



Smithsonian
National Museum of American History
Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the William "Cat" Anderson Collection

NMAH.AC.0630

Ann Kuebler

1998

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	William "Cat" Anderson Collection
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0630
Date:	1940-1981 (bulk 1963-1977)
Extent:	5 Cubic feet (12 boxes)
Creator:	Anderson, William "Cat", 1916-1981 ((musician))
Language:	English
Digital Content:	Image(s): William "Cat" Anderson Collection

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution Department of History, Jerome and Dorothy Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation, Made for NMAH., 2006.3046.

Acquisition Information

Collection donated by Dorothy Anderson, 1998, January 22.

Related Archival Materials

Additional memorabilia can be found in the Division of Cultural History, NMAH.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Ann Kuebler, 1998.

Preferred Citation

William "Cat" Anderson Collection, ca. 1940-1981, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions on Access

Master tapes not available to researchers.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

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Biographical Note

Prominent African American jazz musician (trumpet), b. Sept. 12, 1916, d. April 29, 1981. One of the premier trumpet players of the Duke Ellington Orchestra. Known for effortless high notes; a strong section leader and great soloist whose style exhibited humor and precision. Grew up in Jenkins' Orphanage, Charleston, S.C., received basic music training there, and participated in many of their famous student ensembles. Formed and played with the Cotton Pickers, a group of orphanage teens. Before joining Ellington in 1944, played in several big bands, including Claude Hopkins and Lionel Hampton. Left the Ellington organization 1947-49 to lead his own group. Free-lanced 1959-1961 and after 1971, working with the Ellington orchestra intermittently. Received honors from the U.S. Air Force, the Prix du Disque de Jazz, and the City of Los Angeles.

Scope and Contents

Primarily audiotapes, sheet music, and photographic images. Also: correspondence, newspaper clippings, magazine articles, itineraries, awards, and ephemera. Of particular interest are recordings or photographic images, including the personalities listed below, and President and Mrs. Tubman of Liberia; also, two interviews and three recordings of Cat Anderson as guest with various university and college jazz bands.

Arrangement

Divided into 4 series: (1) Music; (2) Original tapes and recordings; (3) Photographs; (4) Miscellaneous. Arranged topically.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- African American musicians
- Band musicians
- Composers -- 20th century
- Electric engineering -- 1980-2000
- Inventions -- 1980-2000
- Inventors -- 20th century
- Jazz musicians -- United States
- Music -- 20th century

Music -- Acoustics and physics
Musicians -- 20th century
Piano and synthesizer music
Synthesizer music

Types of Materials:

Articles -- 1940-1980
Audiocassettes
Audiotapes
Audiotapes -- 1940-1980
Awards
Clippings -- 20th century
Interviews
Interviews -- 1950-2000
Manuscripts -- Music -- 20th century
Oral histories (document genres)
Oral history
Phonograph records
Photographs -- 20th century
Recordings
Transcripts

Names:

Bechet, Sidney (musician)
Benny Carter All Stars
Calloway, Cab, 1907-
Carter, Benny, 1907-1997
Cat Anderson Quintet
Duke Ellington Orchestra
Ellington, Duke, 1899-1974
Fitzgerald, Ella
Hampton, Lionel
Humphrey, Hubert H. (Hubert Horatio), 1911-1978
Humphrey, Muriel
Johnson, Lucy Bird
Johnson, Lyndon B. (Lyndon Baines), 1908-1973
Lionel Hampton Orchestra
Mingus Quintet
Tatum, Art, 1910-1956
Webster, Ben

Container Listing

Duke Ellington and trumpeter Cat Anderson join JET switchboard operator Geneva Patch to determine who bats first in softball game between Duke's men and JET staff [reproduction black and white photograph], 1957

1 Item (30" x 20".)

[Image\(s\): Duke Ellington and trumpeter Cat Anderson join JET switchboard operator Geneva Patch to determine who bats first in softball game between Duke's men and JET staff \[reproduction black and white photograph\].](#)

Lanier, William, Photographer

Photograph printed in JET magazine.

Unrestricted research use on site by appointment. Photographs must be handled with cotton gloves unless protected by sleeves.

Ink on paper.

Local Numbers

00063001.tif (AC Scan)

Names: Anderson, William "Cat", 1916-1981 ((musician))
Ellington, Duke, 1899-1974
Patch, Geneva

Topic: Photography in publicity
Softball

Genre/Form: Photographs -- 1950-1960 -- Black-and-white photoprints --
Silver gelatin

Culture: African Americans