Finding Aid for the A & M Records records, 1959-2001PASC-M.0269


UCLA Library Special Collections
Online finding aid last updated 2019 April 4.
Room A1713, Charles E. Young Research Library
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URL: https://www.library.ucla.edu/special-collections
Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: UCLA Library Special Collections
Title: A & M Records records
Creator: A & M Records (Firm)
Identifier/Call Number: PASC-M.0269
Physical Description: 98 Linear Feet196 boxes
Date (inclusive): 1959-2001
Abstract: The collection consists of sound recordings, manuscript musical arrangements, photographs, correspondence, promotional materials, posters, gold albums, awards, books and ephemera from just prior to the company's founding in 1962 through its sale to Polygram in 1989 and a few years thereafter, while Moss and Alpert were still affiliated with the label. The collection is in the midst of being processed. The finding aid will be updated periodically.

Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact the UCLA Library Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.

Restrictions on Access
COLLECTION STORED OFF-SITE AT SRLF: Open for research. All requests to access special collections materials must be made in advance using the request button located on this page.

The finding aid is currently undergoing revision. Please contact Special Collections reference (spec-coll@library.ucla.edu) for a copy of the collection's container list.

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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], A&M Records records (Collection Number PASC-M 269). UCLA Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, UCLA.

Acquisition Information
Jerry Moss; Herb Alpert; gift; March 2005

Processing Information
This collection was partially reprocessed 2016-2017. Series 1 - 4 are new arrangements of correspondence, business and production records, and photographs.
Clothing (Series 11) was processed in 2017.

Historical Note
Founded in 1962 in Los Angeles by Jerry Moss and Herb Alpert, A & M Records became America's largest independent record company. Both men were born in 1935, Alpert in Los Angeles and Moss in New York. The two met in the early 1960s, when Alpert was writing and recording songs and Moss was an independent record promoter. Their social acquaintance quickly became a partnership when in 1962 the two formed Carnival Records, based in Alpert's garage. With contributions of $100 from each man, the company released the single "Tell It to the Birds." After discovering later that year that the Carnival name was already in use, Alpert and Moss created the company's new name from the initials of their last names.

A & M Records' first release, the single "The Lonely Bull" by Herb Alpert and the Tijuana Brass, came out in August 1962. It reached number six on the Billboard charts and sold some 700,000 copies, setting the tone for the band's and the company's success. Other best-selling Tijuana Brass albums followed, including "Whipped Cream and Other Delights" and "What Now My Love." Led by the success of the Tijuana Brass, A & M revenue topped $50 million by 1968; by the end of the decade the group had sold some 45 million albums.

From its founding A & M worked with recording artists other than the Tijuana Brass, and its roster featured many of the top pop and rock acts from the 1960s, '70s, and '80s, including Bryan Adams, Burt Bacharach, Joan Baez, the Baja Marimba Band, the Captain and Tennille, the Carpenters, Cheech and Chong, Joe Cocker, Peter Frampton, Lani Hall, Janet Jackson, Joe Jackson, Sergio Mendes and Brasil '66, the Neville Brothers, Jeffrey Osborne, the Police, Squeeze, Cat Stevens, Sting, Styx, Supertramp, and the Tubes, among many others. Also issued by the label were a number of jazz composers and performers, including Gato Barbieri, Quincy Jones and Paul Winter as well as some late recordings by Chet Baker and Stan Getz.

In 1989 Alpert and Moss sold A & M records to PolyGram Records.
**Scope and Content**

The collection includes sound recordings, manuscript musical arrangements, photographs, correspondence, promotional materials, posters, gold albums, awards, books and ephemera from just prior to the company’s founding in 1962 through its sale to Polygram in 1989 and a few years thereafter, while Moss and Alpert were still affiliated with the label.

**Arrangement**

The collection is organized into the following series:

- Series 1: Correspondence
- Series 2: Production records
- Series 3: Business records
- Series 4: Photographs
- Series 5: Music
- Series 6: Artwork
- Series 7: Posters
- Series 8: Clippings
- Series 9: Awards
- Series 10: Ephemera and artifacts
- Series 11: Clothing
- Series 12: Sound recordings
- Series 13: Video recordings

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Sound recording industry -- United States -- Archives.

Alpert, Herb

Moss, Jerry

A & M Records (Firm) -- Archives