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  Series 1: Oral History Tapes, 1989 - 1993.............................................................. 4
Collection Overview

Repository: Archives Center, National Museum of American History

Title: Duke Ellington Oral History Project

Identifier: NMAH.AC.0368

Date: 1989-1993

Extent: 15 Cubic feet (22 boxes)

Creator: Smithsonian Institution
Greenlee, Marcia (oral historian)
Willard, Patricia

Language: English

Summary: Thirty-nine oral history interviews created by the Archives Center with Duke Ellington's music and business associates. The interviews cover a range of topics including Ellington as a musician, the significance of race in Ellington's work and life, Ellington and the economics of the music business, Ellington as international cultural figure, and Ellington and the historical record.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Related Materials

Materials in the Archives Center

Annual International Conference of the Duke Ellington Study Group Proceedings (AC0385)
Al Celley Collection of Duke Ellington Materials (AC1240)
Duke Ellington Collection (AC0301)
Edward and Gaye Ellington Collection (AC0704)
Ruth Ellington Collection of Duke Ellington Materials (AC0415)
Carter Harman Collection of Interviews with Duke Ellington (AC0422)
New York Chapter of the Duke Ellington Society Collection (AC0390)
William Russo Transcription and Arrangement of Duke Ellington's First Concert of Sacred Music (AC0406)
Ernie Smith Jazz Film Collection (AC0491)
Processing Information
Processed by Deborra A. Richardson, archivist.

Preferred Citation

Restrictions
Collection is open for research. Reference copies must be used.

Conditions Governing Use
Copyright and commercial use restrictions. Contact Archives Center staff for information.

Biographical / Historical
The collection was created by the Archives Center to provide research background about the Duke Ellington Orchestra. It complements a growing number of Archives Center collections related to Ellington and American music. The interviewees were asked about their own backgrounds, their personal and musical relationships with Duke, and their assessment of Ellington's strengths and weaknesses and his role in twentieth century American music. The discussions centered on five major themes including Ellington as a musician, the significance of race in Ellington's work and life, Ellington and the economics of the music business, Ellington as international cultural figure, and Ellington and the historical record. Recollections range from approximately the 1940s through the mid 1970s.

The thirty-nine Interviews were conducted by oral historian Marcia Greenlee and former Duke Ellington publicist Patricia Willard with former Ellington music and business associates.

Scope and Contents
Interviews with musicians who performed with Ellington, producers and other business associates, Ellington scholars and fans, and family members documenting personal and musical relationships with Duke Ellington.

Arrangement
The collection is arranged in one series.

Series 1, Oral History Tapes, 1989-1993

Names and Subject Terms
This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:
Subjects:
African American musicians
Jazz
Jazz musicians -- Interviews -- 1989-1991 -- United States

Types of Materials:
Interviews -- 1980-2000
Oral history -- 1980-2000

Names:
Aasland, Benny
Babs, Alice
Bell, Aaron
Bellson, Louis
Boatwright, Ruth Ellington, 1914-2004
Bolling, Claude
Bridgers, Aaron
Burrell, Kenny
Carneiro, Luis
Celley, Al
Cohen, Oscar
Cole, Maria
Cook, John
Cooper, Buster
Courtney, Shirley
Dance, Helen Oakley
Dance, Stanley
Davis, Kay
Duke Ellington Orchestra
Ellington, Duke, 1899-1974
Ellington, Mercer Kennedy, 1919-1996 (musician)
Granz, Norman
Hamilton, Jimmy
Jeffries, Herb
Jones, Herbie
Jones, Max
Kerr, Brooks
Lamb, John
Lowe, Arnold "Jim"
McCuen, Brad
Roche, Betty
Sanders, John
Sherrill, Joya
Szterenfeld, Alejandro
Terry, Clark
Udkoff, Evelyn
Udkoff, Robert, 1918- (businessman)
Vono, Caio
Wein, George
Woode, James
Woodman, Britt
## Container Listing

### Series 1: Oral History Tapes, 1989 - 1993

Original interviews recorded on audio cassette. Masters created on open reel audiotape. Reference copies are on audio cassette.

| Box 50-B (Original); Box 23 (Master); Box 1 | Aasland, Benny, 1989 August 20-21 | 6 Sound cassettes |
| Box 51-A (Original); Box 24 (Master); Box 2 (Reference) | Babs, Alice, 1990 April 9 and 11 | 4 Sound cassettes |
| Box 24 (Master); Box 52-A (Original); Box 3 (Reference) | Bell, Aaron | 3 Sound cassettes |
| Box 25 (Master); Box 3 (Reference); Box 52-A (Original) | Bellson, Louie, 1989 November 24 | 4 Sound cassettes |
| Box 26 (Master); Box 4 (Reference); Box 51-A (Original) | Bolling, Claude, 1990 April 5 | 3 Sound cassettes |
| Box 27 (Master); Box 53-B (Original) | Bridgers, Aaron | 4 Sound cassettes |
| Box 51-B (Original); Box 27 (Master); Box 5 (Reference) | Burrell, Kenny, 1991 March 8 | 6 Sound cassettes |
| Box 50-A (Original); Box 28 (Master); Box 5 (Reference) | Carneiro, Luis Orlando, 1989 September 19 | 1 Sound cassette |
| Box 50-A (Original); Box 28 (Master); Box 5 (Reference) | Celley, Al, 1989 July 12 | 5 Sound cassettes |

Restricted. Contact Archives Center staff for information.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 6 (Reference)</th>
<th>Cohen, Oscar, 1992 June 17</th>
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<tr>
<td>Box 29 (Master);</td>
<td>Cole, Maria Ellington, 1989 September 8</td>
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<td>Box 50-A (Original);</td>
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<td>Box 6 (Reference)</td>
<td>Cook, John (Willie), 1990 April 24 and 26</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Box 29 (Master)</td>
<td>Cooper, Buster, 1989 September 29</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Box 7 (Reference);</td>
<td>Courtney, Shirley, 1992 February 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 50-A (Original);</td>
<td>2 Sound cassettes</td>
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<td>Box 30 (Master)</td>
<td>Dance, Helen Oakley, 1989 September 26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 8 (Reference);</td>
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<td>Box 31 (Master)</td>
<td>Dance, Stanley, 1990 August 28</td>
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<td>Box 50-A (Original);</td>
<td>Davis, Kay, 1989 October 13</td>
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<td>Ellington, Mercer, 1990 September 18</td>
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<td>Box 50-A (Original);</td>
<td>Ellington, Ruth, 1989 August 18</td>
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<td>Box 30 (Master)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 11 (Reference)</td>
<td>Granz, Norman, 1989 August 24</td>
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Box 35 (Master); Box 11 (Reference)  
5 Sound cassettes

Box 52-B (Original); Box 36 (Master); Box 12 (Reference)  
Hamilton, Jimmy, 1991 March 26  
5 Sound cassettes

Box 53-A&B (Original); Box 37 (Master); Box 13 (Reference)  
Jeffries, Herb, 1989 September 23  
7 Sound cassettes

Box 38 (Master); Box 14 (Reference); Box 50-A (Original)  
Jones, Herbie, 1989 September 15  
2 Sound cassettes

Box 38 (Master); Box 14 (Reference); Box 52-C (Original)  
Jones, Max, 1989 September 2  
5 Sound cassettes

Box 39 (Master); Box 14 (Reference); Box 52-C (Original)  
Jones, Robert L., 1992 January 30  
4 Sound cassettes

Box 40 (Master); Box 15 (Reference); Box 52-A (Original)  
6 Sound cassettes

Box 41 (Master); Box 16 (Reference); Box 51-B (Original)  
Lamb. John, 1991 April 2  
3 Sound cassettes

Box 16 (Reference); Box 50-A (Original); Box 42 (Master)  
Lowe, Arnold Jim, 1990 March 1  
4 Sound cassettes

Box 17 (Reference); Box 50-B (Original); Box 42 (Master)  
McCuen, Brad, 1989 August 3  
7 Sound cassettes

Box 18 (Reference); Box 51-A (Original);  
Roche, Betty, 1990 September 18-19  
3 Sound cassettes
Box 44 (Master)

Box 18 (Reference); Box 52-C (Original); Box 44 (Master)

Sanders, John, 1989 September 15
4 Sound cassettes

Box 19 (Reference); Box 50-B (Original); Box 45 (Master)

Sherrill, Joya, 1989 August 15
3 Sound cassettes

Box 19 (Reference); Box 52-B (Original); Box 45 (Master)

Szterenfeld, Alejandro, 1989 September 16
4 Sound cassettes

Box 51-B (Original); Box 46 (Master); Box 20 (Reference)

Terry, Clark, 1990 October 10
4 Sound cassettes

Box 51-B (Original); Box 46 (Master); Box 20 (Reference)

Udkoff, Robert and Evelyn, 1991 March 11
3 Sound cassettes

Box 50-A (Original); Box 47 (Master); Box 21 (Reference)

Vono, Caio, 1989 September 19
2 Sound cassettes

Box 52-B (Original); Box 47 (Master); Box 21 (Reference)

Wein, George, 1991 March 9
2 Sound cassettes

Box 52-B (Original); Box 48 (Master); Box 22 (Reference)

Woode, James, 1990 May 1, 1993 February 22
5 Sound cassettes

Box 49 (Master); Box 21 (Reference); Box 51-C (Original)

Woodman, Britt, 1991 April 16
3 Sound cassettes

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