



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Duke Ellington Oral History

NMAH.AC.0368

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Duke Ellington Oral History Project
Date:	1989- 1993
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0368
Creator:	Smithsonian Institution Greenlee, Marcia (oral historian) Willard, Patricia
Extent:	15 Cubic feet (22 boxes)
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 but the master tapes are stored off-site and special arrangements must be made to work with it. Contact the Archives Center for information at archivescenter@si.edu or 202-633-3270.

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, 1915-2004
Bolling, Claude
Bridgers, Aaron
Burrell, Kenny
Carneiro, Luis
Celley, Al
Cohen, Oscar
Cole, Maria
Cook, John
Cooper, Buster
Courtney, Shirley
Dance, Helen Oakley, 1913-2001
Dance, Stanley, 1910-1999
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

Scope and Contents: Original interviews recorded on audio cassette. Masters created on open reel audiotape. Reference copies are on audio cassette.

Box 50-B (Original); Aasland, Benny, 1989 August 20-21
 Box 23 (Master); 6 Sound cassettes
 Box 1

Box 51-A (Original); Babs, Alice, 1990 April 9 and 11
 Box 24 (Master); 4 Sound cassettes
 Box 2 (Reference)

Box 24 (Master); Bell, Aaron
 Box 52-A (Original); 3 Sound cassettes
 Box 3 (Reference)

Box 25 (Master); Bellson, Louie, 1989 November 24
 Box 3 (Reference); 4 Sound cassettes
 Box 52-A (Original)

Box 25 (Master); Bolling, Claude, 1990 April 5
 Box 4 (Reference); 3 Sound cassettes
 Box 51-A (Original)

Box 26 (Master); Bridgers, Aaron
 Box 4 (Reference); 4 Sound cassettes
 Box 53-B (Original)

Box 51-B (Original); Burrell, Kenny, 1991 March 8
 Box 27 (Master); 6 Sound cassettes
 Box 5 (Reference); Notes: Restricted. Contact Archives Center staff for information.

Box 50-A (Original); Carneiro, Luis Orlando, 1989 September 19
 Box 28 (Master); 1 Sound cassette
 Box 5 (Reference)

Box 50-A (Original); Celley, Al, 1989 July 12

Box 28 (Master); 5 Sound cassettes
Box 6 (Reference)

Box 50-A (Original); Cohen, Oscar, 1992 June 17
Box 6 (Reference) 1 Sound cassette

Box 29 (Master); Cole, Maria Ellington, 1989 September 8
Box 50-A (Original); 2 Sound cassettes
Box 6 (Reference)

Box 51-A (Original); Cook, John (Willie), 1990 April 24 and 26
Box 7 (Reference); 3 Sound cassettes
Box 29 (Master)

Box 7 (Reference); Cooper, Buster, 1989 September 29
Box 50-A (Original); 2 Sound cassettes
Box 29 (Master)

Box 7A (Reference); Courtney, Shirley, 1992 February 3
Box 50-A (Original); 2 Sound cassettes
Box 30 (Master)

Box 8 (Reference); Dance, Helen Oakley, 1989 September 26
Box 52-C (Original); 5 Sound cassettes
Box 31 (Master)

Box 9 (Reference); Dance, Stanley, 1990 August 28
Box 51-C (Original); 6 Sound cassettes
Box 32 (Master)

Box 9 (Reference); Davis, Kay, 1989 October 13
Box 52-A (Original); 2 Sound cassettes
Box 30 (Master)

Box 51-C (Original); Ellington, Mercer, 1990 September 18
Box 33 (Master); 1 Sound cassette
Box 10 (Reference)

Box 50-A (Original); Ellington, Ruth, 1989 August 18

Box 34 (Master); 2 Sound cassettes
Box 11 (Reference)

Box 50-C (Original); Granz, Norman, 1989 August 24
Box 35 (Master); 5 Sound cassettes
Box 11 (Reference)

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

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

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

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

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

Box 40 (Master); Kerr, Brooks, 1989-11-14-1989-11-15, 1989-11-25
Box 15 (Reference); 6 Sound cassettes
Box 52-A (Original)

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

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

Box 17 (Reference); McCuen, Brad, 1989 August 3

Box 50-B (Original); 7 Sound cassettes
Box 42 (Master)

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

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