



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Felix Grant Collection

NMAH.AC.0410

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Archives Center, National Museum of American History

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Felix Grant Collection, [sound recordings]
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0410
Date:	1935-1985
Creator:	Grant, Felix, 1918-1993 Ellington, Duke, 1899-1974
Extent:	4.3 Cubic feet (6 boxes)
Language:	English .
Summary:	Collection consists of 128 albums featuring the music of Duke Ellington, spanning some 50 years of Ellington-based releases.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Collection donated by Mr. Felix Grant on April 9, 1991.

Processing Information

This collection was processed by Ben Nicasastro and Scott Schwartz.

Preferred Citation

Felix Grant Collection, 1935-1985, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright restrictions. Contact staff for information.

Biographical Note

Felix Grant (February 22, 1918-October 13, 1993), a renowned jazz disk jockey dubbed Washington, D.C.'s "Mr. Music" and recipient of the U.S. Navy Commendation Medal for his service during WWII, was born in New York and developed a deep passion for America's jazz as a young man listening to local radio broadcasts and visiting Manhattan's numerous jazz nightclubs. He attended LaSalle Academy and first worked for a New York advertising agency as a messenger. Near the end of the war Grant was transferred to Washington D.C.'s Coast Guard headquarters and in 1945 took an announcing job at WWDC-AM.

Grant eventually became a fixture of Washington, D.C. radio, working for such stations as WMAL-AM, WRC-AM, and WDCU-FM. During the 1950s and 60s his WMAL radio show called "The Album Sound" gained popularity in the D.C. area for its unique mix of jazz, blues, and Latin music. Grant's diverse play list helped him gain listeners from all different races long before the end of segregation in Washington, D.C. Native

Washingtonian, Duke Ellington, was a particular favorite of Grant's and his music was often featured during Grant's shows. In 1953 Grant took a position at WMAL and in 1984 joined WDCU where he remained until his death. In January of 1996 the University of the District of Columbia opened the Felix E. Grant Jazz Archives, a collection of audiotape and archival records documenting Felix Grant's life and career.

Scope and Contents

The Felix Grant collection consists of commercially produced Duke Ellington phonograph recordings that were collected by Grant during his career as a premier disc jockey. The recordings are arranged alphabetically by title. In addition, there are miscellaneous newspaper clippings and correspondence, consisting of press releases, that were removed from some of the album sleeves, and book abstracts from books and dissertations about Ellington. This material is arranged alphabetically, and is located at the end of the collection. The record company label, catalog number, and release date are included in the container list. Many of the albums are promotional copies which Grant obtained at radio stations where he worked. Of special interest are "...and his mother called him Bill" and "Anatomy of a Murder", two albums that are considered to be among Ellington's best. Also of note are a Japanese pressing of "Ella at Duke's Place" and a 1986 pressing of "Money Jungle" that features tracks not on the original release, as well as a program order from an Army Blues salute to Ellington included in the second series.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into one series, alphabetically.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Jazz
Sound recordings -- Jazz -- 1930-1990 -- United States

Types of Materials:

Phonograph records
Sound recordings -- 1930-1990

Container Listing

Box 1	Afro Bossa, Reprise, R9-6069, 1963
Box 1	All Star Road Band, Doctor Jazz, W2X39137, 1983
Box 1	All Star Road Band Volume 2, Doctor Jazz, W2X40012, 1985
Box 1	Anatomy of A Murder, Columbia, CL 1360, undated
Box 1	...and his mother called him Bill, RCA Victor, LSP-3900, 1968
Box 1	At the Bal Masque, Columbia, C2 1282, undated
Box 1	At the Cotton Club, RCA, CAL-459, 1958
Box 1	At His Best, RCA Victor, LPM-1715, 1959
Box 1	At Newport, Columbia, CL 934, undated
Box 1	At Newport (w/Buck Clayton), Columbia, CL 933, undated
Box 1	Back Room Romp, Portrait, EE 22005/22006, 1988
Box 1	Back To Back, Verve, MG V-8317, undated
Box 1	Beginning-Vol. 1, The (1926-1928), Decca, DL 79224, undated
Box 1	Bethlehem Years-Vol. 1, The Bethlehem, BCP-6013, 1976
Box 1	Birth Of Big Band Jazz, The Riverside, RLP 12-129, undated
Box 1	Black Brown and Beige (feat. Mahalia Jackson), Columbia, C2 1162, undated
Box 1	Blanton-Webster Band, The Bluebird, 5659-1-RB, 1986
Box 1	Blues In Orbit, Columbia, CL 1445, undated
Box 1	Blues Summit, Verve, 2-V65-8122, 1973
Box 1	Braggin' In Brass, Portrait, R2J 44395, 1989
Box 1	Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra; Decca, DL 710176, 1970
Box 1	Collages, MPS, MS-21704, 1973
Box 1	Compositions of Duke Ellington-Vol. 1, The Riverside, RLP 3507, undated

Box 1	Concert In The Virgin Islands, Reprise, R-6185, undated
Box 1	Concert Of Sacred Music, RCA, Victor LPM 3382, undated
Box 1	Cosmic Scene, The Columbia, CL 1198, undated
Box 2	Daybreak Express, RCA Victor, LPV-506, 1964
Box 2	Demonstration Album, Columbia, CL 848, undated
Box 2	A Drum Is A Woman, Columbia, CL 951, undated
Box 2	Duke Ellington 1938, CBS, P2-13367, 1976
Box 2	Duke Ellington 1939, CBS, P2-14273, 1977
Box 2	Duke Ellington 1940, RCA, DPM2-0351, 1978
Box 2	Duke Ellington 1941, RCA, DPM2-0492, 1981
Box 2	Duke and His Men, The RCA, LPM-1092, 1955
Box 2	Duke At Tanglewood, The RCA, Victor LM-2857, 1966
Box 2	Duke's Big Four, Pablo, 2310 703, 1974
Box 2	Duke In Harlem, The Ace Of Hearts, AH 47, 1963
Box 2	Duke Steps Out, The RCA Victor, RD-7731, 1965
Box 2	Duke 1940, The Jazz Society, AA 520/521, undated
Box 2	Duke Ellington's Jazz Violin Session, Atlantic, SD 1698 0628, 1976
Box 2	Duke Ellington/Louis Armstrong, Roulette, RS 2074, undated
Box 2	Duke Ellington Meets Coleman Hawkins, Impulse, MCA-5650, 1986
Box 2	Duke Ellington Presents..., Bethlehem, BCP-6005, undated
Box 2	Duke Ellington Presents I've Anderson, CBS, KG 32064, 1973
Box 2	Early Duke Ellington, The Everest, F5221, undated
Box 2	Eastbourne Performances, RCA, APLI-1023, undated
Box 2	Echoes of an Era, Roulette, RE-108, undated

Box 2	Ella & Duke at the Cote D'Azur, Verve,, undated
Box 2	Ella at Dukes Place, Polygram, UMJ 3286, 1966
Box 3	Ellington '65, Reprise, R5-6122, undated
Box 3	Ellington '66, Reprise, R-6154, undated
Box 3	Ellington Era 1927-1940 Vol. 1, The Columbia, C3L 27, 1963
Box 3	Ellington Era 1927-1940 Vol. 2, The Columbia, C3L 39, undated
Box 3	Ellington Indigos, Columbia, CL 1085, undated
Box 3	Ellington Sidekicks, Epic, LN 3237, undated
Box 3	Ellington Suites, The Pablo, 2310-762, 1976
Box 3	Ellingtonia >56, Morgan, MGN 1055, 1956
Box 3	Far East Suite, RCA, LSP 3782, undated
Box 3	Featuring Paul Gonsalves, Fantasy, F-9636, 1984
Box 3	Festival Session Columbia, CL1400, undated
Box 3	First Time-The Count Meets The Duke, Columbia, CL 1715, 1962
Box 3	Flaming Youth, RCA, LPV-568, 1969
Box 3	Golden Duke, The Prestige, P-24029, undated
Box 3	Great Times!, Riverside,, 1964
Box 3	Greatest Hits, Columbia, CS 9629, undated
Box 3	Greatest Hits Recorded Live In Concert, Reprise, RS-6234, undated
Box 3	Great Paris Concert, The Atlantic, SD 2-304, 1973
Box 3	Happy Reunion, Doctor Jazz, FW 40030, 1985
Box 3	Harlem, Pablo Live, 2308-245, 1985
Box 3	Historically Speaking, Bethlehem, BCP60, undated
Box 3	Hot In Harlem, Decca, PL 79241, undated

Box 3	In A Mellotone, RCA, LPM-1364, undated
Box 3	Indispensable Duke Ellington, The RCA, LPM-6009, undated
Box 3	In the Uncommon Market, Pablo, 2308-247, 1986
Box 3	Intimacy Of The Blues, The Fantasy, F-9640, 1986
Box 3	Jazz Party, Columbia, CL 1323, undated
Box 3	...and John Coltrane, Impulse, Stereo A-30, undated
Box 3	Johnny Come Lately, RCA Victor, LPV-541, 1967
Box 4	Jumpin= Punkins, RCA Victor, LPV-517, 1965
Box 4	Latin American Suite, Fantasy, Stereo 8419, undated
Box 4	Mary Poppins, Reprise, RS-6141, undated
Box 4	Masterpieces By Ellington Columbia, CL 825, undated
Box 4	Midnight In Paris, Columbia, CL-1907, 1962
Box 4	Money Jungle, United Artists, BT 85129, 1962
Box 4	Money Jungle, Blue Note, VAJ 14077, 1986
Box 4	Money Jungle, Solid State, SS 18022, 1968
Box 4	Mood Indigo, RCA, ADL2-0152(e), 1973
Box 4	Music From The Hit Broadway All American, Columbia, CL 1790, 1962
Box 4	My People, Contact, CS-1, undated
Box 4	New Mood Indigo Doctor Jazz, FW 40359, 1985
Box 4	New Orleans Suit Atlantic, SD 1580, 1971
Box 4	Newport 1958, Columbia, CL 1245, undated
Box 4	North of the Border, Decca, DL 75069, undated
Box 4	Nutcracker Suite, The Columbia, CL 1541, undated
Box 4	Nutcracker Suite Columbia, 32 16 0252, undated

Box 4	Paris Blues, United Artists, VA2 4092, undated
Box 4	Pianist, The Fantasy, F-9462, 1974
Box 4	Piano In The Foreground, The Columbia, CL 2029, 1963
Box 4	Piano In The Foreground, The Columbia, CL 1546, undated
Box 4	Popular Duke Ellington, The RCA, LSP-3576, 1966
Box 4	Pretty Woman RCA Victor, LPV-553, 1968
Box 4	Recollections Of The Big Band Era Atlantic, SD 1665, 1974
Box 4	Recollections Of The Big Band Era Atlantic, 7 90093-1, 1982
Box 4	Reflections In Ellington Everybodys, 3005, 1985
Box 4	Rockin' In Rhythm Decca, DL 79247, 1970
Box 5	Second Sacred Concert, Fantasy, 8407/8, undated
Box 5	Second Sacred Concert, Prestige, P-24045, 1974
Box 5	Selections From Peter Gynt Suites No. 1 & 2 and Suite Thursday', Columbia, CL, 1597
Box 5	Seventieth Birthday Concert, Solid State, SS 19000, 1970
Box 5	Side By Side, Verve, 821578-1, 1958
Box 5	Side By Side Verve, MG V-8345, undated
Box 5	Such Sweet Thunder Columbia, CL 1033, undated
Box 5	Symphonic Ellington, The Reprise, R9-6097, 1963
Box 5	Symphony In Black, Smithsonian Institution, NO24, 1981
Box 5	Third Sacred Concert-The Majesty of God, RCA, APLI-0785, 1974
Box 5	This Is Duke Ellington, RCA, VPM-6042, 1971
Box 5	This Ones For Blanton, Pablo, 2310-721, 1975
Box 5	Togo Brown Suite, United Artists, UXS-92, 1972
Box 5	A Tribute To Duke, Concord, CJ-50, 1977

Box 5	Unknown Session, CBS, JC 35342, 1979
Box 5	Up In Duke's Workshop, Pablo, 2310-721, 1979
Box 5	Will Big Bands Ever Come Back?, Reprise, R-6168, undated
Box 5	World of Duke Ellington, The CBS, X 598, 1974
Box 5	World of Duke Ellington Volume 2, The CBS, KG 33341, 1975
Box 5	World of Duke Ellington Volume 3, The CBS, 33961, 1976
Box 5	Yale Concert Fantasy, 9433, 1973
Box 6	Army Blues Salute to D.E. Program Order,, February 10, 1980
Box 6	Book Abstracts,, undated
Box 6	Correspondence,, 1976-1989
Box 6	IAJE Conference Program,, January 10-13, 1991
Box 6	News Articles,, 1969-1991