



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Billy Strayhorn Ephemera Collection

NMAH.AC.0383

NMAH Staff

1990

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Billy Strayhorn Ephemera Collection
Date:	1965-1969
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0383
Creator:	Gregory, Thelma (Collector) Morris, Gregory (Collector)
Extent:	3 Items (3 folders)
Language:	English .
Summary:	Collection consists of two newsclippings, and an advertising yearbook documenting Strayhorn's career as Duke Ellington's chief arranger, co-composer, lyricist, and emergency fill-in at the piano.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Collection donated by Gregory & Thelma Morris, May 17, 1991.

Processing Information

This collection was processed by Archives Center staff.

Preferred Citation

Billy Strayhorn Ephemera Collection, 1965-1969, Archives Center, National Museum of American History

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Billy Strayhorn, composer and pianist, was born in Dayton, Ohio on November 19, 1915. He joined the Duke Ellington Orchestra in 1939 after a brief period working as the pianist for the Mercer Ellington Orchestra. For nearly three decades Strayhorn served as associate arranger and second pianist for Duke Ellington. Billy Strayhorn remained with the Ellington Orchestra until his death on May 31, 1967.

Scope and Contents

The Billy Strayhorn Ephemera Collection consists of two newsclippings, and an advertising yearbook documenting Strayhorn's career as Duke Ellington's chief arranger, co-composer, lyricist, and emergency fill-in at the piano. The newsclippings document the collaborative relationship that existed between Ellington and Strayhorn. The advertising yearbook was published as a tribute to Strayhorn after his death. It includes numerous commentaries to Billy Strayhorn by some of the period's leading jazz musicians.

Arrangement

Collection is arranged into one series.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Jazz
- Jazz musicians -- United States
- Music -- 20th century

Types of Materials:

- Clippings
- Photographs -- 1960-1970

Names:

- Copasetic Club
- Ellington, Duke, 1899-1974
- Strayhorn, Billy (William Thomas), 1915-1967

Container Listing

Box 1, Folder 1	Newsclippings, 1965-06-06 - 1965-06-07
Box 1, Folder 2	Advertising Yearbook , 1967 - 1967