
Guide to the Sacramento Traditional Jazz Society Collection

Collection processed and finding aid created by Lola Aguilar

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Collection number: 2001/062

Center for Sacramento History
Sacramento, California

Processed by:

Lola Aguilar

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Sacramento Traditional Jazz Society Collection

Date Range: 1950-2003 inclusive,

Date (bulk): 1974-1998 bulk

Collection Number: 2001/062

Collector: Sacramento Traditional Jazz Society

Extent: 57 linear feet

Repository: Center for Sacramento History

551 Sequoia Pacific Blvd.

Sacramento, California 95814

Location: See Finding Aid for exact location of materials.

Abstract: The Sacramento Traditional Jazz Society (STJS) began on Sunday May 5, 1968 with a group of local jazz musicians gathering at the Orangevale Grange Hall to play for a small group of jazz fans. The musicians included Dr. Bill Borchert, the Dean of Men at American River College and trumpet player for the Delta Moonlighters, John Knurr, a local high school music teacher, jazz trombonist Jerry Kaehele, and George Boyd and his Good Time Go-to-Meeting Band. The non-profit organization holds an annual Jazz Jubilee Festival on Memorial Day weekend and conducts jazz education programs and community outreach. The Sacramento Traditional Jazz Society is the largest traditional jazz organization in the United States. The files date from 1952 to 2003, with the bulk of the material dating from 1974 to 1998. The collection includes correspondence, financial documents, legal documents, meeting records, grant applications, publications, directors files, photographs, programs, and brochures.

Access

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Preferred Citation

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Acquisition Information

Acquired in 2001 from Mike Foley, agent of the Sacramento Traditional Jazz Society.

Processing History

Processed by Lola Aguilar, 2006. Finding aid prepared using DACS by Lola Aguilar, 2007. Machine-readable finding aid created by Lola Aguilar, 2007.

Administrative History

The Sacramento Traditional Jazz Society (STJS) began on Sunday May 5, 1968 with a group of local jazz musicians gathering at the Orangevale Grange Hall to play for a small group of jazz fans. The musicians included Dr. Bill Borcher, the Dean of Men at American River College and trumpet player for the Delta Moonlighters, John Knurr, a local high school music teacher, jazz trombonist Jerry Kaehele, and George Boyd and his Good Time Go-to-Meeting Band. Originally named the New Sacramento Traditional Jazz Society, the musicians met informally in the afternoon on the first Sunday of the month and elected Jerry Kaelhele as the first President, Jack Burke as Vice President, and Roy Harper as Secretary-Treasurer. As news of the Jazz Society spread, more jazz musicians joined the Sunday sessions and their membership grew. In October 1969, Bill Borcher helped friends arrange a fundraiser on the Delta King riverboat, which attracted a crowd of 4,000. Publicity from the fundraiser and two successful fundraisers in November and December of that year generated even more interest in jazz.

With a renewed public interest in jazz music, the STJS outgrew the Orangevale Grange Hall and by 1970 the musicians moved their Sunday concerts to larger venues, such as the El Rancho Motel and the Carmichael Elks Lodge. For the next three years paid guest artists and bands joined STJS musicians in performances around Sacramento. In late 1973, then-President Ozzie Belmore and Bill Borcher organized a committee to investigate the feasibility of a Jazz Festival in Sacramento. Other jazz festivals in Monterey and Newport had attracted wide audiences and the STJS believed Sacramento could accomplish the same. The committee decided on Memorial Day weekend because the high rate of vacancies of Sacramento area hotels would accommodate visitors. The STJS presented the Dixieland Jazz Jubilee on Memorial Day weekend in 1974. Seven performance sites in West Sacramento and in Old Sacramento featured 21 bands, 300 volunteers, and attracted 3,000 jazz fans. Admission badges for that first year cost \$12.50 for three days and revenues totaled \$32,000, but expenses totaled \$35,000. Despite the loss, the STJS decided to continue the Jubilee as an annual event.

The original intent of the STJS was to promote and preserve the roots of jazz, which to Bill Borcher and his colleagues meant Dixieland Jazz. After much heated discussion, the Jazz Jubilee decided in 1995, to include other types of jazz in an effort to attract a wider and younger audience. In addition to Dixieland, the music included Swing, Gospel, Latin Jazz, Zydeco, and Barbershop. Prestigious acts such as the Pied Pipers, Boots Randolph, Gary Crosby, Julius LaRosa, Pat Yankee, Bob Crosbys Bob Cats, the Ink Spots, and the Mills Brothers have performed at the Jubilee.

In 1979 the STJC incorporated as a non-profit organization with the mission of preserving and promoting traditional jazz music. The same year, the organization established a Youth Scholarship Program, which provides scholarships for young musicians for private music instruction with an emphasis on jazz. The program expanded into an annual Trad Jazz Camp in 1986. This week long camp provides intensive jazz instruction for approximately 100 young musicians ages 12-18. The Jazz Ambassadors, instituted in 1992, travel throughout Northern California providing information about STJS programs and events to hundreds of organizations at breakfast, lunch, and dinner meetings. The STJS included the Elderhostel program in 1992, which provides jazz instruction for seniors. In 2000, the Trad Jazz Camp added a week long camp for approximately 90 adults to its program.

According to their web site (<http://www.sacjazz.org>), the Sacramento Traditional Jazz Society is now the largest traditional jazz organization in the United States. Organization membership has reached 5,000 with 4 paid employees. The Jazz Jubilee now attracts over 100,000 attendees, with 146 bands including 9 international groups, and 1,097 musicians playing at 47 performance sites. Venues in Sacramento include Cal Expo, Old Sacramento, the Sacramento Community Center, and various hotels throughout the city. Volunteers now number 3,800 to ensure a successful festival, with revenues exceeding \$20 million.

Scope and Content

The Sacramento Traditional Jazz Society Collection is arranged in eight series: 1. Artifacts, 2. Administrative Files, 3. Jazz Jubilee, 4. Trad Jazz Camp, 5. Jazz Ambassadors, 6. Elderhostel, 7. Scrapbooks, and 8. Media. Items span the years 1950 to 2003, with the bulk of the items dating from 1974 to 1998. The first series, Artifacts, consists of 5 cubic feet and includes button badges, t-shirts, hats, and a garter. Appendix A includes the complete list of the artifacts.

The second series, Administrative Files, which consists of eight cubic feet and three map case drawers, is divided into eight subseries: Correspondence, Financial Documents, Meeting Records, Legal Documents, Reports, Grant Applications, Publications, and Ephemera. The items are arranged chronologically within each subseries and include balance sheets, treasurers reports, financial statements, committee reports, incorporation papers, by-laws and constitution, and musicians union information. These documents chronicle the growth of the organization from a small, informal gathering of musicians, to a highly successful non-profit organization. The documents include changes made to the constitution and the by-laws as the organization grew. Committee reports include valuable information about the direction of the STJS, with changes in the types of committees which were necessary during the years when the organization started to expand. The STJS efforts to acquire grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Sacramento Regional Foundation highlight the

organizations non-profit status. Publications contain an extensive collection of external jazz publications from other jazz organizations throughout the United States and Canada and are arranged alphabetically and are listed in Appendix B. Ephemera includes flyers and brochures from other jazz festivals in the Northern California area.

The third series contains the records of the Jazz Jubilee and consists of six cubic feet and three map case drawers, which are divided into twelve subseries: Correspondence, Directors Files, Financial Documents, Legal Documents, Reports, Meeting Records, Band Information, Site Information, Concessions, General Information, Publications, and Ephemera. Correspondence is divided between letters, arranged chronologically, and hardcopies of email correspondence, arranged chronologically within alphabetical order. Correspondence includes letters between Jubilee organizers and several musicians, notably one letter from an ailing Hoagy Carmichael written by his wife. General Information includes Jubilee files on only thirteen years, but includes complete information of those particular Jubilees. Internal publications include programs and newsletters but are also missing several years.

The fourth series, Trad Jazz Camp contains one cubic foot and includes correspondence, financial documents, minutes, class material, scholarship information, publications, and ephemera. Trad Jazz Camp newsletters are incomplete, but offer information about the inner workings of the camp. The fifth series, Jazz Ambassadors, consists of one file folder and includes general information detailing the duties and events concerning this program, including agendas and newsletter. The sixth series, Elderhostel, consists of one cubic foot. Items are arranged chronologically and include correspondence, class material, catalogs, newsletters, publications, ephemera, and general information about the programs. Class material includes handouts and class manuals used for jazz instruction. The seventh series, Scrapbooks, include general information STJS scrapbooks, Jubilee scrapbooks, jazz history scrapbooks, and band scrapbooks. The eighth series includes VHS videotapes, reel-to-reel audiotapes, cassette tapes, slides, negatives, and over five thousand photographs. Photographs include images of guest artists such as Molly Ringwald, Tommy Newsome, and Phil Harris. Jubilees through the years are represented by hundreds of color and black and white photographs. Jazz band photographs are arranged alphabetically with a complete list in Appendix C.

Arrangement

The Sacramento Traditional Jazz Society Collection is subdivided into eight series:

[Series I: Artifacts](#)

[Series II: Administrative Files](#)

[Series III: Jazz Jubilee](#)

[Series IV: Trad Jazz Camp](#)

[Series V: Jazz Ambassadors](#)

[Series VI: Elderhostel](#)

[Series VII: Scrapbooks](#)

[Series VIII: Media](#)

Corporate Name

Sacramento Traditional Jazz Society

Subjects:

Jazz

Jazz festivals

Sacramento (Calif.)--History

Boxes 1-7	Series 1. Artifacts, 1974-2000 Physical Description: 485 items Button Badges, 1974-2000 T-Shirts, 1978-1999 Hats, undated Garter undated
Boxes 8-15	Series 2 . Administrative Files, 1952-1999 Physical Description: 275 file folders

Box 8,
Folder 489-509

Subseries 2.1. **Correspondence, 1976-1996**

Physical Description: 21 file folders

Box 8-9,
Folder 510-519

Subseries 2.2. **Financial Documents, 1973-1998**

Physical Description: 10 file folders

Budgets, 1979-1997

Balance Sheets, 1987-1993

Treasurers Reports, 1979-1991

Financial Statements, 1980-1990

Monthly Meeting Expenses, 1973-1995

Invoices, 1974-1998

Box 9-10,
Folder 520-559

Subseries 2.3. **Meeting Records, 1972-1998**

Physical Description: 40 file folders

Committee Reports:

Building Feasibility, 1988

Education, 1989-1992

Fund Development, 1993-1994

Fundraising, 1987-1988

Jubilee Management, 1975-1993

Membership, 1990-1998

Music, 1975-1991

Policy, 1986-1993

Program, 1990-1992

Scholarship, 1980-1984

Steering, 1983-1984

Strategic Planning, 1990

Travel, 1988

Member and Committee Lists, 1980-1986

Master Membership List, Oversized Material, 1993-1995

Agendas, 1972-1997

Minutes, 1972-1997

Convention Material, 1993

General Information, 1969-1994

Box 10,
Folder 560-569

Subseries 2.4. **Legal Documents, 1968-1996**

Physical Description: 10 file folders

Incorporation, 1971-1981

By-laws and Constitution, 1981-1989

Contracts, 1984-1988

Musicians Union, 1984-1988

Lawsuits, 1979-1980

Certificate of Insurance, 1990

Mailing Permits, 1968-1986

Charitable Trust, 1991-1996

Box 10,
Folder 570-576

Subseries 2.5. **Reports, 1988-1996**

Physical Description: 7 file folders

AFJS Manuals, 1991

Building Feasibility Study, 1988

Communication Package, 1996
Downtown Sacramento Retail Strategy, 1995
STJS: Long Range Plan, 1991-1995
STJS Marketing Plan, undated
STJS Policy Manual, 1990

Box 10,
Folder 577-578

Subseries 2.6. **Grant Applications, 1978-1992**
Physical Description: 2 file folders

National Endowment for the Arts, 1978-1992
Sacramento Regional Foundation, Arts and Culture Grant, 1990

Box 11-14,
Folder 579-763

Subseries 2.7. **Publications, 1950-2001**
Physical Description: 185 file folders

Publications, 1950-2001
Press Releases, 1975-1992
News Clippings, 1972-1996

Box 14-15,
Folder 764-788

Subseries 2.8. **Ephemera, 1974-1999**
Physical Description: 25 file folders

STJS Flyers, 1970-1997
STJS Brochures, 1994
Non-STJS Annual Reports, 1989-1992
Other Jazz Festival Programs, 1985-1999
Other Jazz Festival Programs, Oversized Material, 1977-1996
Other Jazz Festival Flyers, 1974-1998
Other Brochures, 1985-1996
Certificates, 1981-1989
Certificates, Oversized Material, 1978-1983
"Dance Steps" Broadside, Oversized Material, undated
Other Jazz Festival Posters and Banners, Oversized Material, undated
Postcards, undated
Other, undated
Paste-ups, undated
Clip Art, undated

Boxes 16-21

Series 3. **Jazz Jubilee, 1969-2003**
Physical Description: 106 file folders

Box 16,
Folder 789-796

Subseries 3.1. **Correspondence 1973-2003**
Physical Description: 8 file folders

Correspondence, 1973-1998
Correspondence-Email Hardcopies, 1996-2003

Box 17,
Folder 797-802

Subseries 3.2. **Directors Files, 1969-1999**
Physical Description: 6 file folders

General Information, 1969-1999

Box 17,
Folder 803-807

Subseries 3.3. **Financial Documents, 1977-1995**
Physical Description: 5 file folders

Budgets, 1978-1995
Agreements, 1978-1990
Expenses, 1977-1995
Permits, 1977, 1991
Ticket Sale Logs, undated

Box 17,
Folder 808-815

Subseries 3.4. **Legal Documents, 1986-1997**

Physical Description: 8 file folders

Contracts, 1986-1997
Proof of Claim, 1977

Box 17-18,
Folder 816-829

Subseries 3.5. **Reports, 1989-2001**

Physical Description: 14 file folders

"The Arts from the CEOs Desk," 1995
"Attendance/Site/Band Reports," 1989-1996
"Concession Managers Report," 1992
"1996 Jubilee Percentage of Seat Occupancy Report," 1996
"Quality Research Report," 1996-1999
"Sacramento Jazz Jubilee Demographics Report," 1991-2001

Box 18,
Folder 830

Subseries 3.6. **Meeting Records, 1978**

Physical Description: 1 file folders

Committee Reports: Jubilee Fact-Finding, 1978

Box 18-19,
Folder 831-843

Subseries 3.7. **Band Information, 1978-1996**

Physical Description: 13 file folders

Musician Information, 1969-1980
Gold Card Members, 1970-1985
Artist Correspondence, 1979-1993
Artist Resumes, 1979-1996
Guest Artists, 1974-1990
Musician Sign-up Sheets, 1972-1996
Reprise (Set) Lists, 1972-1996
General Information, 1994

Box 20,
Folder 844-846

Subseries 3.8. **Site Information, 1984-1996**

Physical Description: 3 file folders

General Information, 1988-1996
Jubilee Site Maps, 1989-1994
Volunteers, 1984-1995

Box 20,
Folder 847-852

Subseries 3.9. **Concessions, 1979-1997**

Physical Description: 6 file folders

Concessions Inspection Report, 1988
Operations Newsletter, 1991-1993
Vendor Information, 1988-1997
Memoranda, 1979-1996

Box 20, Folder 853-863

Subseries 3.10. **General Information, 1987-2000**

Physical Description: 11 file folders

"1988-2000" Jubilee, 1987-2000

Box 21,
Folder 864-886

Subseries 3.11. **Publications, 1974-2001**

Physical Description: 23 file folders

"Jazz Jubilee," undated
"Jazz Jubilee Bugle," Oversized Material, 1974
"The Jubilee Volunteer," 1985-1999
"Jazz Sunday Programs," 1984-1987, 1998
"Jubilee Programs," Oversized Material, 1975-1994
"Official Program," 1974-2001
"Official Program," Oversized Material, 1987-1988
"Pianorama Program," 1985-2001
"Sacramento Jubilee Jazz," 1998
Press Releases, 1977-1984

Box 21,
Folder 887-894

Subseries 3.12. **Ephemera, 1974-2001**

Physical Description: 8 file folders

Jubilee Brochures, 1981-2000
Jubilee Bumper Stickers, Oversized Material, 1977-2000
Certificates, 1987-1997
Jubilee Flyers, 1980-1994
Jubilee BroadSides, Oversized Material, 1975-2001
Jubilee Posters, Oversized Material, 1977-2001
Other Festival Flyers, 1974-1999
Miscellaneous, undated

Boxes 21-22,
Folder 895-911

Series 4. **Trad Jazz Camp, 1973-1999**

Physical Description: 17 file folders

General Information, 1989-1992
Correspondence, 1978-1998
Financial Documents, 1986-1993
Minutes, 1985
Scholarships, 1991-1996
Class Material, 1987-1992
Fundraising Material, 1986-1988
Publications, 1973-1999
Ephemera, 1988-1998

Boxes 22,
Folder 912

Series 5. **Jazz Ambassadors, 1992-1995**

Physical Description: 1 file folder

Boxes 22-23,
Folder 913-938

Series 6. **Elderhostel, 1992-1999**

Physical Description: 25 file folders

Correspondence, 1994-1999
Financial Documents, 1994-1996
Legal Documents, 1994-1995
Program Material, 1992-1997
Tour Info, 1993-1998
Publications, 1994-1998

Boxes 23-31, Folder 939-967	Publications, Oversized Material, 1992-1995 Ephemera, 1996-1998 Series 7. Scrapbooks, 1952-1995 Physical Description: 66 volumes
Boxes 32, Folder 968-1791	Jubilee and STJS Scrapbooks undated Jubilee and STJC Scrapbooks, Oversized Material, 1974-1994 Series 8. Media, 1977-2000 Physical Description: 154 folder files
Box 32, Folder 968-976	Subseries 8.1. VHS Videotapes, 1989-1999 Physical Description: 9 file folders "Camp-Saturday P.M.," 1989 "Jazz for Kids Program," 1991 "Jazz Jubilee," 1991 "All that Jazz," 1992 "Hanson Thank You Luncheon," 1996 "Jazz Jubilee Volunteer Picnic," 1997 "Jazz Kids," 1998 "Jazz Jubilee," 1999 "NHK Network (Japan) T.V. Special," undated
Box 32, Folder 977-978	Subseries 8.2. Reel-to-Reel Audiotapes, 1971-1980 Physical Description: 2 file folders Scott Ellsworth Show, 1971 KCNU Bob Ringwald Interview, 1980
Box 32, Folder 979-980	Subseries 8.3. Cassette Tapes, 1978-2000 Physical Description: 2 file folders Jazz Jubilee, 1978 Capital Public Radio Jazz Preview, 2000
Box 32, Folder 981-1109	Subseries 8.4. Slides, 1987-1999 Physical Description: 7 file folders Jubilee and STJC, 1987-1999
Box 32, Folder 1110-1386	Subseries 8.5. Negatives, 1977-1997 Physical Description: 14 file folders Jubilee and STJS, 1977-1997
Box 32, Folder 1387-1791	Subseries 8.6. Photographs, 1976-2003 Physical Description: 140 file folders Musicians, Jubilee, STJS, Trad Jazz Camp, and Elderhostel, 1976-2003
