



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the James Moody Papers

NMAH.AC.1405

NMAH Staff

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	James Moody Papers
Date:	1989 - 2008
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1405
Creator:	Gillespie, Dizzy, 1917-1993 Moody, Linda (Donor) Moody, James, 1925-2010 (Creator)
Extent:	14 Cubic feet
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated by Linda Moody, 2016.

Preferred Citation

James Moody Papers, ca. 1989-2008, Archives Center, National Museum of American History

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

James Moody was born in Savannah, Georgia, and grew up in Reading, Pennsylvania and Newark, New Jersey, where he learned to play the saxophone. He added the flute later in life. He served in the Air Force during World War II, where he belonged to a military band, and during this time he met Dizzy Gillespie, who was giving a performance at his base. He joined Gillespie's band for a couple of years after getting out of the service in 1946, and the two developed a strong friendship and working collaboration that lasted until Gillespie died in 1993. In addition to his frequent recording and tours with Gillespie, Moody had a series of jazz acts with whom he recorded and toured; he performed as a back-up act in Las Vegas, and worked with many notables, including Dinah Washington, Benny Golson, Tito Puente and Quincy Jones. His credits include over fifty albums, such as the highly acclaimed Henry Mancini tribute album "Moody Plays Mancini," and a small role in the 1997 film, "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil." His honors include Grammy nominations (1985 and 1990) and a posthumous Grammy award in 2010, induction into the International Jazz Hall of Fame, and his selection as a 1998 NEA Jazz Master.

Scope and Contents

This collection documents the life and career of musician James Moody, and includes: Moody's compositions and arrangements, including parts for various instruments; correspondence, some personal, some business; business records such as contracts, copyright and royalty statements, and tour itineraries; photographs, some personal, and some documenting Moody's musical activities, some featuring other musicians, especially Dizzy Gillespie; programs from jazz shows in which Moody participated; awards; and numerous articles and clippings.

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 -- 20th century -- United States
- Jazz musicians -- United States
- Music -- 20th century -- United States
- Musicians -- United States
- Saxophone
- Saxophonists

Types of Materials:

- Articles
- Awards
- Business records
- Clippings
- Contracts
- Correspondence
- Itineraries
- Music -- Manuscripts
- Personal papers -- 20th century
- Personal papers -- 21st century
- Photographs -- 1960-2000
- Posters
- Programs

Occupations:

- African American musicians
- Flute players