

Helen Trix (Helen Yeiser):

Helen was in her teens when she first started performing and entertaining; she had formal piano training (in Europe, returning with a British accent) and was a contralto comedienne. Helen was also a proficient songwriter. In her late teens Helen traveled to New York City to visit family and while there performed at a Masonic stage event attended by Edison and Victor talent scouts. She started recording professionally soon after and her recordings lead to a burgeoning Vaudeville career, then by 1907 was a headliner in the Vaudevillian scene and had her debut hit *The Bird on Nellie's Hat*.

Helen toured with Will Rogers in 1913, the Orpheum Circuit, through Canada (especially Calgary and Edmonton) and the Northwest US (Seattle, Spokane, Portland, Claremore, etc.). It was during this time on the Orpheum Circuit that one of the members of the tour, a teen named George Jessel who performed with *Kid Kabaret*, later recalled in a book on his life, "she (Helen Trix) was the first gentlewoman I had ever known, and I have to admit it was she who started me on my lifetime habit of reading and educating myself because of my lack of formal education." Jessel was smitten with Helen but at the time she was dating former lightweight (fighter/boxer) champion of the world, Jimmy Britt. Helen had been married to lyricist Frank Fogerty for a time but the marriage ended in divorce.

In 1915 with Rogers and Harry Houdini in Louisville, KY, at Keith's Theater. Rogers called Trix a "pianosongwhistleress". Helen also performed with Eddie Cantor and Joan Sawyer at the Temple Theatre.