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Memphis music collection

Title: Memphis music collection
Collection No: MSS.473
Extent: 0.7 cubic feet
Inclusive Dates: 1966-2016 and undated

Abstract: The collection contains various items related to the rich musical heritage of Memphis, Tennessee.

Processed by: Gerald Chaudron, 2015-2022.
Access: Open to all researchers.
Language: English
Preferred Citation: Memphis music collection, Special Collections Department, University Libraries, University of Memphis.

Publication date: 2022 September

Scope and contents

The collection is an artificial one of items related to the musical heritage of Memphis, Tennessee. It contains a program and posters from the Memphis Blues Festival held in Overton Park in June 1967, organized by the Memphis Country Blues Society. Other items include posters for performances at a Beale Street venue, including the Handy Club, other festivals, images of Muddy Waters and Rufus Thomas, and some recordings. A set of DVDs from Tim Curry's project "Furry Sings the Blues: Beale Street 1980-1981" is also included.

Subject terms

Lewis, Furry, 1893-1981.
Music festivals—Tennessee—Memphis.
Muddy Waters, 1915-1983.
Thomas, Rufus, 1917-2001.

Inventory

Box 1

Folder

- 1 Program: Second Annual Memphis Blues Festival, Overton Park, 1967 June. Performers include: Furry Lewis, Bukka White, Rev. Robert Wilkins, Nathan Beauregard, Joe Callicott, Bill Barth, Electric Blue Watermelon.
Poster:
 - OS1** Second Annual Memphis Blues Festival, Overton Park, 1967 June. (2)
 - OS2** "The Original Drifters, Louis Candy and his Orchestra", undated. (2)
Club Handy: Gala Review featuring Lavetta, Mitchellettes, Sarayo, Funny Bones, Charles Friday and his band, 1966 July 16. (2: 1 undated)
Rufus "The Dog" Thomas and orchestra, undated.
Rufus Thomas and his band, undated.
"Funky Music Festival at Crump Stadium, Saturday July 29th," undated.
Kool Jazz Festival, Mid-South Coliseum, 1978? July 15. Featured The Spinners, Theo Pendergrass, George Duke.
Aaron Copeland conducts music for large ensembles & ballet, Cook Convention Center, Memphis, 1978 November 12.
 - OS3** River City Blues Festival, Ellis Auditorium, Memphis, 1973? November 14.
Performers included: Thomas Pinkston and his Handymen, Furry Lewis, Memphis Piano Red, Phineas Newborn, Jr., Lum Guffin, Joe Willie Wilkins & His King Biscuit Boys, Houston Stackhouse, Charlie Banks and the Beale Street Originals, Little Laura Dukes, Sam Chatmon.
- 2 Photographs:
Publicity image of Muddy Waters, undated.

- 3 Reception in honor of Rufus Thomas re: scholarship at Shelby State Community College, BRZ, 740 Court Avenue, Memphis, Tenn., 1988. (3) Includes images of Rufus Thomas, Carla Thomas, B.B. King, Daniel S. Beasley, Stephanie Beasley. Photographer: Robert Townsend Jones, Jr., Memphis, Tenn.
- 4 Broadsheet: Preservation Hall Jazz Band to perform at 11 South Main, May 12-15, 1960s?
- 5 Calendar: 2006 Memphis Music Calendar by Ron Hall and Shangri-La Projects.
2017 Memphis Heritage Calendar: Landmarks in Memphis Music, Memphis Heritage, Inc., 2016.
- 6 Christmas card: Contains printed text by William C. Handy which refers to a foundation for the blind, 1951?
- 7 Publication: *Don't Look: Memphis Music on Memphis Music*, No. 1, 2012.
Publication: *Nine-O-One Network*, Memphis, Tenn.:
- 8 No. 1-4, 1986-1987.
- 9 No. 5-8, 1987.
- 10 No. 9-11, 1987-1988.
- 11 Program: Memphis Cotton Carnival MusicFest, Mid-South Fairgrounds, Memphis, Tenn., 1983 May 27-June 5; Schlitz Memphis Music Heritage Festival, 1977 September 3-4.
- OS2** Poster: Schlitz Memphis Music Heritage Festival, 1977 September 3-4.
"Your Guide to Free Music", Levitt Shell, Memphis, Tenn., Summer 2017.
- 12 Publication: *Handy Magazine*, Vol. 1, No. 2, 1977 September. Includes articles on Jaguar, Junction, Elvis Presley, Target, Zorro, Radio Station WDIA, Eddie Floyd, Con-Funk-Shun, and Cottonmouth.
- 14 Press release: Stax Record Company, Memphis, "Rufus Thomas – 40 Years of Memphis Soul", 1971 January; Program: "A Tribute to Rufus Thomas", Shelby State Community College, Memphis, Tenn., 1988 May 6.
- 15 Poster: Fourth Annual Memphis Country Blues Festival and First Annual W.C. Handy Memorial Concert, Overton Park Shell, 1969 June 6-7 (copy).
- OS3** Publication: "The Memphis Sound", *Billboard*, 1969 March 29.

Box 2

unfoldered Publication: *River City Review*, Memphis, Tenn.: Vol. 3, No. 3, 1973, pp.1-2; Vol. 3, No. 6-8, 1973.

BlueSpeak, 1995 October-November; 1996 February, July-December; 1997 January-December; 1998 February-July, September, October.

AV1 Phonograph record: 45 r.p.m.:

413. The Fieldstones, "Please Don't Put me Outdoors", "The Thing", 1981.

414. The Jubirt Sisters, "Early One Morning [School Girl Blues]", Baby, What You Want Me To Do [You Got Me Running]", 1982.

419. The Harmonizers, "I'll Be Satisfied", "Trampin'", High Water, 1982.

420. The Gospel Writers, "Blind Barnabas", "Oh, My Lordy Lord", High Water, 1982.

Jackson, Cordell, "Knockin' Sixty": Guitar instrumentals, Moon Records, Phase II, Memphis, Tenn., undated.

Phonograph record: 33 r.p.m.:

"We Believe in Memphis Music, 1973 Memphis Music Inc., Third Annual Awards Program". Contains 1972 Luther Ingram album, "(If Loving You is Wrong) I Don't Want to Be Right", Stax Records, competing for Outstanding Album of the Year.

Stover, John, "Guitarist", High Water Recording Company, 1982.

Audio cassette: "The Sounds of Starry Nights", 1994, 1998.

DVD: "Furry Sings the Blues: Beale Street 1980-1981". Tim Curry: producer, director. 7 discs.

Restriction: Non-commercial use only.

Includes:

"Furry Sings the Blues: Beale Street 1980-1981" - Final edit.

Furry Lewis – Unedited Footage.

Furry Lewis Performance and "B" Roll – Unedited Footage.

Beale Street "B" Roll and MOS Interviews – Unedited Footage.

Abe Schwab – Unedited Footage.

Prince Gabe – Unedited Footage.

Rufus Thomas – Unedited Footage.

LOS Poster:

Budweiser True Music, Private Concert featuring Salina, New daisy Theatre, Memphis, 2003 June 17.

Budweiser Live at Handy Park, Edgar Winter and Leon Russell, July 12; Spyro Gyra, July 13, circa 2000.

OS Vinyl lamp post sign: Welcome to Memphis, Home of the Blues, Birthplace of Rock 'n' Roll, Memphis Convention and Visitors Bureau; Verso: "Northwest is for Memphis" written above a caricature of B.B. King, with "Northwest Airlines" written below, undated.

OS4 Program mockup: 1971 River City Blues Festival, Ellis Auditorium, Memphis, Tenn., 1971 December 3. Features photographs taken by Steve LaVere of some of the performing musicians, including Furry Lewis, Earl Bell, Sam Clark, Dewey Corley, Mose Vinson, Hammie Nixon and Sleepy John Estes, Willie Morris, Mrs. Van Hunt, Mississippi Fred McDowell, Richard "Hacksaw" Harney, Willie "61" Blackwell, Rev. Robert Wilkins, Houston Stackhouse, "Sweet Charlene", and Bukka White.