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Guide to the

Maxine Sullivan jazz oral history project interview, Rutgers University

1980

Sc MG 918

Summary

Creator: Sullivan, Maxine, 1911-1987

Title: Maxine Sullivan jazz oral history project interview, Rutgers University

Date: 1980

Size: 0.42 linear feet (1 box)

Source: Purchased from Rutgers University Institute of Jazz Studies.

Revision History: Finding aid updated by Lauren Stark.

Abstract: African American jazz soloist Maxine Sullivan was known for her cool and arresting "whispering voice," soothing style, gentle rhythmic phrasing, and intricate swing delivery. She became well known in the late 1930s for her swing performance of the Scottish traditional ballad "Loch Lomond". The song became her signature piece and catapulted her career. During this period, Sullivan performed as the main act at the Onyx Club on 52nd Street in New York City, alongside bassist John Kirby and his band. The two married in 1938 but were divorced three years later. In 1950, Sullivan married pianist Cliff Jackson. Excluding a ten-year break she took from show-business in 1957, Sullivan's career spanned four decades. Sullivan was also popular with jazz enthusiasts outside of the United States and she toured internationally several times. The collection contains a photocopied transcript of an interview with Maxine Sullivan conducted as part of Rutgers University's Institute of Jazz Studies Oral History Project. The transcript is particularly rich in its detail of Sullivan's recording career and collaboration with other artists. Eleven tapes were transcribed, totaling 750 pages.

Location of Originals: The original transcript of an interview with Sullivan conducted as part of their Jazz Oral History Project is held at Rutgers University's Institute of Jazz Studies.

Preferred citation: [Item], Maxine Sullivan jazz oral history project interview, Rutgers University, Sc MG 918, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Related Materials:

Maxine Sullivan papers, Sc MG 473, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

Creator History

African American jazz soloist Maxine Sullivan was known for her cool and arresting "whispering voice," soothing style, gentle rhythmic phrasing, and intricate swing delivery. She became well known in the late 1930s for her swing performance of the Scottish traditional ballad "Loch Lomond". The song became her signature piece and catapulted her career. During this period, Sullivan performed as the main act at the Onyx Club on 52nd Street in New York City, alongside bassist John Kirby and his band. The two married in 1938 but were divorced three years later. In 1950, Sullivan married pianist Cliff Jackson. Excluding a ten-year break she took from show-business in 1957, Sullivan's career spanned four decades. Sullivan was also popular with jazz enthusiasts outside of the United States and she toured internationally several times.

Scope and Content Note

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Key Terms

Subjects

African American musicians
African American women entertainers
African American women in popular culture
African American women jazz singers
African American women singers
Jazz musicians
Jazz singers -- United States
Swing (Music)
Women jazz musicians
Women singers -- United States

Names

Sullivan, Maxine, 1911-1987
Rutgers University. Institute of Jazz Studies

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 Book I
- b. 1 f. 2 Book II
- b. 1 f. 3 Book III
- b. 1 f. 4 Book IV