Guide to the Sacramento Traditional Jazz Society Collection

Collection processed and finding aid created by Lola Aguilar
Center for Sacramento History
551 Sequoia Pacific Blvd.
Sacramento, California 95814
Phone: (916) 264-7072
Fax: (916) 264-7582
Email: csh@cityofsacramento.org
URL: http://www.centerforsacramentohistory.org
© 2006
Center for Sacramento History. All rights reserved.
Guide to the Sacramento Traditional Jazz Society Collection

Collection number: 2001/062

Center for Sacramento History
Sacramento, California

Processed by: Lola Aguilar
Date Completed: December 2006
Encoded by: Lola Aguilar

© 2006 Center for Sacramento History. All rights reserved.

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 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. 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
Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights
Copyright has not been assigned to the Center for Sacramento History for private collections. All requests to publish or quote from private manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Archivist. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the Center for Sacramento History as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained by the reader. No permission is necessary to publish or quote from records.

Preferred Citation
[Identification of item, prepared according to standard citation style such as MLA, ALAL, or Turabian], [2001/062]. Sacramento Traditional Jazz Society Collection, Center for Sacramento History.

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

Processing History
Guide to the Sacramento Traditional Jazz Society Collection

2001/062

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 Kaehele 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 Elk’s 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 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 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Series</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Artifacts, 1974-2000</td>
<td>Physical Description: 485 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Button Badges, 1974-2000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-Shirts, 1978-1999</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hats, undated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garter undated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Boxes 8-15

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Series</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Administrative Files, 1952-1999</td>
<td>Physical Description: 275 file folders</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Guide to the Sacramento Traditional Jazz Society Collection
Subseries 2.1. Correspondence, 1976-1996

Physical Description: 21 file folders


Physical Description: 10 file folders

- Budgets, 1979-1997
- Balance Sheets, 1987-1993
- Treasurers Reports, 1979-1991
- Financial Statements, 1980-1990
- Invoices, 1974-1998

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
  - 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

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

Subseries 2.5. Reports, 1988-1996

Physical Description: 7 file folders

- AFJS Manuals, 1991
- Building Feasibility Study, 1988

Subseries 2.5. Reports, 1988-1996

Communication Package, 1996
Downtown Sacramento Retail Strategy, 1995
STJS Marketing Plan, undated
STJS Policy Manual, 1990

Box 10, Folder 577-578
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
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
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
Physical Description: 5 file folders
### Subseries 3.3. Financial Documents, 1977-1995

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box &amp; Folder</th>
<th>Subseries</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 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
- "Concession Managers Report," 1992

| Box 18, Folder 830 | Subseries 3.6. Meeting Records, 1978 | Physical Description: 1 file folders
- **Committee Reports: Jubilee Fact-Finding, 1978**

- **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
Physical Description: 11 file folders


Box 21, Folder 864-886
Physical Description: 23 file folders

"Jazz Jubilee," undated
"Jazz Jubilee Bugle," Oversized Material, 1974
"Sacramento Jubilee Jazz," 1998
Press Releases, 1977-1984

Box 21, Folder 887-894
Physical Description: 8 file folders

Jubilee Brochures, 1981-2000
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
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
Ephemera, 1988-1998

Boxes 22, Folder 912
Physical Description: 1 file folder

General Information, 1992-1995

Boxes 22-23, Folder 913-938
Physical Description: 25 file folders

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

Guide to the Sacramento Traditional Jazz Society Collection 2001/062 8

Ephemera, 1996-1998


Physical Description: 66 volumes

Jubilee and STJS Scrapbooks undated
Jubilee and STJC Scrapbooks, Oversized Material, 1974-1994


Physical Description: 154 folder files

Box 32, Folder 968-976
Subseries 8.1. VHS Videotapes, 1989-1999
Length: 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
Physical Description: 2 file folders

Jazz Jubilee, 1978
Capital Public Radio Jazz Preview, 2000

Box 32, Folder 981-1109
Physical Description: 7 file folders

Jubilee and STJC, 1987-1999

Box 32, Folder 1110-1386
Physical Description: 14 file folders

Jubilee and STJS, 1977-1997

Box 32, Folder 1387-1791
Physical Description: 140 file folders

Musicians, Jubilee, STJS, Trad Jazz Camp, and Elderhostel, 1976-2003

Guide to the Sacramento Traditional Jazz Society Collection
2001/062 9