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Guide to the Wilbur and Valarie Campbell Collection 1958-2004

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Descriptive Summary

Identifier: ICU.SPCL.CAMPBELL.WV

Title: Campbell, Wilbur and Valarie. Collection

Date: 1958-2004

Size: 10.5 linear feet (12 boxes)

Repository: Special Collections Research Center
University of Chicago Library
1100 East 57th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.

Abstract: Wilbur and Valarie Campbell. Wilbur Campbell, Chicago drummer; Valarie Campbell, wife and jewelry maker. The Wilbur and Valarie Campbell Collection contains correspondence, articles, artifacts, photographs, publications, posters, audio-visual material, and event ephemera.

Acknowledgments

The Wilbur and Valarie Campbell Collection was processed and preserved as part of the "Uncovering New Chicago Archives Project," funded with support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Information on Use

Access

Series III, Audio-Visual, does not include access copies for part or all of the material in this series. Researchers will need to consult with staff before requesting material from this series.

The collection is open for research.

Citation

When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Campbell. Wilbur and Valarie, Collection. [Box#, Folder#], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

Biographical Note

Wilbur Campbell was born on July 29, 1926 in Chicago, Illinois. He attended DuSable High School and was a member of “Captain Walter Dyett’s Dynasty” which produced more than 200 internationally known musicians. Although he was trained on piano, vibraphone, and drums, Campbell eventually settled on the drums after a three day-long practice with legendary vibes.
player Milton Jackson. At the age of fifteen, Campbell played his first professional gig in a band called “Baby Band,” a band named for its young musicians. Two years later, he was featured in a Down Beat article called “Young Lion.” From 1945-1947, he served in the United States Navy.

After living in New York and traveling, Campbell settled in Chicago. In 1948, he married Osceola Simmons. As one of Chicago’s first-call drummers, he often played with Lester Young, Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, and Thelonious Monk when they performed in the city.

Campbell was active in the Jazz Institute of Chicago in various capacities, including director, vice president, and programming committees for the Jazz Express and annual Chicago Jazz Festival. He also worked for the state of Illinois as a drug counselor. In 1972, he married Valarie Thompson-Villard.

Valarie (Thompson-Villard) Campbell was born on February 19, 1939 in Chicago, Illinois. She attended Parker High School where she was the first freshman on the swim team. After high school, she married and had a son Martin Villard.

In 1967, she began work at Commonwealth Edison and retired from there in 1994. In January 1971, Valarie began studying business at Roosevelt University where she met Wilbur Campbell. After marrying in 1972, the two traveled around the world, meeting jazz musicians and making lifelong friends.

She was an ardent jewelry maker and beader. Valarie served on the board of the Bead Society of Great Chicago. In October 2007, she sent her beads and tools to South Africa with the hope of helping those struggling with HIV/AIDS.


**Scope Note**

The Wilbur and Valarie Campbell Collection is organized into six series: Series I, Personal; Series II, Events and Musicians; Series III, Audio-Visual; Series IV, Publications; Series V, Oversize; and Series VI, Artifacts and Awards. The Wilbur and Valarie Campbell Collection contains correspondence, articles, artifacts, photographs, publications, posters, audio-visual material, and event ephemera.

Series I, Personal, contains business cards, award certificates, calendars, correspondence, an essay, an article, and photographs. Correspondence includes letters from the Chicago Federation of Musicians, Jazz Institute of Chicago, family, and friends and may include newsletters,
photographs, newspaper articles, and business cards. The award certificates acknowledge Wilbur Campbell’s contribution to the field of jazz as well as the field of substance abuse awareness. The performance contracts are for various concerts given by Campbell throughout Chicago. The essay was written by Campbell for a humanities class. A Down Beat article features Wilbur Campbell. See Series III and IV for additional material.

Series II, Events and Musicians, contains advertisements, fliers, articles and photographs of various musicians. Events include the Newport Jazz Festival, Chicago Jazz Festival, and the Mary Lou Williams Women in Jazz Festival as well as Chicago concerts and performances. There are receipts documenting a performance tour to Egypt. See Series IV for additional material.

Series III, Audio-Visual, contains photographs from various Chicago Jazz Festivals, an International Association of Jazz Educators event, performances at the Jazz Showcase, and trips to Egypt, Jerusalem, and Mexico, as well as publicity photographs of Wilbur Campbell. The unlabeled photographs appear to be of Wilbur and Valarie Campbell with family, friends, and jazz musicians. Audio cassettes and compact discs are arranged alphabetically by musician and are distinguished by personal and commercial recordings. There is a video cassette of a Grant Park performance given by Campbell. See Series V for additional photographs.

Series IV, Publications, contains jazz magazines and newsletters including Down Beat, Jazz Times, Jazzgram, and Jazz Journal.

Series V, Oversize, contains jazz publications, news magazines, newspaper articles, sheet music, posters, and photographs, arranged by format and size. The articles are from the Chicago Sun-Times, Chicago Tribune, Tempo, and Jazz Echo and are about various arts events and venues in Chicago, including the Jazz Showcase and the Chicago Jazz Festivals. The Book of Negro Folklore was edited by Langston Hughes and Arna Bontemps and The Story of Jazz was written by Marshall W. Stearns. Sheet music is arranged alphabetically by title and includes printed, published, photocopied, and transcribed music. The posters advertise events and performances in Chicago. Also included are announcements for Chicago-based performances given by various musicians. See Series II and IV for additional material.

Series VI, Artifacts and Awards, contains drum sticks, brushes, and other percussion accessories. Also included are awards from Jazz Masters and the Jazz Institute of Chicago, and a framed painting of Campbell.

Related Resources
The following related resources are located in the Department of Special Collections:

http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/spcl/select.html
Chicago Jazz Archive

Jazz Institute of Chicago. Records

**Subject Headings**

- Campbell, Wilbur
- Jazz
- Jazz—Periodicals
- University of Chicago. Chicago Jazz Archive

**INVENTORY**

**Series I: Personal**

- Box 1
  - Folder 1
- Box 1
  - Folder 2
    - Awards, 1981-1999
- Box 1
  - Folder 3
    - Business Cards, undated
- Box 1
  - Folder 4
    - Calendar, 1978
- Box 1
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    - Calendar, 1979
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    - Calendar, 1995
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    - Correspondence, 1977-1979
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Notebook, undated

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Folder 12
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Folder 13
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Box 1
Folder 14
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Box 1
Folder 15
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Event, 14th Annual Floating Jazz Festival, 1996

Box 2
Folder 1
Event, 16th Annual Chicago Jazz Festival, 1994

Box 2
Folder 2
Event, 17th Annual Chicago Jazz Festival, 1995

Box 2
Folder 3
Event, Buttons, 1981

Box 2
Folder 4
Event, Chicago Old Style Jazz Festival, 1988

Box 2
Folder 5
Event, Festival Internacional de Jazz, 2001

Box 2
Folder 6
Event, Grant Park Concert, 1977

Box 2
Folder 7
Event, Jazz City, 2007

Box 2
Folder 8
Event, The Jazz Express Concert, 1989

Box 2
Folder 9
Event, Jazz Institute of Chicago 19th Annual Jazz Fair, 1997
Folder 10  
Event, Jazz Showcase, 1997-2004

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Folder 11  
Event, Mary Lou Williams Women in Jazz Festival, 1996

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Folder 12  
Event, New Foxhole Café, 1976

Box 2

Folder 13  
Event, Newport Jazz Festival, New York, 1972

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Folder 14  
Event, Now’s The Time Benefit Concert, 1995

Box 2

Folder 15  
Event, Restaurant Menu, Bamboo East, 1966

Box 2

Folder 16  
Event, Roosevelt University All-Star Jazz Concert, 1993

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Folder 17  
Event, Sweet Home Chicago, 1992

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Folder 18  
Event, Theatre Under The Stars, 1977

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Folder 19  
Event, Tri-C Jazz Fest, 1997

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Folder 20  
Event, Trip to Egypt, 1990

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Folder 21  
Event, Wilbur Campbell’s Red Sea Jazz Festival Chicago All-Stars, undated

Box 2

Folder 22  
Event, Unidentified

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Folder 23  
Musician, Clifford Jordan Discography, 1987

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Folder 24  
Musician, Cole-McPherson Quintet, 1990

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Folder 25
Musician, Eddie Hams, 1996
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Folder 26
Musician, Elmer Parker McDougal, Jr., 1994
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Folder 27
Musician, Francine Griffin, 1989
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Musician, Frank Morgan, 1996
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Musician, Gene Ammons, 1974
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Musician, James Moody, 1993
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Musician, Joe Henderson, 1986
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Musician, Miki Antonelli, undated
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Musician, Prince James, undated
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Musician, Richard W. Goodman, 1997
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Musician, Rob Mazurek-John Brunbach Quintet, 1994
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Folder 39
Musician, Scott Hamilton, undated
Box 2
Folder 40
Musician, Von Freeman, undated
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Folder 41
Musician, Walter Dyett’s Orchestra, undated

Box 2
Folder 42
Musician, Willie Pickens, 1996

Series III: Audio-Visual

Box 2
Folder 43
Audio Cassettes, 1956-1996
• Atlanta All Star Quartet, Personal, undated
• Billie Holliday, Personal, 1956
• Campbell, Personal, 1996
• Ira Sullivan, Commercial, undated

Box 3
Folder 1
Audio Cassettes, 1958-1999
• Pattie LaBelle, Commercial, 1999
• Richard Davis, Personal, 1982
• Sandy Mosse (Side A) and Bill Monroe (Side B), Personal 1958-1991
• Sonny Stitt, Personal, undated

Box 3
Folder 2
Audio Cassettes, Unidentified

Box 3
Folder 3
Compact Discs, Commercial, 1993-1997
• Arts Midwest Jazz Masters, 1993
• Arts Midwest Jazz Masters, 1995
• Arts Midwest Jazz Masters, 1996
• Arts Midwest Jazz Masters, 1997

Box 3
Folder 4
Compact Discs, Commercial, 1993-1997
• A Chicago Jazz Tour, 1997
• Delmark 40th Anniversary Jazz, 1993
• Dexter Gordon Featuring Joe Newman, 1995

Box 3
Folder 5
Compact Discs, 1994-2000
• Francine Griffin, Commercial, 1999
• The Ira Sullivan Quintet, Commercial, 1994
• Ira Sullivan and the Chicago Jazz Quintet, Commercial, 2000
• Ira Sullivan, Personal, undated

Box 3
Folder 6
Compact Discs, Commercial, 1994-1995
• Jodie Christian Trio, 1994
• Louis Smith Quintet, 1994
• Marcus Belgrave with Detroit’s Jazz Piano Legacy, 1995

Box 4
Folder 1
Compact Discs, Commercial, 1992-1998
• Von Freeman Quartet, 1992
• Von Freeman Quartet, 1994
• Willie Pickens, 1998

Box 4
Folder 2
Photographs, 1977

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Photographs, 1979

Box 4
Folder 4
Photographs, circa 1995

Box 4
Folder 5
Photographs, Chicago Jazz Festival, circa 1988

Box 4
Folder 6
Photographs, Chicago Jazz Festival, 2000

Box 4
Folder 7
Photographs, Great Day in Jazz 50th Anniversary, Jazz Showcase, 1947-1997

Box 4
Folder 8
Photographs, International Association of Jazz Educators, 1997

Box 4
Folder 9
Photographs, Jazz Showcase, 1977

Box 4
Folder 10
Photographs, Campbell and Other Musicians, undated

Box 4
Folder 11
Photographs, Campbell and Other Musicians, undated

Box 4
Folder 12
Photographs, Campbells and Others, undated

Box 4
Folder 13
Photographs, Publicity, undated

Box 5
Folder 1
Photographs, Trip to Egypt, undated

Box 5
Folder 2
Photographs, Trip to Jamaica, undated

Box 5
Folder 3
Photographs, Trip to Jerusalem, undated

Box 5
Folder 4
Photographs, Trip to Jerusalem, undated

Box 5
Folder 5
Photographs, Trip to Mexico, undated

Box 5
Folder 6
Video Cassette, Grant Park Performance, undated

Series IV: Publications

Box 5
Folder 7
Advertisement, undated

Box 5
Folder 8
Adventure Road, 1976

Box 5
Folder 9
Arts Midwest Newsletter, 1995-1996

Box 5
Folder 10
Book of Negro Folklore, 1958

Box 6
Folder 1
The Bride’s Book of Etiquette, 1968

Box 6
Folder 2
Chicago Reader, 1996

Box 6
Folder 3
The Chicago Reporter, 1987

Box 6
Folder 4
Chicago Tribune TV Week, 1978
Folder 5  
The Cosmo Girl’s 1979 Bedside Astrologer, 1979
Box 6
Folder 6  
Crescendo, 1992
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Folder 7  
Down Beat, 1973-1985
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Folder 8  
Down Beat, 1997-1999
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Folder 9  
Edison Service News, 1977
Box 6
Folder 10  
“From Dreamland to Showcase: Jazz in Chicago, 1912-1996,” undated
Box 6
Folder 11  
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, 1977-1978
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Folder 12  
Jazz Educators Journal, 1997
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Folder 13  
Jazz Masters Journal, 1994
Box 6
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JazzTimes, 1991
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Jazzgram, 1989-1997
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Jazziz, 2004
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“Movin On Down De Line,” 1975
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Midwest Jazz, 1993-1996
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New York, 1977
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Radio Free Jazz, 1979
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Folder 10
“Rhythm Analysis and Basic Co-ordination,” 1977
Box 7
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The Story of Jazz, 1975
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Folder 12
Sound News Vol.III, 1995
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Time Magazine, 1977
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Where Chicago, 1994
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Folder 16
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Series V: Oversize

Box 8
Folder 1
Articles, 1966-1992

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Folder 2
Articles, 1977-2000

Box 8
Folder 3
Calendar, 1979

Box 8
Folder 4
Event, 1st Annual “Boogie for Corners,” undated

Box 8
Folder 5
Event, Chicago Jazz Festival, 2006

Box 8
Folder 6
Event, Ravinia Festival, 1978

Box 8
Folder 7
Musician, Arlene and The Red Tags, undated

Box 8
Folder 8
Musician, John Gilmore, undated

Box 8
Folder 9
Musician, Sun Ra and his Arkestra, undated

Box 8
Folder 10
Publication, Chicago Jazz Magazine, 2004

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Folder 11

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Folder 12
Publication, Illinois State Employees Association Newsletter, 1978

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Publication, International Musician, 1978

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Folder 14
Publication, The Intermezzo, 1978

Box 8
Folder 15
Publication, Jazz News, 1992

Box 8
Folder 16
Publication, “The Talk of the Town,” undated

Box 8
Folder 17
- “502 Blues,” Jimmy Boules, undated
- “Adventurer,” Clifford Jordan, 1982
- “Afro Blue,” M. Santamaria, undated
- “Bebop,” Dizzy Gillespie, undated
- “Betty Shout,” undated
- “Blowin’ the Blues Away,” Horace Silver, undated
- “Caravan,” undated
- “Central Park West,” John Coltrane, undated
- “Charlie Parker’s Last Supper,” Clifford Jordan, undated
- “Cottontail,” Duke Ellington, undated
- “Crazeology,” Bud Powell, undated
- “Days of Wine and Roses,” Ernestine Anderson, undated
- “E.S.P.,” Wayne Shorter, 1965
- “Firm Roots,” Cedar Walton, undated
- “A Flower is a Lonesome Thing,” B. Strayhorn, undated
- “A Foxy Minor,” undated
- “Green Chimneys,” Thelonious Monk, undated
- “Hail to the Chief,” Larry Gray, 1994
- “Here, There, and Everywhere,” Ernestine Anderson, undated
- “Hi Fly,” Randy Weston, undated
- “If You Could See Me Now,” undated
- “Impression of Scandinavia,” Clifford Jordan, 1965
- “Inner Urge,” Joe Henderson, undated
- “Invitation,” Kaper and Washington, undated
- “Isotope,” Joe Henderson, undated
- “Joshua,” Victor Feldman, undated

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Folder 18
- “Make Up Your Mind,” John Griffin, 1990
- “Manteca,” Dizzy Gillespie and Gil Fuller, undated
- “Miles Mode,” undated
- “Moontrane,” Woody Shaw, undated
- “More than a Few,” Larry Gray, 1992
- “Mr. Styx,” undated

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• “My Premier at the Cinema,” Samuel A. Thomas, 1983
• “My Ship,” Kurt Weill, undated
• “Naima,” John Coltrane, undated
• “Nardis,” Miles Davis, undated
• “No Smokin’,” Horace Silver, undated
• “Pannonica,” Thelonious Monk, undated
• “Pinocchio,” Wayne Shorter, undated
• “One by One,” undated
• “Quit’n Time,” Clifford Jordan, 1981
• “Royal Garden Blues,” undated
• “Send in the Clowns,” Ernestine Anderson, undated
• “Serenade to a Bus Seat,” Clark Terry, undated
• “Straight Street,” John Coltrane, 1956
• “Tell it Like it Is,” Wayne Shorter, undated
• “That’s My Baby Now,” Ernestine Anderson, undated
• “Think on Me,” George Cabler, undated
• “U-Jaama (Unity),” G. Shepp, undated
• “Who is the Drummer?,” Larry Gray, 1992
• “Wil ‘n the Jug,” Samuel Thomas and Maja Rios, 1983
• “Wise One,” John Coltrane, undated
• “Yes or No,” Wayne Shorter, undated

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  Sheet Music, Unidentified

Box 9
Folder 1
  Photograph, Chicago Jazz Festival, 1996

Box 9
Folder 2
  Photograph, Great Day in Jazz 50th Anniversary, Jazz Showcase, 1947-1997

Box 9
Folder 3
  Photographs, Campbell, undated

Box 9
Folder 4
  Photographs, Campbell and Others, undated

Box 9
Folder 5
  Poster, Chicago Jazz Festivals, undated

Box 9
Folder 6
  Poster, Foxhole Café

Box 9
Folder 7
  Poster, Jazz Showcase, 1979

Box 9
Folder 8
Poster, Jazz Showcase, undated

Box 9
Folder 9
Poster, Newport Jazz Festival New York, 1972

Box 9
Folder 10
Poster, Playboy Lounge, undated

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Folder 11
Poster, Roberts 500 Room, undated

Box 9
Folder 12
Poster, Slugs’ in the Far East, undated

Series VI: Artifacts and Awards

Box 10
Drum Brushes

Box 10
Drum Sticks

Box 10
Pedal Buffers

Box 10
Practice Pad

Box 11
Award, Jazz Masters 1996

Box 12
Award, Jazz Institute Chicago

Box 12
Framed Painting