

Columbia College Chicago

Digital Commons @ Columbia College Chicago

CBMR Collection Guides / Finding Aids

Center for Black Music Research

2020

Guide to the Theodore Charles Stone Collection

Columbia College Chicago

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.colum.edu/cmbr_guides



Part of the [History Commons](#), and the [Music Commons](#)



CENTER FOR BLACK MUSIC RESEARCH COLLECTION

The Theodore Charles Stone Collection, 1915-2001

EXTENT

101 boxes, 45.2 linear feet

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Theodore Charles Stone (1912–1998) was a Chicago-based opera singer and journalist who served as president of both the National Association of Negro Musicians and Chicago Music Association. The Theodore Charles Stone papers span from 1915–2001 and provide insight into the African American operatic music scene throughout the 20th century.

PROCESSING INFORMATION

Processed by CLIR funded Black Metropolis Research Consortium “Color Curtain Processing Project.” By T.J. Szafranski and Dominique Fuqua, October 18th, 2012.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Theodore Charles Stone (1912–1998) was a Chicago-based performer and journalist who worked with the National Association of Negro Musicians and Chicago Music Association to provide opportunities for African American musicians to perform. Stone was born on November 18, 1912 in Gainesville, Texas, and attended Samuel Huston College in Houston, Texas, before relocating to Chicago to attend the Chicago Musical College. Following this, Stone was awarded a scholarship to the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, Finland, and as the first African American to study there, he earned a certificate in Performing Arts and Opera, Concert Repertoire. Stone spent much of the 1940s and 1950s giving recitals across the United States before beginning a career as a music journalist. He wrote for the Chicago Bee, the Pittsburgh Courier, the Chicago Defender, the Metropolitan Post, and the Chicago Crusader. Stone served as president of the National Association of Negro Musicians (NANM) from 1968–1975, and as president of the Chicago Music Association, the first branch of the NANM, from 1954–1996.

SCOPE & CONTENT/COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The Theodore Charles Stone Collection includes programs, flyers, invitations to concerts and performances, subject and research files on musicians and organizations, funeral programs and obituaries for Chicago musicians, articles written by Stone, material originating from the National Association of Negro Musicians and the Chicago Music Association, photographs, publications, and sheet music. Of particular interest is the minutes book used to record meetings by the Chicago Music Association from 1936–1940, with other materials inserted, dated from 1932–1943.

ARRANGEMENT

The papers are arranged into six series:

1. Theodore Charles Stone Personal Papers
This series relates to Stone's musical interests as a performer, organizer, and journalist.

Subseries:
 - a. Correspondence
 - b. Writings
 - c. Theodore Charles Stone Performances
 - d. Subject Files
 - e. Programs
 - f. Media Publications
2. National Association of Negro Musicians
Contains documents regarding NANM, arranged by type of material
3. Chicago Music Association
Arranged by type of material.
4. Photographs
Photographs depicting Stone's personal life, performances, and National Association of Negro Musicians and Chicago Music Association events. Also, photographs of other musicians and friends are included, arranged alphabetically. Scrapbooks, which include photographs and newspaper clippings, are also present.
5. Sheet Music
Contains Stone's personal collection of sheet music arranged by composer and/or type.
6. Realia
This series contains plaques and awards Stone received from the National Association of Negro Musicians, the Chicago Music Association, and other organizations.

RELATED MATERIALS

- Collection of Materials on the National Association of Negro Musicians (NANM)
- R. Nathaniel Dett Club of Music and Allied Arts
- National Association of Negro Musicians – records from 1919-present
- Eileen Southern Collection. Research materials on Nora Douglas Holt, other founders of NANM.
- Helen Walker-Hill Collection. Research materials on Nora Douglas Holt, including photocopies of *Music and Poetry*.

External Collections:

- [Theodore Charles Stone Collection](#), Vivian G. Harsh Research Collection, Chicago Public Library, Chicago, IL
- [Sydonia Brooks Collection/National Association of Negro Musicians Papers](#), Vivian G. Harsh Research Collection, Chicago Public Library, Chicago, IL

ACQUISITION SOURCE

Donated by Theodore Charles Stone in 1997, with additional accruals donated by Barbara Wright-Pryor, in 1998, 2001, and 2013.

SUBJECT HEADINGS

Stone, Theodore Charles, National Association of Negro Musicians (U.S.), Chicago Music Association, Chicago Crusader, Chicago Bee, Chicago Defender, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Opera singers

ACCESS STATEMENT

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 Theodore Charles Stone Collection, Center for Black Music Research Collection, Columbia College Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.

Theodore Charles Stone Collection Container List:

Series I: Theodore Charles Stone Personal Papers, 1915–1998

The bulk of material throughout this series relates to Stone’s musical interests as a performer, organizer, and journalist. This series is arranged into six subseries, “Correspondence,” “Writings,” “Theodore Charles Stone Performances,” “Subject Files,” “Programs,” and “Media Publications.”

Subseries 1: Correspondence, 1937–1997

“Correspondence” contains personal and professional letters regarding Stone’s musical and journalistic career, his involvement in Chicago’s African American operatic and musical community, and his interest in national and local music associations. This subseries is arranged chronologically.

| Box | Folder | Title | Date |
|-----|--------|----------------|-----------|
| 1-6 | 1-143 | Correspondence | 1937–1997 |

Subseries 2: Writings, 1969-1994

“Writings” includes copies of Stone’s column, “World of Music” from the Chicago *Crusader*, drafts of his articles and reviews, handwritten notes, and name files, which contain directories, registration lists, and mailing addresses. This subseries is arranged by type of material.

| Box | Folder | Title | Date |
|-----|---------|--|-----------|
| 7 | 144-146 | Chicago <i>Crusader</i> Column, “World of Music” | 1969-1994 |
| | 147-157 | Drafts of articles and reviews | Undated |
| 8 | 158-164 | Handwritten notes | Undated |
| 9 | 165-176 | Name files | Undated |

Subseries 3: Theodore Charles Stone Performances, 1944-1995

This subseries includes flyers and programs from events that featured Stone as a performer, and is arranged chronologically.

| Box | Folder | Title | Date |
|-----|---------|---|-----------|
| 10 | 177-181 | Stone Performances | 1944-1995 |
| 100 | 2348 | Concert program, “The Ordering of Moses,” Dunbar HS | 1961 |

Subseries 4: Subject Files, circa 1960-1994

“Subject Files” includes material from organizations and documents regarding specific individuals. The subseries is ordered by type of file, and arranged alphabetically. “Organizations” files include clippings and articles pertaining to musical, business, and political organizations. “People” files include publicity and research concerning individuals, most of whom were musicians. “Obituaries” are primarily those of local Chicago musicians and public figures. “Religious” files include material from religious organizations.

| Box | Folder | Title |
|-----|---------|---|
| 10 | 182 | Organizations (A-B) |
| | 183-184 | Organizations (C) |
| | 185 | Organizations (D-F) |
| 11 | 186 | Organizations (G-K) |
| | 187 | Organizations (L-M) |
| | | Subseries 4: Subject Files, circa 1960-1994, continued |
| | 188 | Organizations (N) |
| | 189 | Organizations (O) |
| | 190 | Organizations (O-S) |
| | 191 | Organizations (S-Z) |
| 12 | 192 | People (A-B) |
| | 193 | People (C-D) |
| | 194 | People (E-F) |

| | | |
|----|---------|------------------------------|
| | 195 | People (G-I) |
| | 196 | People (J-L) |
| | 197 | People (M-O) |
| 13 | 198 | People (P-R) |
| | 199 | People (S-T) |
| | 200 | People (U-Z and collections) |
| | 201 | Obituaries (A) |
| | 202 | Obituaries (B) |
| | 203-204 | Obituaries (C) |
| | 205 | Obituaries (D) |
| 14 | 206 | Obituaries (E) |
| | 207 | Obituaries (F) |
| | 208 | Obituaries (G) |
| | 209 | Obituaries (H-I) |
| | 210 | Obituaries (J) |
| | 211 | Obituaries (K) |
| | 212 | Obituaries (L) |
| | 213-215 | Obituaries (M) |
| | 216 | Obituaries (N-O) |
| | 217 | Obituaries (P) |
| 15 | 218 | Obituaries (R) |
| | 219 | Obituaries (S) |
| | 220 | Obituaries (T) |
| | 221 | Obituaries (U) |
| | 222-223 | Obituaries (W) |
| | 224 | Obituaries (W-Z) |
| | 225-228 | Religious (A-B) |
| 16 | 229-236 | Religious (C-E) |
| 17 | 237-244 | Religious (F-G) |
| 18 | 245-253 | Religious (H-M) |
| 19 | 254-260 | Religious (N-S) |
| 20 | 261-267 | Religious (S-V) |
| 21 | 268-271 | Religious (W-Z and unnamed) |

Subseries 5: Concerts and Programs, 1961-1998

This subseries contains flyers, programs, and invitations from events and performances. It includes documents from individual concert venues, such as Grant Park and Ravinia, and from individual performing acts, such as the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Lyric Opera of Chicago. This material is arranged alphabetically by the name of the venue or group. Other musical material from various venues and performers, and material from non-musical events is arranged chronologically.

Subseries 5: Concerts and Programs, 1961-1998

| Box | Folder | Title | Date |
|-----|---------|----------------------------------|-----------|
| 22 | 272 | Allied Arts Association | 1983-1991 |
| | 273 | Chicago Children's Choir | 1979-1987 |
| | 274-277 | Chicago Sinfonietta | 1987-1998 |
| | 278-280 | Chicago Symphony Orchestra | 1961-1979 |
| 23 | 281-286 | Chicago Symphony Orchestra | 1980-1998 |
| 24 | 287-288 | Chicago Umbrian Glee Club | 1973-1996 |
| | 289 | Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra | 1989-1995 |
| | 290 | Grant Park Concerts | 1970-1995 |
| | 291-292 | Lyric Opera of Chicago | 1961-1980 |
| 25 | 293-298 | Lyric Opera of Chicago | 1981-1997 |
| 26 | 299 | Lyric Opera of Chicago | Undated |
| | 300 | Orchestra of Illinois | 1978-1986 |
| | 301-305 | Ravinia | 1974-1993 |

| | | | |
|-----|---------|---|-----------|
| 27 | 306-307 | Ravinia | 1994-1997 |
| | 308-312 | Universities and Workshops | Undated |
| 28 | 313-318 | Stagebill | 1971-1989 |
| 29 | 319-322 | Stagebill | 1990-1996 |
| 30 | 323-339 | Programs | 1925-1974 |
| 100 | 2349 | Program—concert by Robert McKenzie Chorus | 1961 |
| 31 | 340-351 | Programs | 1974-1978 |
| 32 | 352-366 | Programs | 1978-1982 |
| 33 | 367-380 | Programs | 1982-1985 |
| 34 | 381-391 | Programs | 1986-1988 |
| 35 | 392-403 | Programs | 1988-1991 |
| 36 | 404-415 | Programs | 1991-1993 |
| 37 | 416-427 | Programs | 1994-1998 |
| 38 | 428-440 | Programs | Undated |
| 39 | 441-447 | Seasonal Programs | 1967-1987 |
| 40 | 448-450 | Seasonal Programs | 1988-1996 |
| 41 | 451-459 | Non-music Programs | 1950-1976 |
| 42 | 460-469 | Non-music Programs | 1977-1983 |
| 43 | 470-478 | Non-music Programs | 1984-1990 |
| 44 | 479-486 | Non-music Programs | 1990-1998 |
| 45 | 487-489 | Non-music Programs | Undated |

Subseries 6: Media Publications, 1934-1997

“Media Publications” includes journal articles, newsletters, press releases, magazine articles, and newspaper clippings that reflect Theodore Charles Stone’s musical interests and involvement with different music festivals, operas, and symphonies in Chicago.

| Box | Folder | Title | Date |
|--|-----------|----------------------------|-----------|
| 46 | 490-491 | Chicago Music Alliance | 1986-1997 |
| | 492 | Chicago Opera Theater | 1990-1995 |
| | 493 | Chicago Sinfonietta | 1989-1996 |
| | 494-498 | Chicago Symphony Orchestra | 1984-1997 |
| Subseries 6: Media Publications, 1934-1997, continued | | | |
| | 499-501 | Lyric Opera of Chicago | 1987-1997 |
| | 502-504 | Ravinia | 1984-1992 |
| 47 | 505-506 | Ravinia | 1993-1996 |
| | 507-524 | Publications | 1934-1977 |
| 48 | 525-545 | Publications | 1977-1984 |
| 49 | 546-562 | Publications | 1984-1987 |
| 50 | 563-583 | Publications | 1988-1991 |
| 51 | 584-603 | Publications | 1992-1996 |
| 52 | 604-623 | Publications | 1996-1997 |
| 53 | 624-639 | Publications | Undated |
| 54 | 640-647 | Publications | Undated |
| 97 | 2338-2344 | Oversized Publications | Undated |

Subseries 7: Personal, 1915-1916, 1961, 1980-1998, and undated

“Personal” includes biographical information, travel brochures, educational material, poems, quotes, song sheets, historical publications, solicitations, order forms, membership cards, personal and financial documents.

| Box | Folder | Title | Date |
|-------|-----------|---|-----------|
| 55-56 | 648-661 | Personal | Undated |
| 100 | 2350-2351 | Small publications published by Ford S. Black (2): <i>Colored People’s Guide Book for Chicago</i> and <i>Black’s</i> | 1915-1916 |

| | | | |
|----|------|--|-----------|
| | | <i>Blue Book 1917: Directory of Chicago's Active Colored People and Guide to Their Activities.</i> | |
| | 2352 | Honorary doctorate, McKinley Theological Seminary | 1980 |
| | 2353 | Griffin Funeral Home papers | 1997–1998 |
| 99 | | <i>The Chicago Crusader</i> , complete issue, 6/10/1961. Oversized. | 1961 |

Series II: National Association of Negro Musicians, 1921–1997

The National Association of Negro Musicians (NANM) was founded in Chicago in 1919 to advance the education and careers of African-American musicians. Since its inception, the NANM has sponsored scholarship contests for performers. The NANM has regional branches across the United States, as well as local and student chapters. Annual conferences are held each summer in a major city. This series contains documents regarding the NANM's founding, correspondence, meetings reports, conventions programs, and membership and financial records. This series is arranged by type of material.

| Box | Folder | Title | Date |
|-----|---------|--|------------|
| 57 | 662 | Articles of Incorporation | 1968 |
| | 663 | History | 1929–1984 |
| 100 | 2354 | History – Holt, Hutchison | 1921, 1929 |
| 57 | 664 | Handbook/Manuals | 1961–1980 |
| | 665 | Constitutions | Undated |
| | 666-677 | Memos/Correspondence | 1948–1974 |
| 58 | 678-695 | Memos/Correspondence | 1974–1997 |
| 59 | 696-713 | Newsletters | 1957–1996 |
| 60 | 714-729 | Annual Conventions | 1955–1997 |
| 100 | 2355 | Annual Conventions: typescript of address by TCS | 1969 |

Series II: National Association of Negro Musicians, 1921–1997, continued

| | | | |
|----|---------|------------------------------------|-----------|
| 60 | 730 | Mid Winter Board Meetings | 1960–1975 |
| 61 | 731-737 | Central Region Conferences | 1968–1995 |
| | 738 | Branch Reports | 1970–1991 |
| | 739-742 | Reports from Directors of Branches | 1972–1997 |
| | 743-745 | Reports of the Central Region | 1969–1991 |
| 62 | 746-749 | Reports of the Eastern Region | 1973–1997 |
| | 750 | Reports of the Southern Region | 1973–1983 |
| | 751 | Reports of the Western Region | 1971–1989 |
| | 752-756 | Financial/Membership Records | 1956–1996 |
| | 757-759 | Scholarship Papers | 1972–1995 |
| 63 | 760-771 | Concerts/Events | 1941–1994 |
| | 772-773 | Convention Programs | 1939–1971 |
| 64 | 774-779 | Convention Programs | 1972–1997 |

Series III: Chicago Music Association, 1932–2001

The Chicago Music Association (CMA) was founded in 1919 to provide performance opportunities for classically trained African American musicians. The CMA and a group of musicians from Washington, D. C. formed the National Association of Negro Musicians (NANM), with CMA becoming its first branch. This series contains correspondence, administrative records, newsletters, membership information, financial documents, and material from concerts and events put on by the CMA. This series is arranged by type of material.

| Box | Folder | Title | Date |
|-----|---------|---|-----------|
| 65 | 780 | History | |
| | 781-821 | Correspondence and Administrative Documents | 1945-1990 |
| 66 | 822-828 | Correspondence and Administrative Documents | 1991-1996 |
| 100 | 2356 | Correspondence – Nora Holt to TCS | 1969 |
| | 2357 | Flyer: CMA Tribute Committee | Undated |

| | | | |
|-----|-----------|---|--------------------------|
| 66 | 829-854 | Newsletters | 1956-1997 |
| | 855-859 | Concerts/Events | 1942-1978 |
| 67 | 860-869 | Concerts/Events | 1979-2001 |
| | 870-875 | Members | Undated |
| | 876 | Financial Documents | 1960-1993 |
| 101 | 1 volume | Minutes book, 292 numbered pages | 1936-1940? |
| 101 | 2361-2370 | Materials laid in to Minutes book, removed | 1932-1943 and undated |
| 101 | 2371 | Notes on bookmarks, with page references, by Barbara Wright-Pryor | Undated |

Series IV: Photographs, circa 1932-1997 and undated

Photographs in this series depict Stone's personal life, performances, and National Association of Negro Musicians and Chicago Music Association events. Photographs of other musicians and friends are included and are arranged alphabetically. Also included in this series are scrapbooks, which include photographs and newspaper clippings.

| Box | Folder | Title | Date |
|-------|----------|---|-----------|
| 68-70 | 877-1224 | Theodore Charles Stone | |
| 100 | 2358 | Theodore Charles Stone: modeling career | 1960s |
| 100 | 2359 | Theodore Charles Stone: musical career | 1932-1996 |

Series IV: Photographs, circa 1932-1997 and undated, continued

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------|--|------|
| 71 | 1225-1303 | Others (A-B) | |
| 72 | 1304-1384 | Others (C-E) | |
| 73 | 1385-1499 | Others (F-J) | |
| 74 | 1500-1599 | Others (K-O) | |
| 75 | 1600-1676 | Others (P-R) | |
| 76 | 1677-1755 | Others (S-Z) | |
| 77 | 1756-1836 | National Association of Negro Musicians | |
| 78 | 1837-1884 | Chicago Music Association | |
| 100 | 2360 | Chicago Music Association: Billups, President | 1975 |
| 100 | 2360 | Chicago Music Association: group photo | 1997 |
| 79-81 | 1885-1916 | Unidentified | |
| 82 | N/A | Albums | |
| 83 | N/A | Scrapbooks | |
| 99 | N/A | Oversized Photos | |
| Poster file | N/A | National Association of Negro Musicians Photograph | |

Series V: Sheet Music, undated

This series contains Stone's personal collection of sheet music.

| Box | Folder | Title |
|-------|-----------|---|
| 84-86 | 1917-2131 | Sheet music arranged by composer |
| 87-93 | 2132-2328 | Sheet music - unidentified |
| 94-96 | 2329-2337 | Sheet music compilations - unidentified |
| 97 | 2345-2347 | Oversized sheet music - unidentified |

Series VI: Realia, undated

This series contains plaques and awards that Stone received from the National Association of Negro Musicians, the Chicago Music Association, and other organizations.

| Box | Folder | Title |
|-----|--------|--------|
| 98 | N/A | Realia |