Feb. 1, 1901)
 c.Jan 01 Grace Spencer & Harry Macdonough, Ed 7758 (rel Apr 01)
 Early 01 Zonophone Orchestra, Zon 9788 (7") (May 01 catalog)
 Early 01 Vess L. Ossman, banjo, Zon 9834 (7") (May 01 catalog) [Zon C5243, P5243]
 Spring 01 Vess L. Ossman, Col 31569 (rel Summer 01)
 Spring 01 banjo duet, Col 31592 (rel Summer 01)
 Spring 01 Columbia Orchestra, Col 31594 (rel Summer 01)
 Spring 01 vocal sextette, Col 31604 (rel Summer 01)
 Summer 01 Victor Herbert's Band, Zon 1514 (7")/Zon 571 (9") (Oct 01 catalog) Zon
 C5114]
 7/10/01 Grace Spencer & Harry Macdonough, Vic 3501 (10")/Vic 1362 (7")
 Mid 01 Emil Keneke, cornet solo, Climax 17 [Col 17]
 Mid 01 Climax Band, Climax 82 [Col 82]
 Mid 01 Theodore Pussinelli, clarinet solo, Climax 95 [Col 95]
 Mid 01 Mina Hickman & W.F. Hooley, Climax 102
 Mid 01 Hager's Orch., Climax 128 [Col 128]
 Mid 01 Ruby Brooks, banjo solo, Climax 255 [Col 255]
 11/1/01 C.H.H. Booth, piano solo, Vic 1078 (not issued)
 11/14/01 Metropolitan Orch., Vic 1095
 c.Jan 02 Frank Isenbarth?, zither solo, Climax 613
 c.Jan 02 vocal sextette, Col 647
 Early 02 Ruby Brooks, banjo, Zon 1826 (7")/Zon 813 (9")
 Mid 02 Edison Sextette, Ed 8260 (rel Dec 02)
 11/25/02 Mendelssohn Quartet, Vic 1799
 1902 Macdonough & Dudley, Vic 31042 (rel 1903)
 1902 mandolin duet (as "Pretty Maiden"), Lambert 708

“In the Shade of the Palm” (sung in show by male lead)

- c.Jan 01 Frank C. Stanley, Ed 7721 (rel Mar 01) [Ed 8066]
 5/6/01 Herbert Goddard, Vic 780 (7")/Vic 3324 (10")
 6/3/01 Arthur Pryor, trombone, Vic 3425
 7/11/01 Harry Macdonough, Vic 3509 (10")/Vic 55 (7")
 Mid 01 J.W. Myers, Col 31620 (rel Fall 01)
 Mid 01? Sig. Francisco (Ed Franklin), Zon 544 (9") (Oct 01 catalog)
 Mid 01? Harry Macdonough, Zon 525 (9") (Oct 01 catalog)
 Fall 01 S.C. Porter, Climax 402 [Col 402]

Rec. Date Artist, Label (release date)

“I Want to Be a Military Man” (sung in show by male character and chorus)

c.Jan 01 Dan W. Quinn, Ed 7756 (rel Apr 01)
 Mid 01 tenor, Col 31598 (rel c.Sep 01)
 Fall 01 Will F. Denny, Climax 319 [Col 319]
 12/2/01 Metropolitan Orchestra (medley with “Tact”), Vic 1120
 1902? Harry Macdonough (“Military Man”), Lambert 616

“Queen of the Philippine Islands” (sung in show by female lead)

7/10/01 Grace Spencer, Vic 906 (not issued?)

“Tact” (sung in show by female character)

Early 01 Will F. Denny, Ed 7843 (rel Jun 01)
 Spring 01 tenor, Col 31606 (rel Summer 01)
 Mid 01? Will F. Denny, Zon 1548 (Oct 01 catalog)
 11/9/01 S.H. Dudley, Vic 1088

“Florodora March” (arrangement of “I Want to Be a Military Man”)

c.Jan 01 Peerless Orchestra, Ed 7725 (rel Mar 01)
 Early 01 Zonophone Orchestra, Zon 9779 (May 01 catalog) [Zon P5135]
 Spring 01 Gilmore’s Orch, Col 31535 (rel Spring 01)
 Mid 01 Victor Herbert’s Band (intro “I Want to Be a Military Man”), Zon 510 (Oct 01 catalog) [Zon 1714, Zon 5119, Zon P5037]
 Fall 01 Hager’s Orchestra, Climax 127 [Col 127]
 Fall 01 Climax Band, Climax 244 [Col 244]
 Early 02 First Regiment N.G.N.J., Ed 8023 (rel Jun 02)

“Whistling” (sung in show by female character)

3/5/01 S.H. Dudley, Vic 706 (7”)/Vic 3168 (10”)
 Mid 01 S.H. Dudley, Zon 9992 (Oct 01 catalog)

“Barn Dance from Florodora” (arrangement of “Tell Me, Pretty Maiden” and “Tact”)

c.Jan 01 Peerless Orchestra, Ed 7724 (rel Mar 01)

Rec. Date Artist, Label (release date)

“Selections from Florodora”

- 1/10/01 Metropolitan Orchestra, Vic 394
 Early 01 Gilmore’s Orch, Col 31536 (rel Spring 01)
 Fall 01 Hager’s Orch., Climax 281 [Col 281]
 [Note: the 7” disc is almost entirely “Shade of the Palm,” with a very short chorus of “Military Man” at the end.]
- Late 02? London Regimental Band, Lambert 941
 Late 02? London Regimental Band, Lambert 5024 (“2nd Selection”)

Part 2: Parodies

“Tell Us Pretty Ladies” (Smith-Stromberg), from *Fiddle-dee-dee*, starring Weber & Fields (opened in New York 6 September 1900; this song added in December).

- Mid 01 Collins & Natus, Ed 7905 (rel Sep 01)
 Fall 01 Collins & Natus, Climax 29 [Col 29]
 Fall 01 Collins & Natus, Col 31687 (rel c.Feb 02)
- Early 02 Collins & Natus, Zon 1838 (7”)/Zon 826 (9”)
 3/2/02 Metropolitan Orch. (“Tell Us Pretty Ladies Schottische”), Vic 1347/Vic 3162

“Tell Me Dusky Maiden” (Cole & Johnson), from *The Sleeping Beauty & the Beast* (opened in New York 4 November 1901).

- Fall 01 Collins & Natus, Ed 8000 (rel Jan 02)
 Fall 01 Collins & Natus, Col 31704 (rel c.Mar 02)
- 3/5/02 Collins & Natus, Vic 1296
 Early 02 Collins & Natus, Zon 1839 (7”)/Zon 827 (9”)
 Mid 02 Hager’s Orch., Zon 2062 (7”)/Zon 1082 (9”) [Zon P5198]
 1902 Dudley & Macdonough, Vic 31043 (rel 1903)
 1902 Collins & Natus, Lambert 571
- 2/9/03 Dudley & Macdonough, Vic 1949

“Flora, I Am Your Adora” (Bryan-Robinson), from *The Sleeping Beauty and the Beast* (opened in New York 4 November 1901).

- Early 02 J.W Myers, Zon 1836 (7”)/Zon 824 (9”) [Zon P5305]

Rec. Date *Artist, Label (release date)*

Part 3: Selected Modern Reissues

“Florodora,” Pearl Opal CD-9835. Originally on LP, Opal 835. (Principally English recordings)

“Original Cast! Visitors from Abroad,” Metropolitan Opera CD MET-811CD.

“Music from the New York Stage,” Volume One, Pearl CD GEMM CDS 9050-2, cop. 1993. (“Tell Me, Pretty Maiden” by sextet).

Discographical Sources

The principal sources used for this discography were the following:

For Climax and Columbia: Tim Brooks, *The Columbia Master Book Discography, Volume 1, with a History of the Columbia Phonograph Company to 1934* (Greenwood Press, 1999). Covers Columbia disc recording from 1901-1910. Cylinders were researched from original catalogs and a draft Columbia cylinder discography in the author’s files.

For Victor: Ted Fagan and William R. Moran, *The Encyclopedic Discography of Victor Recordings: Pre-Matrix Series* (Greenwood Press, 1983). Covers 1900-1903.

For Edison: Allen Koenigsberg, *Edison Cylinder Records, 1889-1912*. Second Edition. (Brooklyn, NY: APM Press, 1987).

For Zonophone: catalogs and original discs in the author’s collection. There is at present no published discography of Zonophone. The largest collection of original materials is at the Library of Congress, Washington, DC.

For Lambert: Allen Koenigsberg, “In the Pink: A Lambert Discography,” *Antique Phonograph Monthly*, Vol. VI, nos. 8 and 9 (1981).

In addition a number of original records, catalogs and supplements in the author’s collection were consulted to establish release dates and other details.

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank a number of collectors who were most forthcoming in response to my requests for information. First, Jack Raymond, author of the seminal reference *Show Music on Record*, who offered both help and encouragement throughout my quest to unmask the voices on the Columbia sextet recording. Also, Sam Brylawski of the Library of Congress, Paul Charosh, Allen Debus, Allen Koenigsberg, Rich Markow, Quentin Riggs, and Richard Warren (Yale University), good friends and expert researchers all.

Readers with additional information or additional takes of the Columbia Sextet recording are invited to contact the author via e-mail at tbroo@aol.com.