

Guide to the Slam Stewart Papers

MSS 59



compiled by Emily DiLeo, Mary Jones and David Metzger

1993

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Gilmore Music Library
120 High Street
PO Box 208240
New Haven, CT 06520
(203) 432-0497
musicspecialcollections@yale.edu
<https://guides.library.yale.edu/MusicSpecialCollections>

CALL NUMBER: MSS 59

CREATOR: Stewart, Slam, 1987-

TITLE: Slam Stewart Papers

DATES: 1938–1988

BULK DATES: 1960–1988

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 12 linear feet (19 boxes)

LANGUAGE: In English.

SUMMARY: The Papers document the latter part of Slam Stewart's career, during his appointment at SUNY Binghamton. Stewart gave many concerts and lectures during this time – locally, nationally and internationally. He also played in many jazz festivals. The collection includes photographs, music, correspondence, and sound recordings from this time, and highlights the collegial nature of Stewart's career. Fellow musicians such as Peter Appleyard, Jack Martin (a.k.a., "Ludwig Sigmund von Christ"), Bucky Pizzarelli, Benny Goodman, Slim Gaillard, Major "Mule" Holley, Carrie Smith and Dick Hyman (among many others) appear in several series in the collection.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/music.mss.0059>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/music.mss.0059>.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Leroy Elliot ("Slam") and Claire Stewart.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation

MSS 59, the Slam Stewart Papers in the Gilmore Music Library at Yale University.

Related Materials

Researchers may wish to consult the Stanley Dance Papers (MSS 62), the Benny Goodman Papers (MSS 53), and the Red Norvo Papers (MSS 48), all held by the Gilmore Music Library.

Separated Materials

Music Library files indicate that photographs from this collection may have been moved into the Stanley Dance Papers (MSS 62).

Biographical / Historical

Leroy Elliott "Slam" Stewart was one of the pre-eminent double-bass players in American jazz. Born in Englewood, New Jersey on 21 September 1914, Stewart originally studied the violin but soon switched over to the bass. During his years at the Boston Conservatory of Music, he developed his signature technique of bowing and humming a melody simultaneously at the interval of an octave. In 1935, he began a successful partnership with the guitarist Slim Gaillard – the duo called themselves "Slim and Slam." Their song, "Flat Foot Floogie," became very popular. In 1941, Stewart joined Art Tatum's trio, with which he appeared intermittently until Tatum's death in 1956. He also formed his own ensembles on 52nd or "Swing" Street, with the pianists Billy Taylor, Erroll Garner, and Johnny Guarnieri. Stewart appeared in several Hollywood films, including "Hellzapoppin" (1941) and "Stormy Weather" (1943). He also played with Benny Goodman's Sextet and Big Band, from 1945 to 1947. During the 1950s, Stewart performed with Roy Eldridge's Quartet and the pianist and singer Rose Murphy. Stewart also played with some of the leading Bop musicians, notably Dizzy Gillespie and Charlie Parker.

In 1971, SUNY Binghamton invited Stewart to join the music faculty. During this time, Stewart toured extensively, appearing with the Goodman Sextet, Bucky Pizzarelli, and the Newport Jazz Festival All-Stars, among others. Stewart also turned his attention to Baroque and Classical repertoires, assisted by the Lincoln and Lenox Quartets and the harpsichordists Christine Lindsay and Frances Cole. Stewart received many awards, as well as a Grammy nomination. In 1984, SUNY Binghamton awarded him an honorary doctorate. Stewart died in Binghamton on 10 December 1987.

Scope and Contents

The Papers document the latter part of Slam Stewart's career, during his appointment at SUNY Binghamton. Stewart gave many concerts and lectures during this time – locally, nationally and internationally. He also played in many jazz festivals. The collection includes photographs, music,

correspondence, and sound recordings from this time, and highlights the collegial nature of Stewart's career. Fellow musicians such as Peter Appleyard, Jack Martin (a.k.a., "Ludwig Sigmund von Christ"), Bucky Pizzarelli, Benny Goodman, Slim Gaillard, Major "Mule" Holley, Carrie Smith and Dick Hyman (among many others) appear in several series in the collection.

The Music series contains jazz band and combo arrangements – many of which are jazz standards. The 200 sound recordings are mostly dubs of commercial recordings (some of which may be rare), but also contain some unique material. Photographs include portraits of Slam Stewart, as well as Stewart with friends and family. Programs, clippings and publicity document Stewart's appearances at festivals and various concert series in the U.S. and abroad.

The Playlists (set lists) indicate the order of songs played at live shows in which Slam Stewart played, and the tour schedules outline Stewart's performances in the later part of his life. Correspondence includes letters from colleagues, friends and fans. The collection also includes some contracts and awards.

Arrangement

The Slam Stewart Papers contain 11 series: I. Music; II. Sound Recordings; III. Photographs; IV. Programs; V. Clippings, publicity, and posters; VI. Playlists; VII. Tour schedules; VIII. Writings and correspondence; IX. Contracts and financial materials; X. Awards; and XI. Miscellaneous.

Collection Contents

Music, circa 1960 - circa 1980

Contains jazz band and combo arrangements. Some of the arrangements contain scores and/or parts - others have only a bass part. Most of the arrangements are jazz standards. Also included are a few compositions/arrangements by Slam Stewart.

The Music is organized alphabetically by title, with the composer's name in parentheses. If an arranger's name is present on the document, his/her name likewise appears in parentheses.

Unpublished and manuscript scores

b. 1, f. 1	Acapulco (Jack Martin, arr.); Ah, Oui! (Hank Jones); Air from Suite in D Major (J.S. Bach); Alla Turca (Mozart); Anytime Anywhere (Kent McGarity); Ave Maria (Schubert)
b. 1, f. 2	Bach Bourrees; Ballad; Ballad Section; Baroque 'n' Lute Blues; Les Bicyclettes de Belsize/You've Made Me So Very Happy; Blue Bossa (Kenny Dorham); Bluesette
b. 1, f. 3	Bourree No. 1 and 2 (Bach, Stewart, arr.); The Boss; Bowin' Bach (Bach, Stewart, arr.); Breaking Up is Hard to Do; Brown Ballad
b. 1, f. 4	Bucky's Waltz; Cadenza; Close Your Eyes; Come Sunday
b. 1, f. 5	Concertino
b. 1, f. 6	Corn Pone (Jack Martin, arr.); Cute; Del Sasser (Sam Jones); Nice Going Dick Tracy (Kent McGarity); Donna Lee (Charlie Parker)
b. 1, f. 7	A Dragon is a Drag; Eleanor Rigby; Ellington Medley; The Lonely Dragon
b. 1, f. 8	Emily
b. 1, f. 9	Evil Ways
b. 1, f. 10	Feelings (Jack Martin, arr.)
b. 1, f. 11	Fifty Second Street Theme (Thelonious Monk)
b. 2, f. 12	Flat Foot Floogie
b. 2, f. 13	Flat Foot Floogie (Jazz Band Arrangement by Al Hamme)
b. 2, f. 14	Flat Foot Floogie
b. 2, f. 15	Flat Foot Floogie
b. 2, f. 16	Flat Foot Floogie
b. 2, f. 17	For the Good Times; Fot's Alma Mater/Fot's Fight Song; Funtime All 'Round Town (Jack Martin, arr.); Gavotte (Bach, Stewart, arr.); Gavotte + Doubles (Rameau, Jack Martin, arr.); Greensleeves
b. 2, f. 18	The Happy Dragon; Hello Hello (I Hate Saying "Goodbye") (Kent McGarity); Hi, Mommy; How Can I Explain (What You Mean To Me) (Kent McGarity); I Can't Find the Words (Kent McGarity); I Got Rhythm (Gershwin)

Unpublished and manuscript scores (continued)

b. 2, f. 19	I Know That You Know/I Know; I'll Speak to You in a Song (Kent McGarity); I Wake up with You on My Mind (Kent McGarity); I Want to be with You (To-Nite) (Kent McGarity); Invention #14 (Bach, Stewart, arr.)
b. 2, f. 20	Joy (Jerry Niewood [i.e. Gerry Niewood]); Just Say Hi (Kent McGarity)
b. 2, f. 21	Little Child
b. 2, f. 22	Little Lamb
b. 2, f. 22	Lover; Lurking Around (Jack Martin, arr.); Lute Prelude/Greensleeves (Bach)
b. 3, f. 23	Maid Marian and Sir Slamalot
b. 3, f. 24	Masquerade (Bobby Francavillo, arr.)
b. 3, f. 25	Medley (John Oddo, arr.); Minuet (Bach, Stewart, arr.); Minuet in G (Paderewski, Stewart, arr.); Mood Indigo (Jeff Friedman, arr.); Musette (Mozart, Stewart, arr.); My Ann Theresa (Major Holley)
b. 3, f. 26	My Lady Carey's Dompe (Jack Martin, arr.); My Romance; Never Let Me Go; Nightwind; Nobody's Gigue (Farnaby)
b. 3, f. 27	Oh Me, Oh My, Oh Gosh; Pavana-The Earl of Salisbury (Byrd); Pavane (Faure); Pick Yourself Up; Pine Top Boogie
b. 3, f. 28	Play Fiddle Play
b. 3, f. 29	Praeludium (Jack Martin, arr.); Prelude (Jack Martin, arr.); Prelude (Cole, arr.); Prelude #1 (Bach); Prelude #2 (Bach); Prelude V (Bach); Prelude VI D minor
b. 3, f. 30	Pretty Potty (Ludwig von Christ); Quartett No 29 (Haydn)
b. 3, f. 31	Reve Symphonique Pour Slam (Jack Martin)
b. 4, f. 32	Reve Symphonique-Ballad (Jack Martin, arr.); Round Midnight; Ruby My Dear; Sanctus From St. Cecilia Mass (Gounod); Sarabande (Bach, Stewart, arr.); Scratch My Bach (Stewart, arr.)
b. 4, f. 33	[Selections] Paris Bounce; Left Bank Swing; Shake It But Don't Break It; One Good Turn; Nervous Waltz; Passing Through; Dreamy; Something Happens; Solitaire; When Paris Cries; Shenandoah; Shufflin' (Jack Martin, arr.)
b. 4, f. 34	Slam to First Bass
b. 4, f. 35	Slam to First Bass (Jack Martin, arr.)
b. 4, f. 36	Slambitious (Robert Francavillo); Slam-Bow (Peter Appleyard); Slam/Mule; Smedley
b. 4, f. 37	Sonata in C Major (Mozart, Jack Martin, arr.); Spain; Stella by Slamlight; Step Softly (Jack Martin, arr.); Stolen Moments (Oliver Nelson); La Suite Pour Slam (Robert Francavillo); Summer 42
b. 4, f. 38	Surge; Symphony #3 (Mozart); Take a Chance (Kent McGarity); Le Tambourin (Rameau, Stewart, arr.); Tears
b. 4, f. 39	Terezia; Tic-Toc Choc (Christine Lindsay, arr.); A Time for Love; Today is the Nicest Day (Kent McGarity); Today is what Tomorrow is Made of (Kent McGarity); Ton a Steps (Kent McGarity)

Unpublished and manuscript scores (continued)

b. 4, f. 40	Twilight World; [Untitled]; Ursula Igneous (Jack Martin, arr.); Variations on "Lison Dormait" (Al Hamme); Variations on a Nursery Tune (Mozart, Stewart, arr.); Variations on a Theme of Gluck (Stewart, arr.)
b. 4, f. 41	Vivace Molto (Haydn, Stewart, arr.); Wabbit (Ludwig von Christ); A Waltz (Jack Martin, arr.); What is this Thing Called Love (Cole Porter); Yankee Doodle Variations
b. 4, f. 42	You Don't Know Me

Published music

b. 5, f. 43	Nice! Nice! Nice! (Alain Bideaux); The Bass Tradition (Todd Coolman); The Man I Love (George Gershwin); Isn't Leroy Cool (Gregory Nathan)
b. 5, f. 44	The Flat Foot Floogee (Slam Stewart and Slim Gaillard); String Bass Styles (Slam Stewart)
b. 5, f. 45	The Reader's Digest Children's Songbook

Sound recordings and video, 1938–1987

180 Audiocassettes 20 Audiotape Reels 2 Videocassettes (VHS)

The Slam Stewart Papers contain roughly 200 sound recordings – mostly cassette tapes, and a few reel-to-reel tapes. Artists who appear on these recordings include Erroll Garner, Slim Gaillard, Red Norvo, Bucky Pizzarelli, Benny Goodman, Ludek Hulan, Rose Murphy, Al Hamme, Major (“Mule”) Holley, Carrie Smith, Dick Hyman and Louie Bellson. A handful of tapes are most certainly unique, for example, Slam and Bucky Pizzarelli chatting, and a rendition of “Potty”, a tune that commemorates the bathroom in Stewart’s house in Binghamton, upon whose walls his friends wrote their signatures. Other content includes interviews, radio broadcasts (in particular, memorials for Slam Stewart), and some live shows in which Stewart played. The vast majority of the tapes, however, are dubs of other (likely commercial) recordings. They appear to be mix tapes made for Stewart by his friends and colleagues. Among these, probably the most notable are dubs of commercial European discs from the 1940s, sent to Stewart by people he met while touring there. Note that many of these original recordings can be found in Historical Sound Recordings, including labels such as Black and Blue (France) and Savoy Records (U.S.). There are two videotapes in this series, which contain the following programs: Security Mutual Concert (Binghamton, NY) 1986; Artscene Interview with Slam Stewart 1983; Action News featuring Claire Stewart (Binghamton, NY) 1988; Tribute concert for Slam Stewart 1988; Benny Goodman Let’s Dance [tribute concert] 1986; The Best of Everything - Frank Sinatra [Slam Stewart is mentioned in the beginning of the program].

The videotapes have been digitized. Please contact Special Collections staff for access.

b. 19, 18, 20

Photographs, circa 1930 - 1987

Photographs include portraits of Slam Stewart, as well as Stewart with friends and family. This series contains two photo albums.

Photographs are organized by subject and number of people: "Slam Stewart Alone," "Slam Stewart with one person," etc.). In the subseries "Slam Stewart Alone," black and white and color photographs are separated. When possible, the names of additional people are indicated.

Slam Stewart Alone

b. 8, f. 64	Early B&W Photos
b. 8, f. 65	Color Photos
b. 8, f. 66	Color Photos
b. 8, f. 67	Color Publicity Photos
b. 8, f. 68	B&W Photos
b. 8, f. 69	B&W Photos
b. 8, f. 70	B&W Photos
b. 8, f. 71	B&W Photos
b. 8, f. 72	B&W Photos
b. 8, f. 73	B&W Publicity Photos
b. 8, f. 74	Large B&W Photos
b. 20, f. 5	Oversize B&W photos

Slam Stewart with one other person

b. 8, f. 75	Ruby Braff; Dave Brubeck; Billy Butterfield; J.L. Carina
b. 8, f. 76	Francis Cole
b. 8, f. 77	Tal Farlow; Jim Ford; Slim Gaillard; Bobby Hackett; Hans Harzheim; Major Holley
b. 8, f. 78	Christine Lindsay
b. 8, f. 79	Bucky Pizzarelli; Marian McPartland; Willie Ruff; Zoot Sims
b. 8, f. 80	Claire Stewart
b. 8, f. 81	Teddy Wilson; [?] Boyd; Bobby Hackett; Tal Farlow; Unidentified

Slam Stewart with two or more people

b. 8, f. 82	Billy Moore; Prince Carter; Charlie Christian; Red Norvo; Claire Stewart; Major Holley; Milt Hinton; Zoot Sims; Don Morgenstern; Kingman Brewster; Willie Ruff; Dizzie Gillespie; Louis Bellson; Len Skeat
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Slam Stewart with two or more people (continued)

b. 8, f. 83	Major Holley; George Duvivier; Peter Appleyard; Claire Stewart; Janet Sprout; Eubie Blake; Francis Cole; Hank Edwards; Joe Hilla; Unidentified	
b. 8, f. 84	Willie Ruff; Claire Stewart; Steven Clark; Frank Williams; Paul Quinichette; Beryl Backer; Georges Delerue; Bertrand Blier; Bob Rosengarden	
b. 8, f. 85	Jimmy Shirley; Jackie Williams; Johnny Guarneri; Pat Flowers; Richard Wyands; Gray Sargent; Bucky Pizzarelli; Billy Butterfield; George Mosso; Peter Appleyard; Butch Miles; Sarasota Jazz Club	
Bands and ensembles		
b. 8, f. 86	Benny Goodman Ensemble	
b. 8, f. 87	Unidentified String Quartet	
b. 8, f. 88	Art Tatum Trio; Benny Goodman; North Sea Jazz Festival; Jazz Festival of Bordeaux	
b. 8, f. 89	Unidentified Ensembles	
Other photographs		
b. 8, f. 90	1984 Doctorate Ceremony; Yale Ellington Festival	
b. 9, f. 91	Funeral	
b. 9, f. 92	Funeral	
b. 9, f. 93	Claire Stewart	
b. 9, f. 94	Autographed Photos: Alain Bideaux; Bobby Hackett; Major Holley; Erroll Garner; Jackie Williams	
b. 9	Photo album: family, friends, wedding	1968-1969
b. 9	Photo album: friends, events, performances	1971-1987
b. 9, f. 95	Miscellaneous and unidentified	

Programs, 1969–1988

This series contains programs in which Slam Stewart appeared, including festivals in the U.S. and abroad.

b. 6, f. 46	1969-1970
b. 6, f. 47	1971
b. 6, f. 48	1972-1973
b. 6, f. 49	March - April 1974
b. 6, f. 50	July - November 1974
b. 6, f. 51	1975
b. 6, f. 52	1976
b. 6, f. 53	1977
b. 6, f. 54	1978-1979
b. 6, f. 55	1980
b. 6, f. 56	1981-1982
b. 7, f. 57	1983
b. 7, f. 58	1984
b. 7, f. 59	1985
b. 7, f. 60	1986
b. 7, f. 61	1987-1988
b. 7, f. 62	Undated

Clippings, publicity and posters, circa 1960 - 1989

This series is divided into three subseries: Clippings, Publicity, and Posters. Each subseries is organized chronologically.

Clippings

Contains newspaper clippings about Slam Stewart from around the U.S., including the Philadelphia Daily News, Indianapolis Star, San Francisco Chronicle, New York Times, Chicago Sun Times, and various local papers in Binghamton, NY.

b. 10, f. 96	Clippings	Before 1966
b. 10, f. 97	Clippings	1966-1968
b. 10, f. 98	Clippings	1969
b. 10, f. 99	Clippings	1970
b. 10, f. 100	Clippings	1971
b. 10, f. 101	Clippings	1972
b. 10, f. 102	Clippings	January-July 1973
b. 10, f. 103	Clippings	July-December 1973
b. 10, f. 104	Clippings	January-June 1974
b. 10, f. 105	Clippings	July-December 1974
b. 10, f. 106	Clippings	1975
b. 10, f. 107	Clippings	January-June 1976
b. 10, f. 108	Clippings	July-December 1976
b. 10, f. 109	Clippings	January-June 1977
b. 10, f. 110	Clippings	July-December 1977
b. 10, f. 111	Clippings	1978
b. 10, f. 112	Clippings	1979
b. 10, f. 113	Clippings	1980
b. 10, f. 114	Clippings	1981
b. 10, f. 115	Clippings	1982
b. 10, f. 116	Clippings	1983

Clippings (continued)

b. 10, f. 117	Clippings	1984
b. 10, f. 118	Clippings	1985
b. 10, f. 119	Clippings	1986
b. 10, f. 120	Clippings	1987
b. 10, f. 121	Clippings	1988-1989
b. 10, f. 122	Clippings, undated	
	Publicity	
	This subseries includes press releases, newsletters, posters, flyers and arts calendars.	
b. 11, f. 123	Publicity	1960s
b. 11, f. 124	Publicity	1970s
b. 11, f. 125	Publicity	1980s
b. 11, f. 126	Publicity, undated	
b. 17b. 20, f. 3b. 20, f. 4	Posters	
	Subseries contains several concert posters - two are autographed.	

Playlists

The playlists (set lists) indicate the order of songs played at live shows in which Slam Stewart played. The playlists are undated and do not indicate venue. A couple of the playlists include commentary about the songs themselves, and Stewart also wrote down exactly what he was to say between tunes. Also included is a playlist that outlines Stewart's presentation to school children about the origins and history of jazz.

b. 13, f. 134b. 13, f. 135b. 13, f. 136b. 13, f. 137b. 13, f. 138

Tour schedules, 1971–1986

b. 13, f. 139b. 13, f. 140b. 13, f. 141b. 13, f. 142b. 13, f. 143

Writings and correspondence, 1960–1978

This series contains correspondence, lectures, biographies and discographies. Correspondence includes letters from colleagues, friends and fans, including Beryl Booker, Marian McPartland, and Ronald Reagan.

The series is divided into four subseries, including Correspondence, Lectures, Biographies and Discographies, and Writings by Others. The correspondence is organized chronologically, while each of the other subseries is organized by subject.

Correspondence	
b. 11, f. 127	Correspondence - 1960s
b. 11, f. 127a	Correspondence - 1970s
b. 11, f. 127b	Correspondence - 1970s
b. 11, f. 127c	Correspondence - 1980s
b. 11, f. 127d	Correspondence - 1980s, no date
b. 12, f. 128	Lectures Jazz History Lecture, SUNY Binghampton, 1971; "Swing Era" Talk; Motivational Speech
Biographies and discographies	
b. 12, f. 129	Biographical Portrait by Monday Date Jazz Circle Zurich
b. 12, f. 130	"Sir Slamlot" by Jack Martin Details of Slam's life in Binghampton c. 1968 (stories)
b. 12, f. 131	Biographical Sketches
b. 13, f. 132	Interviews
b. 13, f. 133	Discographies
b. 13, f. 133a	Writings by others

Contracts and financial materials, 1965–1986

Series contains American Federation of Musicians contracts for various gigs. Financial materials include a work visa for the U.K., tax documents, and handwritten expense records.

b. 13, f. 144 Contracts

b. 13, f. 145 Financial materials

Awards, 1971–1988

Contains honorary doctorates and awards from institutions such as the Sertoma Club, the American Legion, the National Academy of Recordings Arts and Sciences, and the Jazz Musicians' Foundation. Includes papers awards and wooden plaques.

b. 14b. 15b. 20, f. 1

Miscellaneous

b. 20, f. 2b. 13, f. 146	Artwork Amateur drawings, comic strips and an informational brochure for oil portrait of Slam Stewart (portrait is housed in the Music Library). Also included are several prints signed "Pezuce Bates".
b. 13, f. 147	Catalogs and reports Various arts institutions' reports, record catalogs, and a calendar in which Stewart appears. Signed record jacket.
b. 13, f. 148	Passport and datebook
	Music stands Two large, folding wooden music stands. Painted red and white with "Slam Stewart" on the front.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Jazz musicians

Names

Stewart, Slam, 1987-