



The New York Public Library
Music Division

Guide to the

William P. Gottlieb Photographs

1938-1948

JPB 19-04

Summary

Creator: Gottlieb, William P.

Title: William P. Gottlieb Photographs

Date: 1938-1948

Size: 1.67 linear feet (8 boxes)

Abstract: William P. Gottlieb was a writer and photographer known for documenting jazz musicians, particularly for *Down Beat* magazine. The collection consists of black and white photographs taken by Gottlieb of jazz, classical, and pop musicians between 1938 and 1948.

Access: Some collections held by the Dance, Music, Recorded Sound, and Theatre Divisions at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts are held off-site and must be requested in advance. Please check the collection records in **the NYPL's online catalog** for detailed location information. For general guidance about requesting offsite materials, please consult:
<https://www.nypl.org/about/locations/lpa/requesting-archival-materials>

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Language of the Material: English

Creator History

William P. Gottlieb was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1917 and died in 2006 in Great Neck, New York. He was a photographer and journalist who became known particularly for his portraits and reviews of jazz musicians. Beginning in the late 1930s, he covered jazz for *The Washington Post*. Between 1943 and 1945, he served in the Army Air Corp as a photo officer. After the war, he took up residence in New York, where he worked for *Down Beat* magazine as a staff writer and photographer. In 1948, he retired from photography. He subsequently started a filmstrip company and also wrote several children's books. In 1994, several of his jazz photographs were featured as United States postage stamps.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of approximately 500 black and white photographs taken by William Gottlieb of jazz, classical, and pop musicians between the years 1938 and 1948. The majority of the photographs were taken during performances and rehearsals inside New York City night clubs, including the Aquarium, the Spotlight Club, the Pied Piper, the Onyx Club, Eddie Condon's, and the Famous Door. Several photographs were taken at the National Press Club and the Turkish Embassy in Washington, D.C., at the Decca Records Studio, and at the offices of *Down Beat* magazine.

Arrangement: Collection is arranged alphabetically by subject.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American jazz musicians -- New York (State) -- New York

Jazz musicians -- Portraits

Jazz musicians -- United States

Women jazz musicians

Names

Gillespie, Dizzy, 1917-1993

Gottlieb, William P.

Holiday, Billie, 1915-1959

Kenton, Stan

Sinatra, Frank, 1915-1998

Williams, Mary Lou, 1910-1981

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- b. 1 f. 3 Anthony, Ray 1947
- b. 1 f. 4 Armstrong, Louis 1938-1948
- b. 1 f. 5 Astor, Bob 1938-1948
- b. 1 f. 6 Auld, George August 1947
- b. 1 f. 7 Avakian, George 1938-1948
- b. 1 f. 8 Barefield, Eddie with Albert Casey at Cafe Society 1946-1948
- b. 1 f. 9 Barnet, Charlie 1946
- b. 1 f. 10 Basie, Count at the Aquarium (New York, N.Y.) 1946-1948
- b. 1 f. 11 Beale Street Boys 1938-1948
- b. 1 f. 12 Bechet, Sidney 1938-1948
- b. 1 f. 13 Beneke, Tex 1947
- b. 1 f. 14 Benjamin, Bernie and George Weiss 1947
- b. 1 f. 15 Bernstein, Leonard 1938-1948
- b. 1 f. 16 Best, Denzil at the Pied Piper (New York, N.Y.) 1947
- b. 1 f. 17 Bigard, Barney at the Turkish Embassy (Washington, D.C.) 1938
- b. 1 f. 18 Bothwell, Johnny 1946
- b. 1 f. 19 Brown, Pete bulk 1938-1948
- b. 1 f. 20 Brown Vernon at Museum of Modern Art program, ABC studio 1947
- b. 1 f. 21 Butterfield, Billy at Columbia studio 1947
- b. 1 f. 22 Calloway, Cab at Columbia studio and the Strand Theater 1947
- b. 1 f. 23 Candoli, Conte 1947-1948
- b. 1 f. 24 Carney, Harry 1938-1939, 1946
Includes photos at the Turkish Embassy (Washington, D.C.) and at the Aquarium (New York, N.Y.)
- b. 1 f. 25 Carter, Benny at the Apollo Theatre 1946
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- b. 1 f. 27 Casey, Albert 1946-1947
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- b. 1 f. 29 Chester, Bob 1947
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- b. 1 f. 31 Cugat, Xavier 1946-1948
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- b. 2 f. 2 DeArrango, Bill "Buddy" with Terry Gibbs and Harry Biss at Three Deuces (New York, N.Y.) 1947
- b. 2 f. 3 Delaunay, Charles 1946
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