



The New York Public Library
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

New York Jazz Museum records

1960-1987 [bulk 1961-1977]

Sc MG 346

Summary

Creator: New York Jazz Museum

Title: New York Jazz Museum records

Date: 1960-1987 [bulk 1961-1977]

Size: 27.2 linear feet (24 record cartons, 8 shoeboxes, 2 archival boxes)

Source: Purchase, Board of Directors of the New York Jazz Museum, Jan. 1991 Purchase, Board of Directors of the New York Jazz Museum, Jan. 1991

Abstract: The New York Jazz Museum records consist of the following series: Board of Directors, administrative records, and programs/projects. Included are minutes and agendas of Board of Director meetings, and administrative records composed of correspondence of the Executive Director, Howard Fischer, and correspondence written during the administration of Ann Ruckert, president of the Board of Directors who assumed leadership of the Museum following Howard Fischer's dismissal in February 1977.

Access: Advance notice required.

Preferred citation: New York Jazz Museum records, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The New York Public Library

Creator History

The New York Jazz Museum was founded in 1972 to preserve jazz as an art form and to educate the public about jazz. It developed from the New York Hot Jazz Society, Inc. which was founded in 1967 by Howard E. Fischer who also became the Museum's first executive director.

The Museum documented jazz by collecting records, sheet music, books, periodicals, memorabilia, oral histories and other material, and featured live music, exhibits, films, an audiovisual outline of jazz history called "Jazz Panorama," a touring program, a puppet show, lectures to school children, workshops featuring jazz celebrities, a shop, an information center, and a newsletter entitled "Hot Notes." The Museum closed its doors in 1977 following financial and other difficulties.

Scope and Content Note

The New York Jazz Museum records consist of the following series: Board of Directors, administrative records, and programs/projects. Included are minutes and agendas of Board of Director meetings, and administrative records composed of correspondence of the Executive Director, Howard Fischer, and correspondence written during the administration of Ann Ruckert, president of the Board of Directors who assumed leadership of the Museum following Howard Fischer's dismissal in February 1977. Fund raising records contain membership records. Reorganization of the New York Jazz Museum subseries consists of legal papers documenting the turbulent times before, during and after the dismissal of Howard Fischer. The Programs/Projects series includes information used in the preparation of exhibits sponsored by the Museum principally about jazz greats and other aspects of the history of jazz. Other records pertain to a special Jamathon which was an emergency fund raising jazz performance, the Museum Film Program which includes printed matter and correspondence. The Subject File subseries includes correspondence, lists, notes and printed material gathered as resource information about such topics as acquisitions, collection management and photographs. The Printed Matter subseries encompasses press releases and biographical information regarding jazz musicians, newsletters, programs of events held at the New York Jazz Museum and elsewhere, an international magazine clippings file of jazz musicians, and other news clippings. There are also flyers, booklets, catalogs and some issues of magazines. Of particular interest are three sets of jazz discographies compiled by Walter Bruyninckx of Belgium covering the period from 1917 to 1980 with information regarding both famous and little known jazz artists.

Arrangement: Organized into three series: I. Board of Directors; II. Administrative Records; III. Programs/Projects

Key Terms

Subjects

African American musicians
African Americans -- Music -- Catalogs
Jazz -- Catalogs
Music museums -- United States
Sound recordings -- Catalogs

Titles

Schomburg NEH Automated Access to Special Collections Project

Names

New York Jazz Museum
Bruyninckx, Walter
Fischer, Howard E.
Ruckert, Ann