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Guide to the Guido Sinclair Collection

Columbia College Chicago

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CENTER FOR BLACK MUSIC RESEARCH COLLECTION

The Guido Sinclair Collection

EXTENT

6 boxes, 2.5 linear feet

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Original compositions, program flyers, photocopies of news clippings and photographs of Guido Sinclair. Also includes cassettes of interviews with artists who played with Sinclair at Nature's Table, a much-loved Urbana jazz venue, as well as recordings of performances of Sinclair's original compositions. These papers date mainly from a later period of his life when he was a resident and frequent performer in Champaign, Illinois.

PROCESSING INFORMATION

The collection was arranged, and a finding aid created, in 1997.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Guido Sinclair was born Sinclair Greenwell, Jr. in Fort Worth, Texas and later moved to Los Angeles, California, where he met Horace Tapscott and became a founding member of the band Pan Afrikan Peoples Arkestra in the early 1960s, as he and Horace Tapscott met in high school. A jazz saxophonist, he performed with many well-known jazz and rhythm and blues artists. In the late 1970s, he moved to Chicago, Illinois, and later moved downstate to Champaign-Urbana, Illinois, where he married Shirley Blankenship, a harpist. He died in 1992.

SCOPE & CONTENT/COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

However, his papers date mainly from a later period of his life, when he was a resident and frequent performer in Champaign, Illinois. Of particular note are manuscript jazz charts of his compositions and fliers and posters from his Champaign performances.

ARRANGEMENT

The collection is arranged in 9 series:

1. Guido Sinclair Compositions
2. Promotional Fliers
3. Papers and Documents
4. Arrangements of his music by Shirley Blankenship
5. Music by other composers/friends
6. Published and Hand-Copied Music
7. Scrapbooks
8. Other Materials
9. Media Materials

RELATED MATERIALS

[Shirley Meyer Blankenship Music and Papers](#), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Archives

[Guido Sinclair Interview](#), Nature's Table Archives Project

ACQUISITION SOURCE

Donated by Shirley Blankenship, 1995-1996.

SUBJECT HEADINGS

Nature's Table (Urbana, Ill.), African American jazz musicians; Shirley Blankenship; Horace Tapscott

ACCESS STATEMENT

Materials designated as restricted materials are housed in specially marked folders, 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 Guido Sinclair Collection, Center for Black Music Research Collection, Columbia College Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.

THE GUIDO SINCLAIR COLLECTION INVENTORY:

SERIES 1 - Box 1: Guido Sinclair Original compositions
manuscript jazz charts

1056

Airnonaskum, 1985

Asil Kledanaac, 1988

Azibu Umwana,

Azz Izz, 1973

Be Careful

Be Truthful, 1990

Black Brown Yellow

Blue Groove

Bobby Hobby, 1988

Bro David

Bucky In The Bushes, 1987

Bucky's Song, 1989

Celibacy

Clyde Pride, 1983

Don't Let Emit Catch Ya, 1950

Drumski

Ella and Liza

Everytime I Am Worthy

For Brother Duke

For Those Who Care

Gentle Kind 89

Grigg's Groove, 1981

Guess Who

Half Step Up

Hicup [sic.] Song

How Long Must We Wait

Hymn For the Black Mother
In Came Beard, 1961
In The Bushes, 1989
In The Middle
Is It Here [also "Here It Is"]
I Thought So, 1990
Jackie
A Kiss For Kenny, 1982
Knute's Tune, 1992
Larry's Tempo, 1990
Little Alf
Lovable Sweet Messenger
Machota, 1987
Mac Minor, 1985
Mack Time, 1988
The Magic Lick, 1987
Mama Ida, 1988
Maryamber's Request, 1985
Master Bates, 1988
Maureen's Dreams
Mogo's Gone, 1987
The Mo-Hop
The Mopper
Nature's Table , 1982
The New Found
Not Enough of Too Much, 1965
'Nuff Said
One For Hasha [?] [title crossed out]
One For Jazzmin, 1985
One For Madhu

One For Meeks
One For Nancy
Ping Pong Poppa
Popcorn Lover
Quit It , 1980
Rekipuki, 1985
Sagjleo, 1983
Sarahsoda
Saykome , 1985
Seredy
Shirl's World, 1950
Shirley's Delight, 1985
Something To Live For
The Squirrel
Terry's Tune, 1985
Theme For Ernie
Things To Come
Too Hot To Squat
Typsy Gypsy
Tuffy's Jungle
Unknown
Wheels Rhapsody, 1982
Why Don't You Listen
Untitled - [various]
Untitled - Flute part [2 pieces]

SERIES 2: Box 2: Promotional Fliers

Primarily from his Champaign performances, most undated

Tributes to Guido Sinclair, July 12, 13, 14, [no year].

Time Zones, Fri. and Sat., Jan. 15-16, [no year].

Nature's Table, "Now Blow," Sat. Jan. 20th, [no year].

Variety in Motion, "After All These Years," Sat. March 18, [no year].

Nature's Table, "Body and Soul," Fri. Apr. 14, [no year].

Nature's Table, "Superfest," Apr. 14, 15, 16, [no year].

Happy Blues Band at Raffaell's, Mon. Apr. 18, [no year].

Nature's Table, "Jam Session," Sun. Apr. 19, [no year].

Nature's Table, "Jazz Local Riffs," Fri. May 12, [no year].

Nature's Table, "The New Happy Blues Band," Mondays May 12, 19, [no year].

Nature's Table, "High Summer Jazz," July 3 - Aug. 2, [no year]. (schedule).

Nature's Table, schedule, Aug. 19 - 27, [no year].

Nature's Table, "Hello," Wed. Aug. 27, [no year].

Nature's Table, "Richard 'Groove' Holmes," Sept. 2, [no year].

Nature's Table, schedule, Sept. 3 - 14, [no year].

Variety in Motion, Sat. Sept. 9, [no year].

Nature's Table, "Presents George Freeman," Sat. Sept. 13, [no year].

Nature's Table, "Made in America," Fri. Oct. 9, [no year].

Nature's Table, "Guido Sinclair and the Leonards," Tue. Oct. 24, [no year].

Nature's Table, "Jazz at Nature's Table," Tue. Oct. 26 - Sat. Nov. 6, [no year].

Nature's Table, "Gene Ammons, 'We Remember'," Fri. Nov. 4, [no year].

Nature's Table, "Tribute to 'Jaws'," [Eddie "Lockjaw" Davis], Thurs. Nov. 13, [no year].

Nature's Table, "Mugros," Wed. Nov. 23, [no year].

Nature's Table schedule, Nov. 28 - Dec. 16, [no year].

Nature's Table, "Guido Sinclair All-Stars," Mon. Dec. 3, [no year].

Nature's Table, "Christmas Special," Fri. Dec. 22, [no year].

Nature's Table, "Guido Sinclair All-Stars, with 'Hot Hands'," Friday the 13th [sic.], [no month or year].

Nature's Table, "Tribute to Gene Ammons," Thurs. Nov. 20, 1986.

Nature's Table, "Summertime at Nature's Table," (schedule), Fri. June 12 - Sat. June 20, 1987.

Nature's Table, schedule, Nov. 15 - Dec. 11, 1988.

Nature's Table, "Happy New Decade," Jan. 4, 1990.

Nature's Table, "Guido Sinclair All-Stars," Wed. Sept. 12, 1990.

Guido Sinclair Death announcements (fliers), 1992

Miscellaneous fliers

SERIES 3: BOX 2: Papers and Documents

Copy of Birth Certificate

News clippings and Reviews

Photos and copies of photos of Guido and others

Photocopies of Guido photo

Variety in Motion - tape covers and ad

Obituaries

Misc. drawings, Christmas cards

Poems, literature by other authors

Frances Keenan Funeral program, Feb. 7, 1991.

Saint Sinclair's Synerjazz

Copy of Guido photo with Jeff Stitely and Mike Kokour

Guido Sinclair / Shirley Blankenship autobiographies, press release

"The Gift of Giving." [poem for Guido].

“About Guido” - Bio.

Guido Sinclair Funeral service program

Copy of handwritten note from Guido to Shirley / typed letter from Shirley to Guido.

Guido's Da Capo

Squareknot Quartet /Clazz fliers, misc.

Eledantz Eight fliers - New Year's Eve [no year].

Sketch of Guido, by Ellina[?], 1986.

Synerjazz acknowledgements by Shirley Blankenship

Guido photo, “Hands, Horn and Wedding Bells.”

Guido photo, “Smile Though Your Heart Is Breaking.”

SERIES 4: Box 3: Arrangements of his music by Shirley Blankenship (Anne Jazzmin)

Black Brown Yellow ©12/21/90

Be Truthful

Be Careful ©12/90

I Thought So ©12/90

In The Middle

Ping Pong Poppa

Popcorn

Shirley's Delight

Lead sheets for string arrangement for all except “Shirley's Delight”

SERIES 5: BOX 3: 5. Music by other composers/friends

David Swain - Rocket Talk

Kevin Engel - Responsibilities

Tom Paynter - Blind Fly

Blue Magoo

A Child Is Born

Eddy

I'll leave You To Dance (Get Down With Your Groovy Self)

Lava Man

Spasm

Yayul's Network

Zoo Beep

Nate Griffin arrangements

I Saw A Scream

Unidentified [2]

The Music of Guido Sinclair, 1935-1992

3 spiral bound computer-generated books of parts for

- Bb instruments

- Eb instruments

- Bass

SERIES 6: BOX 4: Published and Hand-Copied Music

Published sheet music - 9 folders

A-C

D-F

G-H

I-L

M-O

P-R

S-T

U-Z

Unidentified, indices, etc.

Hand-copied music - 8 folders

A-B

C-D

E-G

H-I

J-L

M-O

P-S

T-Z

SERIES 7: BOX 5: Scrapbooks

Volume 1

Wedding pictures, Shirley Blankenship and Guido Sinclair

Guido with the Squareknot Quartet

Drawing from the Black Bear Bar

Eledantz Eight - Jumer's Castle Lodge

Clazz or Jazzical programs

Pictures: Guido and Anne

Eledantz Eight

Sandy, Dorothy and Leon

Guido's Mom and Dad

Birth Certificate

High School band

Guido and Anne

Guido as Professor

Nature's Table with George Freeman

Guido with Bruce Brooks and Mary Clark

Early Champaign

Guido pictures

Pogo Studios

Volume 2

News articles

Clazz with the Squareknot Quartet

Eledantz Eight

Variety in Motion

Reviews

Picture at Pogo Studios

Cassette Insert

Ads

Certificate of Appreciation

Write-ups about Guido

Fliers from Nature's Table

Drawings, fliers from other jazz clubs

Drawings by Fred Manwell

Volume 3

Official cards

Birth certificate

Marriage blood tests

Lanter card

Car bills

Business cards

Names and addresses

Ingrid Teclaw program

Personal pictures

 Mom, Dad, Danny

Santa Fe High School

Cards and correspondence

Funeral program

Newspaper death notices

Ad write-ups

Sympathy cards

New items: Synerjazz

 programs

 Squirrel drawing

 About the Guido Connection

Volume 4

Items found in Guido's tote bag (1996)

Items in the file folders from the room where Guido died

Volume 5:

Old scrapbook pictures of :

 Thelonious Monk

 Sonny Stitt

 Guido Sinclair

 Guido's sister Jackie

 Edith Keenan - Guido's former girlfriend

 Dexter Gordon

 Prince James

SERIES 8: BOX 6: Other Materials

Saint Sinclair's Synerjazz - The Music of Guido Sinclair, 1935-1992.

Shirley Blankenship Greenwell [Anne Jazzmin], editor/publisher; 1992.

Saint Sinclair's Synerjazz - The Music of Guido Sinclair, 1935-1992.

Shirley Blankenship Greenwell [Anne Jazzmin]], editor/publisher; revised 1995.

Documentation of the Recordings of Guido Sinclair, 1935-1992.

Press Book: About Guido's Song Titles

Jazz Violin - Transcriptions and Original Compositions: Based on the Music of Guido Sinclair, Jazz Saxophonist/Composer, 1935-1992.

Blankenship, Dr. Shirley. Three Trios For Violin, Clarinet, Piano and Percussion. Based on the music of Guido Sinclair, Jazz saxophonist and composer, 1935-1992. Four parts: Violin, clarinet, piano, percussion; score.

Press Book: About the life of Shirley Meyer Blankenship, 1938- ; tapes and data.

Zanter, Mark. "Seredy" : Duo for Violin and Guitar. Derived from a song originally written by Guido Sinclair.

Newsletters of jazz organizations (1 folder)

Music notebooks (9 items)

Notebooks (2 items)

Address books (2 items)

Laminated clippings and posters (1 folder)

SERIES 9: BOX 6: Media Materials

Cassette Tapes

Guido Sinclair, *Variety in Motion*, Vol. 1.

The Guido Connection at the Blind Pig; Oct. 20, 1994.

CD

Standard Time Quintet, *Be Truthful*.

Videocassettes

Variety in Motion at Nature's Table (2 copies)

Memorial tribute to Guido Sinclair at Candy's Club, Champaign, Illinois, July 7, 1992.

Tribute to Guido Sinclair at the White Street Arts Center, July 1992.