



Smithsonian

*National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center*

## Hugh M. Brown Collection of Musicians and Actors Photographs

NMAH.AC.1506

Franklin A. Robinson, Jr.

2023

Archives Center, National Museum of American History

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
<b>Title:</b>	Hugh M. Brown Collection of Musicians and Actors Photographs
<b>Date:</b>	1947, undated
<b>Identifier:</b>	NMAH.AC.1506
<b>Source:</b>	Brown, Carole M. (Donor)
<b>Creator:</b>	Brown, Charles H. (Donor)
<b>Extent:</b>	0.15 Cubic feet (2 boxes )
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	A small collection of publicity photographs of musicians and actors, many taken by Bernard of Hollywood, NYC of Hollywood, California, and New York City, New York.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Collection donated to the Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution in June 2021 by Carole M. Brown and Charles H. Brown in memory of Hugh Merryman Brown.

### Processing Information

Collection processed by Vanessa Broussard Simmons, archivist, 2021.

### Preferred Citation

Hugh M. Brown Collection of Musicians and Actors Photographs, Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution.

### 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 / Historical

Hugh Merryman Brown was born July 12, 1927, in Los Angeles, California, the son of Hugh Cowen Brown and Marie Merryman. Marie worked for Hollywood portrait photographer, Bruno Bernard, known simply as Bruno of Hollywood. The family moved to Kansas City, Missouri, where Hugh began his violin studies at the

age of five under the mentorship of Wort S. Morse. He became a regular radio artist before the age of ten on WDAF Radio, Kansas City playing classical violin.

Hugh and his mother moved to New York City, New York, where Marie resumed working for Bruno. Hugh attended the De La Salle Institute and continued his musical training under Sherman Pitluck and Joseph Gingold. He attended Julliard where he studied violin under Frank Kneisel. Hugh played with the New York City Symphony and was a finalist in the Naumburg Foundation competition. The pressures of schooling became burdensome, and he dropped out of Julliard.

Hugh went to work in the decorative fabrics trade but returned to music playing with the dance bands of Tex Beneke (formerly the Glenn Miller Orchestra), Ted Straeter, and Raymond Scott. In 1951 Hugh was hired as concertmaster for the Robert Shaw Chorale. While working with Shaw he met and married Dorothy McConnell, also a Shaw performer. They were married at the Riverside Church in New York City on April 14, 1951.

In late 1951 the Browns moved to Kansas City, Missouri and joined the Kansas City Philharmonic and later the Kansas City Symphony when the Philharmonic reorganized. He also played with many other organizations in the Kansas City area. In the mid-1960s he was named to the faculty of the Conservatory of Music at the University of Missouri, Kansas City teaching viola, violin, and string techniques.

Hugh died on April 18, 2021, in Westwood Hills, Kansas; he was survived by his two children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

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## Content Description

Small collection of photographs of American musicians and actors. Many are studio portraits by Bernard of Hollywood and Bruno of Hollywood, NYC.

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## Arrangement

The collection is divided into one series.

Series 1: Photographs, 1947, undated

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Musicians, 1930-1960  
Portraits

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Names:

Bernard, Bruno  
Brown, Carole M.  
Ford, Glenn, 1916-2006  
Hour of Charm All-Girl Orchestra

Occupations:

Actors and actresses

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Photographs, 1947, undated

Box 1	Bennett, Constance, undated
Box 1	Bennett, Tony, undated
Box 1	Brown, Joe E., undated
Box 1	Cliburn, Van, undated
Box 1	Como, Perry, undated
Box 1	Crabbe, Buster, inscribed photograph, undated
Box 1	Ellington, Duke, undated
Box 1	Ford, Glenn, undated
Box 1	Hour of Charm Orchestra, undated
Box 1	Ink Spots, The, undated
Box 1	James, Harry, undated
Box 1	Johnson, Van, undated
Box 1	Kaye, Danny, undated
Box 1	Kaye, Evelyn, Hour of Charm Orchestra, undated
Box 1	McDowall, Roddy, inscribed photograph, undated
Box 1	McHugh, Frank, inscribed photograph, 1947-07-25
Box 1	Miller, Glenn, undated
Box 2, Folder 1	Miranda, Carmen, undated
Box 1	Moore, Vaughn, undated
Box 1	Unidentified, woman playing violin, undated
Box 1	Unidentified, woman in hat and heels, undated

Box 1	Unidentified, man with slick hair and cigar, undated
Box 1	Unidentified, man and woman in evening wear, undated
Box 2, Folder 2	Unidentified, man playing violin, undated
Box 2, Folder 3	Unidentified, woman in regal Russian style costume, undated
Box 1	Wheeler, Bert, undated
Box 1	Wynn, Ed, undated

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