



Smithsonian
National Museum of American History
Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Duke Ellington Oral History

NMAH.AC.0368

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Arrangement.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	2
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	4
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

Collection created by the National Museum of American History, 1989-1993.

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

Duke Ellington Oral History Project, 1989-1993, Archives Center, National Museum of American History

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-
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 <i>6 Sound cassettes</i>
Box 51-A (Original); Box 24 (Master); Box 2 (Reference)	Babs, Alice, 1990 April 9 and 11 <i>4 Sound cassettes</i>
Box 24 (Master); Box 52-A (Original); Box 3 (Reference)	Bell, Aaron <i>3 Sound cassettes</i>
Box 25 (Master); Box 3 (Reference); Box 52-A (Original)	Bellson, Louie, 1989 November 24 <i>4 Sound cassettes</i>
Box 25 (Master); Box 4 (Reference); Box 51-A (Original)	Bolling, Claude, 1990 April 5 <i>3 Sound cassettes</i>
Box 26 (Master); Box 4 (Reference); Box 53-B (Original)	Bridgers, Aaron <i>4 Sound cassettes</i>
Box 51-B (Original); Box 27 (Master); Box 5 (Reference)	Burrell, Kenny, 1991 March 8 <i>6 Sound cassettes</i> Restricted. Contact Archives Center staff for information.
Box 50-A (Original); Box 28 (Master); Box 5 (Reference)	Carneiro, Luis Orlando, 1989 September 19 <i>1 Sound cassette</i>
Box 50-A (Original); Box 28 (Master);	Celley, Al, 1989 July 12 <i>5 Sound cassettes</i>

Box 35 (Master); Box 11 (Reference)	<i>5 Sound cassettes</i>
Box 52-B (Original); Box 36 (Master); Box 12 (Reference)	Hamilton, Jimmy, 1991 March 26 <i>5 Sound cassettes</i>
Box 53-A&B (Original); Box 37 (Master); Box 13 (Reference)	Jeffries, Herb, 1989 September 23 <i>7 Sound cassettes</i>
Box 38 (Master); Box 14 (Reference); Box 50-A (Original)	Jones, Herbie, 1989 September 15 <i>2 Sound cassettes</i>
Box 38 (Master); Box 14 (Reference); Box 52-C (Original)	Jones, Max, 1989 September 2 <i>5 Sound cassettes</i>
Box 39 (Master); Box 14 (Reference); Box 52-C (Original)	Jones, Robert L., 1992 January 30 <i>4 Sound cassettes</i>
Box 40 (Master); Box 15 (Reference); Box 52-A (Original)	Kerr, Brooks, 1989 November 25, 1989 November 14-15 <i>6 Sound cassettes</i>
Box 41 (Master); Box 16 (Reference); Box 51-B (Original)	Lamb. John, 1991 April 2 <i>3 Sound cassettes</i>
Box 16 (Reference); Box 50-A (Original); Box 42 (Master)	Lowe, Arnold Jim, 1990 March 1 <i>4 Sound cassettes</i>
Box 17 (Reference); Box 50-B (Original); Box 42 (Master)	McCuen, Brad, 1989 August 3 <i>7 Sound cassettes</i>
Box 18 (Reference); Box 51-A (Original);	Roche, Betty, 1990 September 18-19 <i>3 Sound cassettes</i>

Box 44 (Master)

Box 18 (Reference); Sanders, John, 1989 September 15
Box 52-C (Original); *4 Sound cassettes*
Box 44 (Master)

Box 19 (Reference); Sherrill, Joya, 1989 August 15
Box 50-B (Original); *3 Sound cassettes*
Box 45 (Master)

Box 19 (Reference); Szterenfeld, Alejandro, 1989 September 16
Box 52-B (Original); *4 Sound cassettes*
Box 45 (Master)

Box 51-B (Original); Terry, Clark, 1990 October 10
Box 46 (Master); *4 Sound cassettes*
Box 20 (Reference)

Box 51-B (Original); Udkoff, Robert and Evelyn, 1991 March 11
Box 46 (Master); *3 Sound cassettes*
Box 20 (Reference)

Box 50-A (Original); Vono, Caio, 1989 September 19
Box 47 (Master); *2 Sound cassettes*
Box 21 (Reference)

Box 52-B (Original); Wein, George, 1991 March 9
Box 47 (Master); *2 Sound cassettes*
Box 21 (Reference)

Box 52-B (Original); Woode, James, 1990 May 1, 1993 February 22
Box 48 (Master); *5 Sound cassettes*
Box 22 (Reference)

Box 49 (Master); Woodman, Britt, 1991 April 16
Box 21 (Reference); *3 Sound cassettes*
Box 51-C (Original)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)