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### Guide to the Herbert Zane Knauss Collection

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# Columbia

COLLEGE CHICAGO

## CENTER FOR BLACK MUSIC RESEARCH COLLECTION

### The Herbert Zane Knauss Collection, 1975-1977

#### EXTENT

Papers: 1 box, 2.5 inches

Media: 16 reel-to-reel, 5 audio cassettes, 1 linear foot

#### COLLECTION SUMMARY

The collection , consists of sound recordings of radio broadcasts Zane Knauss produced about jazz artists, including the *Composers Profile* features on Duke Ellington and Sy Oliver, and the original soundtrack for his documentary film, *Cheraw for Dizzy*, about Dizzy Gillespie, along with other materials and documents related to the film.

#### PROCESSING INFORMATION

This collection was processed by and the finding aid created by Suzanne Flandreau in 2008.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Herbert Zane Knauss (1926 – 2014) was a lifelong jazz enthusiast who steeped himself in the music from an early age. He was a 1944 graduate of McKeesport High School in Pennsylvania. As a youth there he worked three jobs in order to afford tickets to big band performances at Pittsburgh's Stanley Theater and Lowe's Penn, including those by Duke Ellington, whom he first met in the late 1940s in Meadville, Pennsylvania. At the time, Knauss was working for what he called a "one-lung" radio station as an early morning DJ, at the start of his career in broadcast.

His main career focus, however, was arts promotion. Knauss was a publicist for the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and then General Manager for the Arts at Southern Methodist University until he moved to the University of South Carolina in 1968 to become the director of the public relations office. He later served as their Director of Information Services for many years. Knauss has also done publicity and marketing for the Chicago Symphony and the University of South Carolina Symphony, as well as overseas tour planning for a number of major American orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic.

In 1975, Knauss combined his love of jazz with local pride. His idea for a documentary about a South Carolina native, Dizzy Gillespie, was accepted for funding by SC ETV, on the condition that Mr. Gillespie return to his hometown of Cheraw for filming. He agreed, and the documentary was completed in just three days. Knauss wrote the script and did the interviews and soundtrack for the film. *Cheraw for Dizzy* aired in the southeast over the SECA network in the spring of that year.

Knauss was also producer and scriptwriter for many other public television and radio programs. In 1976 and 1977, he produced a five-part series for South Carolina Education Radio entitled *Composers Profiles* consisting of interviews with several important jazz artists. In 2002, he wrote the script for a special about World War II veterans, South Carolina's Greatest

Generation, which aired on SC ETV; he was himself part of that generation, having served in the Marines in the Pacific war. Other credits include scriptwriting for the award-winning *Vanishing Towns*, a documentary about troubled South Carolina communities also produced by SC ETV, and co-production of an eight-part series for public radio entitled *African American Music Tree*. A collection of transcripts of Knauss's interviews was published as volume 2 of the "Conversations with..." series, as *Conversations with Jazz Musicians* (Detroit: Bruccoli Clark, 1977). He died in South Carolina in 2014.

### **SCOPE & CONTENT/COLLECTION DESCRIPTION**

The collection mostly consists of sound recordings and include the complete soundtrack for a Dizzy Gillespie documentary because there is no known copy of the film in the vaults at SC ETV. Other sound recordings include non-commercial concerts featuring Dizzie Gillespie and the New York City All-High School Chorus in the 1970s, as well as jazz interviews for Knauss' book *Conversations with Jazz Musicians*, and interviews for the *Composers Profile* radio show. The collection papers measure a ¼ inch and document the *Cheraw for Dizzy* film.

### **ARRANGEMENT**

The collection is arranged into two series:

1. Sound Recordings
2. *Cheraw for Dizzy* documents

The sound recordings are further grouped into the following:

1. The Dizzy Gillespie documentary (5 tapes)
2. The Composers Profile radio show (6 tapes)
3. The jazz interviews later included in his book (2 tapes)
4. George Wein tapes (3 tapes)

The sound recordings include tapes from George Wein, the well-known founder of the Newport Jazz Festival, non-commercial recordings of a concert featuring Dizzy Gillespie at Carnegie Hall in the 1970s performing with the New York City All-High School Chorus. The director of the chorus at that time, John Motley, was also from Cheraw, and clips were used for the film. Use is restricted to research only.

The Dizzy Gillespie documentary contains the complete soundtrack for the documentary, and there is no known copy of the film in the vaults at SC ETV.

### **RELATED MATERIALS**

[Guide to the Dizzy Gillespie Collection](#), Smithsonian National Museum of American History  
[Collection on Dizzy Gillespie](#), University of Idaho Special Collections  
[Don and Barbara Gillis Collection](#), University of North Texas  
[Louis Bellson Collection](#), Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.  
[Sy Oliver Papers](#), New York Public Library Archives & Manuscripts  
[Billy Taylor Papers](#), Library of Congress

### **ACQUISITION SOURCE**

The collection was received from Zane Knauss in 1993 and the film audio was received in 1994.

## **SUBJECT HEADINGS**

Jazz, Radio broadcasts, Dizzy Gillespie, Duke Ellington

## **ACCESS STATEMENT**

Materials designated as restricted materials can only be used onsite; otherwise the collection is open and available for research use.

## **RIGHTS STATEMENT**

United States copyright laws apply to the materials in this collection.

## **PREFERRED CITATION**

The Herbert Zane Knauss Collection, Center for Black Music Research Collection, Columbia College Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.

## **THE HERBERT ZANE KNAUSS COLLECTION INVENTORY:**

- a. *Composers Profiles* (1976): [A six-part radio program produced by Knauss for SC Education Radio] – subject: “Recollections of Duke Ellington”  
(on five ten-inch reels & five cassette dubs):
  - #1 Don Gillis
  - #2 Louis Bellson
  - #3 Sy Oliver (one ten-inch reel)
  
- b. Five-inch reel-to-reel tapes of interviews (six reels):  
*Dizzy in Cheraw* tapes:
  - #1-#3 Dizzy Gillespie interview in the Valerie Motel, Cheraw (1975)
  - #4 Onsite for documentary in a Cheraw bar (1975)  
*Conversations with Jazz Musicians* interviews:
  - #5 Sy Oliver interview (1977)
  - #6 Billy Taylor interview (1977)
  
- c. Seven-inch reel-to-reel tapes (four reels):
  - #1 Soundtrack to documentary film *Cheraw for Dizzy*. (1976)
  - #2-4 Carnegie Hall concert featuring Dizzy Gillespie produced by George Wein in the 1970s. [**RESTRICTED:** For in-house, archival use only.]

Box 1:

*Cheraw for Dizzy* rough script, cue sheets, and transcript of interview with Dizzy Gillespie.

Clippings about the Carnegie Hall concert tapes from George Wein.