

The Ford Band and Orchestra recordings are important because they constitute the largest group of special recordings or private pressings produced by Edison. Furthermore, these recordings represent the last examples of "live" or direct entertainment cylinder records made by Edison or any other company.

The Ford Band selections were recorded at the Ford plant, probably in the employees' auditorium where the Band regularly performed. Further details about the recording session and how it came about do not appear to be in the Ford Archives, but the Band was at the height of its popularity, having recently returned from a cross-country tour which included an appearance at the Panama-Pacific Exposition in San Francisco. At the time the recordings were made, the Band had 45 members and was under the management of Henry Ford's secretary E.G. Liebold and was conducted by Detroit bandmaster and teacher Harry Philp.

The Ford Band records were processed at Edison's Orange, New Jersey factory in seemingly limited numbers for the personal use of Henry Ford. Only one set is owned by the Ford Museum, whereas the Museum has dozens of copies of the later Ford Orchestra cylinders. Some Ford Band cylinders may have been used in Dearborn and Detroit public schools because Henry Ford underwrote an extensive dance and musical education program in Detroit area schools for many years. The Ford Band recordings looked like regular Blue Amberols, except that they lacked catalog numbers on their rims and had typewritten titles on their box lids instead of the printed titles. The master record log shows how Ford Band titles were edited; privately-pressed Ford cylinders were recorded almost ten years later in October and November of 1925. These were the Ford Dance Orchestra recordings that grew out of Henry Ford's wish that some of the stringed instruments he was collecting be recorded.

MASTER RECORD INFORMATION

Edison Master Records made at Ford Motor Company Plant, Detroit, Mich.

September 15th, 19 15 . Language Ford Motor Band.

This information herein contained has been carefully checked and approved.

NOTICE.—All words must be accurately spelled and fully accented to insure correct titles. Title for engraving, including artist's name, must not exceed fifty (50) characters, each space between words counting as one character. Approved lists must be sent to factory at the same time Master Records are shipped.

Nos.	Actual Title of Selection to be Engraved on Master	Full Name of Artist	Male or Female
5 1	"The Ford March," ~~By H. H. Zickel~~	Ford Motor BAND.	
6 2	Rag, "Knock Out Drops" ~~by F. H. Klickmann~~	Ford Motor BAND.	
7 3	Patrol, "I'm on My Way to Dublin Bay" ~~By J. D. Lampe.~~	Ford Motor BAND	
8 4	"Lola" Italian Serenade, ~~by G. Friedemann.~~	Ford Motor BAND	
9 5	March, "Republic of Panama" ~~L. P. Laurendeau~~	Ford Motor BAND	
10 6	(Euphonium) Solo, "Believe Me, If All Those Endear- ing Young Charms." ~~By Mauda.~~ ^{Etc.}	Mr. Albert Vincoli.	+ Ford Motor BAND
1 7	"La Rumba" Tango Argentine, ~~by J. Tim Brynn,~~	Ford Motor BAND	
2 8	"Folie Bergere" Intermezzo-Marche, ~~By Percy E. Fletcher.~~	Ford Motor BAND	
3 9	(Cornet) Solo, "The Debutante" ~~(Caprice Brillante)~~ ~~By Herbert J. Clarke.~~	Mr. Byron Hooper.	+ Ford Motor BAND
4 10	(Cornet) Solo, "Beautiful Isle" ~~Perris~~	Mr. Byron Hooper.	+ Ford Motor BAND

But Ford, behaving somewhat like Old King Cole, still wished to hear *his* musicians and *his* instruments on record. So he again had E.G. Liebold write to Edison about making disc recordings in Detroit. In response, Edison dictated the rare personal letter which follows: