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2020

Guide to the Hale Smith and Melba Liston Recordings

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COLLEGE CHICAGO

CENTER FOR BLACK MUSIC RESEARCH COLLECTION

Hale Smith and Melba Liston Recordings, 1971-1982

EXTENT

5 reel-to-reel tapes, .5 linear foot

COLLECTION SUMMARY

These recordings were taped in Hale Smith's Black Studies class at University of Connecticut-Storrs and include class lectures by Melba Liston, WKCR radio program, and a studio track of "The Marijuana Affair" by Melba Liston, conducted by Hale Smith.

PROCESSING INFORMATION

The tape inventory and digitization was done by Laurie Lee Moses in 2011.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Hale Smith was a classical composer, performer, teacher, and arranger who performed both jazz and classical music; he also served as adviser for the Center for Black Music Research. He taught at Long Island University and at the University of Connecticut, in Storrs, CT. His papers are held at the Amistad Research Center, New Orleans, LA.

Melba Liston was a composer, arranger, and jazz trombonist whose collection is housed in the CBMR – see the Melba Liston Collection for more information.

SCOPE & CONTENT/COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The three Melba Liston class lectures took place in 1971, 1973, and 1982. The studio track of "Marijuana Affair" with Hale Smith conducting was recorded in 1975 and a tape marked Hale Smith Practicing Piano includes three tracks from 1982. The 1982 radio recording was taped from WKCR 89.9FM, Columbia University, New York station.

ARRANGEMENT

The five reel-to-reel audio tapes, 7" remain in their original boxes/containers, with accompanying notes tucked inside Tape 2.

RELATED MATERIALS

CBMR -Melba Liston Collection

CBMR- Hale Smith material in collections:

Paul Freeman Collection

Dominique-Rene de Lerma Collection

Eileen Southern Collection

External

[Black Experience in the Arts Collection](#), University of Connecticut Archives & Special Collections

[Hale Smith Papers](#), Amistad Research Center, New Orleans, LA

ACQUISITION SOURCE

Received from Randy Weston and Juanita Smith in 2011.

SUBJECT HEADINGS

Liston, Melba; Smith, Hale; Recordings, Jazz, Lectures and lecturing, WKCR

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

Hale Smith and Melba Liston Recordings, Center for Black Music Research Collection, Columbia College Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.

HALE SMITH AND MELBA LISTON RECORDINGS INVENTORY

- Tape 1, Side A: dated 9/25/1973. Class lecture by Melba Liston for Professor Hale Smith's Black Studies class. Side B is blank. 3-3/4 ips.
- Tape 2, Sides A & B: tracks from "The Marijuana Affair," recorded in the studio on August 15, 1975. Music by Melba Liston, conducted by Hale Smith. Wm. Greaves productions/Jamaica Films Ltd. Personnel and track notes on note paper folded inside the tape container. 7-1/2 ips.
- Tape 3, Side A: dated 9/15/1971. Class lecture by Melba Liston for Professor Hale Smith's Black Studies class. Tape 4, Side A is a duplicate.
- Tape 3, Side B: recorded from radio/analog disc, dated August 7, 1982 and marked "Tape XII – WKCR." Tape 4, Side B is a duplicate. 3-3/4 ips.
- Tape 4, Sides A & B: duplicates of Tape 3, Sides A & B.
- Tape 5, Side A: dated 11/9/1982. Class lecture by Melba Liston for Professor Hale Smith's Black Studies class. 3-3/4 ips.
- Tape 5, Side B: dated 11/23/1982. Improvisations at the piano by Hale Smith. Marked: "H. Smith Practice piano." 7-1/2 ips. duration: 23'14", 3 tracks.