



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Tito Puente Papers

NMAH.AC.0894

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Tito Puente Papers
Date:	1962-2001, undated
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0894
Creator:	Puente, Tito (Creator) Puente, Margaret (Donor)
Extent:	0.33 Cubic feet (1 box)
Language:	English .
Summary:	The collection consists of photographs and personal papers documenting the career of Latin Jazz musician Tito Puente.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Tito Puente's widow, Margaret Puente, donated this collection in 2004.

Separated Materials

Several artifacts were donated to the Museum's Division of Culture and the Arts including a sequined jacket worn by Puente when he won the Grammy Award for Best Tropical Latin Performance. See accession number 1996.0304.

Related Materials

The materials in this collection complement the Goya Foods Incorporated Collection, Paquito D'Rivera Papers, Chico O'Farrill Papers, Mongo Santamaria Papers and Latino Music Collection.

Processing Information

Processed by Sarah Allan (volunteer), 2008; supervised by Vanessa Broussard Simmons.

Preferred Citation

Tito Puente Papers, Archives Center, National Museum of American History

Restrictions

The collection is open for research use.

Physical Access: Researchers must handle unprotected photographs with gloves.

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.

Biographical / Historical

Tito Puente (1923-2000) was a New York born jazz, mambo and salsa percussionist, nicknamed "King of the Timbales." During his career, Puente recorded 120 albums, composed more than 450 songs, and has been credited with some 2,000 arrangements. His contributions to Latin jazz earned him the title "El Rey del Timbal" (The King of the Timbal) and "King of Latin Music" along with numerous honors, including five Grammy Awards, the National Medal of Arts, and the Library of Congress Living Legend award. Puente was featured in the films *The Mambo Kings* in 1992 and *Calle 54* in 2000. He was honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 1990.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists primarily of photographs. The locations and dates of most of the photographs are unknown and include Puente in concert and with Celia Cruz. Some of the photographs are portraits of Puente as a young performer. Personal papers consist of a cancelled United States passport and a radio license issued in Venezuela in 1965. There is a calendar published by Latin Percussion, Incorporated with photographs of several jazz musicians, including Puente in 1969 and 1970. The materials are arranged by type.

Arrangement

The materials are arranged in five folders.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Jazz musicians
- Mambos (Music)
- Salsa (Music)

Types of Materials:

- Passports
- Photographs -- 1960-1970

Container Listing

Box 1, Folder 1	Calendar, 2001
Box 1, Folder 1	Personal papers, 1965, 1962
Box 1, Folder 1	Photographs with band, undated
Box 1, Folder 2	Photographs with Celia Cruz, undated
Box 1, Folder 3	Portraits and candid photographs, undated