



Smithsonian
National Museum of American History
Kenneth E. Behring Center

Jonas Bernholm Rhythm and Blues Collection

NMAH.AC.0551

Rob Harding

1996

Archives Center, National Museum of American History
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Jonas Bernholm Rhythm and Blues Collection
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0551
Date:	1976-1991.
Extent:	8 Cubic feet
Creator:	Bernholm, Jonas, 1946-
Language:	Collection is in English. Some materials in Swedish.
Summary:	Collection documents Jonas Bernholm's interest and work promoting African American Music, specifically rhythm and blues.

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Collection donated by Jonas Bernholm, 1996.

Ownership and Custodial History

The Museum purchased a very large collection of recordings, posters, photographs and other reference materials from Bernholm in 1996. Correspondence and research files transferred to the Archives Center from the Division of Music, Sports and Entertainment in 2002.

Related Materials

The Division of Music, Sports and Entertainment holds artifacts related to this collection including: posters and sound recordings. See Accession #1996.0153.

Processing Information

Processed by Rob Harding May, 1996; revised by Adrienne Cain, intern, 2006; supervised by Alison Oswald, archivist.

Preferred Citation

Jonas Bernholm Rhythm and Blues Collection, 1976-1991, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions on Access

Collection is open for research and access on site by appointment. Unprotected photographs must be handled with gloves.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

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Biographical Note

Jonas Bernholm (1946-) is a music executive, and African-American music aficionado from Sweden. He is best known for reissuing works of jazz, blues, and R&B artists on his own labels; the most well-recognized being Route 66, and Mr. R&B. His passion was ignited by the energy and charisma seen in the likes of Elvis Presley and Little Richard. He began collecting music from abroad and eventually visited the United States during the summer of 1968. During his trip Bernholm realized that many recording artists from the 40s and 50s were out of work and their music was no longer in circulation. Upon his return to Sweden he resolved to reissue the work of many artists on his own labels. His labels included: Route 66, MR R&B, Jukebox Lil, Whiskey Women, Earth Angel, Dr. Horse, Crown Prince, Gospel Jubilee, and Blues Boy.

Scope and Contents

Series 1: Correspondence, 1972-1994, undated

This series is divided into four subseries: Subseries 1.1 (Artists), Subseries 1.2 (Collaborators), Subseries 1.3 (Douglas Seroff), and Subseries 1.4 (Record Companies). Subseries 1.1 (1972-1993) consists mostly of correspondence exchanged between Bernholm and recording artists, as well as letters about the artists from their agents, family members, etc. Other types of materials included in this subseries are: copies of newspaper clippings, death certificates, contracts, and receipts. This subseries is, mostly, in alphabetical order by the artist's last name. Subseries 1.2 (1978-1985) is largely a collection of letters between Bernholm and those helping him create his albums. Topics include: photos, financial transactions and technical information about creating an album. Bills and receipts are also found in the subseries. Two folders deal specifically with correspondence Bernholm exchanged between Felix Prochaska and Lou Doggett. Subseries 1.3 (1979-1986) documents the correspondence between Bernholm and independent music scholar, music producer and businessman Douglas Seroff. It includes an exchange of letters regarding the start of a new record label for gospel music and the creation and reissue of gospel LPs. It also includes auction results, bills, postage labels, and information on a 1985 Grammy nomination. Subseries 1.4 (1977-1990) consists of correspondence between Bernholm and such recording companies as Clanka Lanka, Rounder Records, Big J Records, Blues King Records, Bogus Records, J.D. Productions, Fleetville Records, La Val Records and Relic Records. Also included are contracts/agreements, statements, artist promotion, as well as information on taping sessions and royalties.

Series 2: Promotional/Publicity Materials, 1971-1991, undated

This series is divided into two subseries: Subseries A (Promotion and Collaborator Correspondence) and Subseries 2.2 (Fan Club Materials). Subseries 2.1 (1976-1991) consists mostly of correspondence about artist or album promotion; including published articles, photographs, and information about concerts, tours, and radio stations throughout the US and Europe. Subseries B contains artist biographies, newsletters, promotional material, and information regarding contemporary artist-related events from record companies, talent agencies and official fan clubs.

Series 3: Research Materials, undated

This series is divided into four subseries: Subseries 3.1 (Artists), Subseries 3.2 (Record Company), Subseries 3.3 (Ray Funk), and Subseries 3.4 (Record Labels). Subseries A is composed of album liner notes for individual artists, as well as photocopies of magazine/newspaper articles that detail biography and album information for several artists. Other information includes correspondence about artists, and album song listings. Subseries 3.2 is an alphabetical listing, by record company name, of their discographies. Subseries C includes music related articles and correspondence from and by Alaskan writer, music aficionado and radio host Ray Funk. Copies of artist photos from Norbert Hess are also available. Subseries 3.4 contains listings of songs from specific artists and the labels they can be found on.

Series 4: Production Materials, undated

This series is composed of production notes used in the assembly of albums. This includes artist biographies and discographies, as well as song listings for specific albums. This subseries is organized alphabetically by artist.

Arrangement

Series 1, Correspondence, 1972-1994, undated

Series 2, Promotional/Publicity Materials, 1965-1991, undated

Series 3, Research Materials, undated

Series 4, Production Materials, undated

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- African American music -- 20th century
- African American musicians
- Blues musicians
- Popular music -- Publishing and writing
- Rhythm and blues music

Types of Materials:

- Articles -- 1950-2000
- Correspondence -- 1970-2000
- Newsletters -- 20th century
- Notes
- Press releases

Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence, 1972-1994

Subseries 1.1: Artist's, 1972-1993

Box 1, Folder 1	Joe August-Coasters
Box 1, Folder 2	Copeland-Sinclair
Box 1, Folder 3	Glenn-Harris
Box 1, Folder 4	Day-Gayten
Box 1, Folder 5	Jackson
Box 1, Folder 6	King-Lutcher
Box 1, Folder 7	Untitled
Box 1, Folder 8	McGhee-McVea
Box 1, Folder 9	Milburn-Norris
Box 1, Folder 10	Price-Stidham
Box 1, Folder 11	Tanner-Young
Box 1, Folder 12	Adams-Bettis
Box 1, Folder 13	Bigtown-Jones
Box 1, Folder 14	King-Sjöfren
Box 1, Folder 15	Not alphabetical
Box 1, Folder 16	Smith-Wortselius
Box 1, Folder 17	Cameron-Williams
Box 1, Folder 18	Grimes-Boyd (not alphabetical)

Box 1, Folder 19	Wright-Bernholm (not alphabetical)
Box 1, Folder 20	J-L (not alphabetical)
	B-W, 1989
Box 1, Folder 21b	L-O, 1980-1994
	D-S, 1986-1990
	B-N, 1976-1984
Box 1, Folder 24	Jimmy Liggins, Bobby Mitchell, 1979-1982
Box 1, Folder 25	M-S, 1979-1983
Box 1, Folder 26	B-R, 1978-1991
Box 1, Folder 27	B-S, 1976-1990
	E-W, 1984-1987
Box 1, Folder 29	M-W, 1979-1989
Box 1, Folder 30	A-B, 1979-1984
Box 1, Folder 31	D-J, 1977-1985

Subseries 1.2: Collaborators, 1978-1985

Box 1, Folder 32	B-H, 1978- 1979
Box 1, Folder 33	J-M, 1976-1979
Box 1, Folder 34	N-S, 1976-1980
Box 2, Folder 1	T-W, 1976-1979
Box 2, Folder 2	A-G, 1979-1980
Box 2, Folder 3	H-L, 1979-1980
Box 2, Folder 4	M-R, 1979-1980

Box 2, Folder 5	S-W, 1979-1980
	A-D, 1980-1981
Box 2, Folder 7	E-J, 1980-1981
Box 2, Folder 8	K-P, 1980-1981
Box 2, Folder 9	R-W, 1980-1981
Box 2, Folder 10	A-C, 1981-1982
Box 2, Folder 11	D-H, 1981-1982
Box 2, Folder 12	K-M, 1981-1982
Box 2, Folder 13	N-Z, 1981-1982
Box 2, Folder 14	B-D, 1982-1983
Box 2, Folder 15	E-L, 1982-1983
Box 2, Folder 16	M-R, 1982-1983
Box 2, Folder 17	S-W, 1982-1983
Box 2, Folder 18	A-F, 1983-1984
Box 2, Folder 19	G-K, 1983-1984
Box 2, Folder 20	L-P, 1983-1984
Box 2, Folder 21	R-Z, 1983-1984
Box 2, Folder 22	B-D, 1984-1985
Box 2, Folder 23	B-D, 1985-1986
Box 2, Folder 24	F-K, 1984-1986
Box 2, Folder 25	L-P, 1985-1986

Box 2, Folder 26	R-Z, 1984-1985
Box 2, Folder 27	A-D, 1985-1986
Box 2, Folder 28	E-M, 1984-1986
Box 3, Folder 1	A-F, 1984-1986
	O-Z, 1985-1986
Box 3, Folder 3	G-O, 1986-1987
Box 3, Folder 4	P-S, 1985-1987
Box 3, Folder 5	T-Z, 1985-1987
Box 3, Folder 6	A-D, 1987-1989
Box 3, Folder 7	F-H, 1987-1989
Box 3, Folder 8	K-N, 1986-1989
Box 3, Folder 9	O-S, 1987-1989
Box 3, Folder 10	T-V, 1987-1989
Box 3, Folder 11	B-D, 1986-1991
Box 3, Folder 12	E-L, 1987-1990
Box 3, Folder 13	M-W, 1987-1990
Box 3, Folder 14	C-H, 1987-1991
Box 3, Folder 15	K-P, 1986-1992
Box 3, Folder 16	R-T, 1986-1989
Box 3, Folder 17	Z, 1987-1990
Box 3, Folder 18	E-L, 1984-1985
Box 3, Folder 19	M-P, 1984-1985

R-T, 1984-1986

Box 3, Folder 21 Felix Prochasta

Box 3, Folder 22 J. Taylor Doggett about Five Royales

Box 3, Folder 23 J. Taylor Doggett

Subseries 1.3: Douglas Seroff, 1979-1986

Box 3, Folder 24 Douglas Seroff, 1980-1981

Box 3, Folder 25 Douglas Seroff, 1981-1983

Box 3, Folder 26 Douglas Seroff, 1981-1983

Box 3, Folder 27 Douglas Seroff, 1984-1987

Box 3, Folder 28 Douglas Seroff, 1984-1991

Subseries 1.4: Record Co., 1977-1990

Box 4, Folder 1 Doug Seroff, Clanka Lanka, Rounder Records, 1980-1982

Box 4, Folder 2 A-B, 1984-1985

Box 4, Folder 3 B, 1984-1985

Box 4, Folder 4 E-J, 1984-1990

Box 4, Folder 5 L-P, 1979-1989

Box 4, Folder 6 Not alphabetical, 1983-1990

Box 4, Folder 7 A-C, 1976-1982

Box 4, Folder 8 C-G, 1975-1979

Box 4, Folder 9 K-R, 1976-1979

Box 4, Folder 10 R-S, 1976-1979

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Series 2: Promotional/Publicity Materials, 1965-1991, undated

Subseries 2.1: Promotion and Collaborator Correspondence, 1979-1991

Box 4, Folder 11	Promotion and Collaborator Correspondence, 1979
Box 4, Folder 12	Promotion and Collaborator Correspondence, 1979
Box 4, Folder 13	Promotion and Collaborator Correspondence, 1979
Box 4, Folder 14	Promotion and Collaborator Correspondence, 1979
Box 4, Folder 15	Promotion and Collaborator Correspondence, 1979 Promotion and Collaborator Correspondence, 1979
Box 4, Folder 17	Promotion and Collaborator Correspondence, 1979
Box 4, Folder 18	Promotion and Collaborator Correspondence, 1979
Box 4, Folder 19	Promotion and Collaborator Correspondence, 1979
Box 4, Folder 20	Promotion and Collaborator Correspondence, 1979
Box 4, Folder 21	Promotion and Collaborator Correspondence, 1979
Box 4, Folder 22	Promotion and Collaborator Correspondence, 1979
Box 4, Folder 23	Promotion and Collaborator Correspondence, 1979
Box 4, Folder 24	Promotion, 1983-1985 Promotion, 1983-1985
Box 4, Folder 26	Promotion and Collaborator Correspondence, 1979
Box 5, Folder 1	Promotion, 1983-1985
Box 5, Folder 2	Promotion, 1983-1985
Box 5, Folder 3	Promotion, 1986-1987
Box 5, Folder 4	Promotion, 1986-1987

Box 5, Folder 5	Promotion, 1986-1987
Box 5, Folder 6	Promotion, 1986-1987
Box 5, Folder 7	Promotion, 1987-1990
Box 5, Folder 8	Promotion, 1987-1990
Box 5, Folder 9	Promotion, 1987-1990
Box 5, Folder 10	Promotion, 1987-1990
Box 5, Folder 11	Promotion, 1989-1991
	Promotion, 1989-1991
Box 5, Folder 13	Promotion, 1989-1991
Box 5, Folder 14	Promotion, 1989-1991

Subseries 2.2: Fan Club Materials, 1965-1971

Box 5, Folder 15	Original Publicity, 1965-1971
Box 5, Folder 16	Original Publicity, 1961-1971
Box 5	Original Publicity, 1961-1971
Box 5	Original Publicity, 1966-1971
Box 5	Original Publicity, 1965-1971
Box 5	Original Publicity, 1965-1971

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Series 3: Research, undated

Subseries 3.1: Artists, undated

Box 5	Artists, A-K
Box 5	Artists, M-V
Box 5	Artists, A-D
Box 5	Artists, E-K
Box 5	Artists, L-M
Box 6	Artists, P-S
Box 6	Artists, T-W
Box 6	Artists, A-B
Box 6	Artists, C-H
Box 6	Artists, J-O
Box 6	Artists, O-W
Box 6	Faye Adams
Box 6	Ray Agee
Box 6	Louis Armstrong
Box 6	Jessie Belvin
Box 6	Bunny Berrigan
Box 6	Richard Berry
Box 6	Big Three Trio
Box 6	Calvin Boze
Box 6	Eddie Boyd

Box 6	Tiny Bradshaw
Box 6	Hadda Brooks
Box 6	Charles Brown
Box 6	Charles Brown
Box 6	Gatemouth Brown
Box 6	Nappy Brown
Box 6	Ray Brown
Box 6	Roy Brown
Box 6	Ray Brown
Box 6	Ruth Brown
Box 6	Ruth Brown
Box 6	Solomon Burke
Box 6	Goree Carter
Box 6	The Charioteers
Box 6	Savannah Churchill
Box 6	The Clovers
Box 6	Johnny Copeland
Box 6	Pee Wee Crayton
Box 6	Arthur "Big Boy" Crudup
Box 6	Martha Davis
Box 6	Larry Darnell

Box 6	Mercy Dee
Box 6	Delta Rhythm Boys
Box 6	Varetta Dillard
Box 6	Dixie Hummingbirds
Box 6	Dixie Hummingbirds
Box 6	Floyd Dixon
Box 6	Floyd Dixon
Box 6	John Dolphin Doo Wop
Box 6	John Dolphin Hollywood Flames
Box 6	John Dolphin Jaguars
Box 6	The Du-Droppers
Box 6	Duke Ellington
Box 6	Frankie Ervin
Box 6	Four Internes
Box 6	Five Blind Boys
Box 6	Five Royales
Box 6	Lowell Fulson
Box 6	Lowell Fulson
Box 6	Lowell Fulson
Box 6	Paul Gayten
Box 6	Lloyd Glenn
Box 6	Google Eyes

Box 6	Lloyd Glenn
Box 6	Rosco Gordon
Box 6	Johnny Griffin
Box 6	Joe Morris Orchestra
Box 6	Grimes
Box 7	Peppermint Harris
Box 7	Wynonie Harris
Box 7	Wynonie Harris
Box 7	Wynonie Harris
Box 7	Roy Hawkins
Box 7	Chuck Higgins
Box 7	Smokey Hogg
Box 7	Lynn Hope
Box 7	Joe Houston
Box 7	Joe Houston
Box 7	Helen Humes
Box 7	Human Orchestra
Box 7	Ivory Joe Hunter
Box 7	Ivory Joe Hunter
Box 7	Benjamin "Bull Moose" Jackson
Box 7	Benjamin "Bull Moose" Jackson

Box 7	Willis Jackson
Box 7	Young Jessie
Box 7	Buddy and Ella Johnson
Box 7	Jones Brothers
Box 7	Louis Jordan
Box 7	Sanders King
Box 7	Sonny Knight
Box 7	Bob Laughton
Box 7	Nellie Lutcher
Box 7	Julia Lee
Box 7	Jimmy Liggins
Box 7	Joe Liggins
Box 7	Little Ax
Box 7	Little Caesar
Box 7	Little Willie Littlefield
Box 7	Preston Love
Box 7	Jimmy McCracklin
Box 7	Jimmy McCracklin
Box 7	Sticks McGhee
Box 7	Big Jay McNeely
Box 7	Big Jay McNeely
Box 7	Jack McVea

Box 7	Jack McVea
Box 7	Willie Mabon
Box 7	Midnight Matinee
Box 7	Percy Mayfield
Box 7	Amos Milburn
Box 7	Amos Milburn
Box 7	Amos Milburn
Box 7	Lucky Millinder
Box 7	Lucky Millinder
Box 7	Roy Milton
Box 7	Roy Milton
Box 7	Freddie Mitchell
Box 7	Johnny Moore
Box 7	Johnny Moore
Box 7	Joe Morris
Box 7	Snub Mosley
Box 7	Gerry Mulligan
Box 7	Music City Records
Box 7	Joe Newman
Box 7	Johnny Otis
Box 7	Doc Pomus

Box 7	Doc Pomus
Box 7	Jesse Price
Box 7	Sam Price
Box 7	Red Prysock
Box 7	Todd Rhodes
Box 7	The Coasters
Box 7	Saxophonograph
Box 7	Mabel Scott
Box 7	Marylin Scott
Box 7	Tab Smith
Box 7	Southern Sons
Box 7	Southern Sons
Box 7	Spirit of Memphis
Box 7	Spirit of Memphis Quintet
Box 8	Arbee Stidham
Box 8	Ted Taylor
Box 8	Territory Bands
Box 8	T-Bone Walker
Box 8	Treniers
Box 8	Trumpeteers
Box 8	Trumpeteers
Box 8	Joe Turner

Box 8 Eddie Vinson

Box 8 Van Walls

Box 8 Dinah Washington

Box 8 Dinah Washington

Box 8 Cootie Williams

Box 8 Paul Williams

Box 8 Jimmy Witherspoon

Box 8 Jimmy Witherspoon

Box 8 Jimmy Wright

Box 8 Big Jim Wynn

Subseries 3.2: Record Companies, undated

Box 8 Discos

Box 8 Regional Charts

Box 8 Discos Regional Charts

Subseries 3.3: Ray Funk, undated

Box 8 Ray Funk, Norbert Hess photocopies

Box 8 Ray Funk, Norbert Hess Photocopies

Box 8 Ray Funk, Norbert Hess Photocopies

Subseries 3.4: Record Labels, undated

Box 8 Label listings over forthcoming productions

Box 8 Label listings over forthcoming productions

Box 8 Label listings over forthcoming productions

Box 8 Label listings over forthcoming productions

Box 8 Label listings over forthcoming productions

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Series 4: Production, undated

Box 8	Production 1 of 4
Box 8	Production 1 of 4
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Box 8	Production 2 of 4
Box 8	Production 2 of 4
Box 8	Production 2 of 4
Box 8	Production 2 of 4
Box 8	Production 2 of 4
Box 8	Production 3 of 4
Box 8	Production 3 of 4
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Box 9	Production 3 of 4
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Box 9	Production 4 of 4
Box 9	Production 4 of 4

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