Guide to the
Franz Jackson
Papers 1949-2004

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Descriptive Summary

Identifier  ICU.SPCL.FJACKSON
Title  Jackson, Franz. Papers
Date  1949-2004
Size  2.5 linear feet (4 boxes)
Repository  Special Collections Research Center
University of Chicago Library
1100 East 57th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.

Abstract  Franz Jackson, jazz clarinetist, saxophonist, vocalist. The Franz Jackson Papers contain correspondence, newspaper articles, publications, brochures, programs, and photographs documenting his performances, recordings, and life as a prominent jazz musician.

Acknowledgments
The Franz Jackson Papers were 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 IV, Audio-Visual, does not include access copies for part or all of the material. Researchers will need to consult with staff before requesting material from this series.

The remainder of the collection is open for research.

Citation
When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Jackson, Franz. Papers, [Box#, Folder#], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

Biographical Note
Franz Jackson was born on November 1, 1912, in Rock Island, Illinois. When he was thirteen, his family moved to the South Side of Chicago. Jackson played clarinet, tenor saxophone, bassoon, and was also a vocalist. He first taught himself how to play saxophone out of books, then received additional training on saxophone as well as clarinet at Tilden Vocational high school. He also studied arranging and composition at Chicago Musical College. Jackson married the singer Maxine Johnson. He later married Virginia and they adopted two children.
In 1930, Jackson played with Albert Ammons, as well as Al “Punch” Miller, Carroll Dickerson and Jimmy Noone. In 1937, at the age of 25, Jackson replaced Ben Webster in Roy Eldridge’s band. The following year, Jackson again replaced Webster in Fletcher Henderson’s Orchestra. Jackson also wrote arrangements for Henderson.


In the 1950s and beyond, Jackson played regularly at numerous other Chicago locations, including Jazz, Ltd., Old Town Gate, Dick’s Last Resort, Andy’s-Jazz at Noon, Braxton Seafood Bar and Grille, and Joe’s Be-Bop Café. He also played at the Rib Exchange in Schaumburg, The Hide Away in St. Charles, and Pops for Champagne in Highwood. Jackson also toured the country and the world. He played at events such as the New Orleans Jazz Festival, Detroit Jazz Festival, Circus Museum Parade and Jazz Jubilee in Milwaukee, Elkhart Jazz Festival, La Crosse Jazz Festival, and Valparaiso University in Indiana. Some of his international appearances include the University of Windsor in Ontario, Jazz Festival in Ascona, Switzerland, and other events in Israel, Germany, France, and Holland.

In 1996, Jackson was a recipient of the Arts Midwest Jazz Masters Award, along with Eddie Johnson. That same year, he earned the “Man of the Year” Award at the Elkhart Jazz Festival. Posthumously, he received the 2008 Theodore Thomas History Maker Award for Distinction in the Performing Arts from the Chicago History Museum. He was interviewed by Studs Terkel for Steppenwolf Theater’s TRAFFIC series on improvised music in 1997, appeared on the Prairie Home Companion with Garrison Keller in 2002 and was featured on the cover of Chicago Jazz Magazine in 2004. He was honored in 2005 as one of the five world’s greatest living jazz saxophonists by the American Heritage Jazz Series and received the Jazz Institute’s Walter Dyett Lifetime Achievement Award in 2006. He was also nominated for the 2007 National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Masters Fellowship and was featured at the 2007 New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival.
Jackson performed for nearly eighty years. He was once quoted, “For me jazz is like liberty and freedom. As long as there is freedom and liberty there will be jazz – because that’s the kind of music it is.” His last performance was three months before his death.

Franz Jackson died at the age of 95 on May 6, 2008.

**Scope Note**

The Franz Jackson Papers contain correspondence, newspaper articles, publications, brochures, programs, and photographs documenting his performances, recordings, and life as a prominent jazz musician. The Franz Jackson Papers are divided into five series: Series I, Personal; Series II, Performances; Series III, Reviews; Series IV, Audio-Visual; Series V, Publications and Oversize.

Series I, Personal, contains correspondence, newspaper articles, a personal calendar and datebook, ephemera, and a poem dedicated to Jackson.

Correspondents include David Bernstein, Moira Du Brul, Otto J. Kubik, Hugh Leal, Darryl R. Parks, Robert J. Studer, Dempsey Travis, Lym Trok, and Betty van Rossum.

Series II, Performances, contains newspaper articles, programs, brochures, and photocopies of announcements, reviews, and advertisements for performances by Jackson.

Series III, Album Reviews, contains newspaper articles and photocopies of reviews and announcements by Jackson’s recorded albums.

Series IV, Audio-Visual, contain photographs and photocopies of photographs primarily of Jackson performing. There is also audio of his performances.

Series V, Publications and Oversize, contains various jazz publications as well as a menu from the 1995 Cod Fish Ball, where there was a dish called “Franz Jackson Bucket.”

**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

**Subject Headings**
• Jackson, Franz
• Big Band Music
• Dixieland Music
• Jazz
• Jazz Musicians—United States
• Original Jazz All Stars
• University of Chicago. Chicago Jazz Archive

INVENTORY

Series I: Personal

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  Address Book, undated
Box 1
Folder 2
  Biographical, 1961-1992
Box 1
Folder 3
  Calendar, 1990
Box 1
Folder 4
  Correspondence, 1991-1998
Box 1
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  Ephemera, 1994
Box 1
Folder 6
  Newspaper Articles, 1988-1999
Box 1
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Box 1
Folder 8
  Poem Dedicated to Franz Jackson by Tetsuya Fukushima [in Japanese], 1996

Series II: Performances

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  Andy's, Chicago, undated
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  Art Hodes Tribute, Chicago, 1992-1998
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  Battle of the Dixieland Bands, Des Plaines, IL, 1982
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   Blues in the Night, Madison, WI, undated
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   Bop Shop, Chicago, 1994
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   Chicago Jazz Brunch, 1981-1982
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   Chicago Historical Society, undated
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   Christ United Methodist Church, Deerfield, IL, 1993, 1999
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   Community Symphony Orchestra, Chicago, 1949-1953
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   DePaul University, 1956
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Dick's Last Resort, Chicago, IL, 1989-1992
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Dogwood Fine Arts Festival, Dowagiac, MI, 1993
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Folder 4
East Bank Emporium, South Bend, IN, 1983
Box 2
Folder 5
Elkhart Jazz Festival, 1993
Box 2
Folder 6
Emporium of Jazz, Mendota, MN, 1990
Box 2
Folder 7
Europe, 1982-1991
Box 2
Folder 8
Evolution in Jazz, Chicago, circa 1967
Box 2
Folder 9
Festival of Traditional Jazz, Rosemont, IL, 1980-1981
Box 2
Folder 10
Fitzgerald's Music Festival, Chicago, 1994
Box 2
Folder 11
The Flame of Countryside, Countryside, IL, 1995
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Folder 12
Franz Jackson’s 80th Birthday, 1992
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Folder 13
Franz Jackson's Chicagoan's, New York, undated
Box 2
Folder 14
Great Circus Parade, Milwaukee, WI, 1991
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Great River Fest, La Crosse, WI, 1993
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Folder 16
The Green Mill, Chicago, circa 1990s
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Folder 17
The Hunt Club, Berwyn, IL, undated
Box 2
Folder 18
  The Illiana Club of Traditional Jazz, Chicago, 1992
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Folder 19
  Israel, 1992-1996
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  Jassathon No. 2, Lombard, IL, 1957
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Folder 21
  Jazz Institute of Chicago, 1991-1997
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  Jazz Jubilee, Milwaukee, WI, 1990-1994
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Folder 23
  Jazz Showcase, Chicago, undated
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Folder 24
  Joe's Be-Bop Café, Chicago, undated
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Folder 25
  Kerrytown Concert House, Ann Arbor, MI, 1995
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Folder 26
  Mississippi Blues Festival, Davenport, IA, 1997
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Folder 27
  New Year's Eve Jazz Revisited Concert, Ann Arbor, MI, 1995
Box 2
Folder 28
  Newport Jazz Festival, Chicago, 1994
Box 2
Folder 29
  On the Waterfront, Rockford, IL, undated
Box 2
Folder 30
  Pops for Champagne, Chicago, 1992-1995
Box 2
Folder 31
  Preview Lounge, Chicago, 1958-1959
Box 2
Folder 32
  Ravinia, 1959, 1992-1995
Box 2
Folder 33
  Red Arrow, Chicago, 1956-1958
Box 2
Folder 34
  The Rib Exchange, Schaumburg, IL, 1980
Box 2
Folder 35
  Riverside-Brookfield High School, Riverside, IL, 1958
Box 2
Folder 36
  Steppenwolf Theatre, Chicago, 1997
Box 2
Folder 37
  United Service Organization Tour, 1967-1970
Box 2
Folder 38
  University of Notre Dame, 2004

Series III: Album Reviews

Box 3
Folder 1
  "Chicago – The Living Legends," 1994
Box 3
Folder 2
Box 3
Folder 3
  Franz Jackson Catalog, undated
Box 3
Folder 4
  "Franz Jackson/Marcus Belgrave Live at the Windsor Jazz Festival," 1995
Box 3
Folder 5
Box 3
Folder 6
  "Let’s Have a Party," circa 1980
Box 3
Folder 7
  "A Night at the Red Arrow," 1994
Box 3
Folder 8
  "No Saints," 1957
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"Snag It," 1992
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Series IV: Audio-Visual

Box 3
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Andy's, 1994
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Folder 12
Autographed Photographs, undated
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Caricatures, undated
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Folder 14
Elkhart, IL, 1993
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Folder 15
Franz Jackson and the Original Jass All-Stars, undated
Box 3
Folder 16
Franz Jackson with Art Hodes and Isham "Rusty" Jones, undated
Box 3
Folder 17
Franz Jackson with Barrett Deems, undated
Box 3
Folder 18
Franz Jackson with Joe Johnson and Truck Parkham, 1994
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Folder 19
Franz Jackson with Truck Parkham, undated
Box 3
Folder 20
Franz Jackson's Entertainers, undated
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Folder 21
Jazz Institute of Chicago Concert, undated
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Folder 22
La Crosse, WI, 1988
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Madison, 1989
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Folder 24
  Negatives, undated
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  Paintings of Jazz Musicians, undated
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Folder 26
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Box 3
Folder 27
  Photocopies, undated
Box 3
Folder 28
Box 3
Folder 29
  Publicity Shots, undated
Box 3
Folder 30
  Tack Room, Illiopolis, IL, 1993
Box 3
Folder 31
  United States Army, undated
Box 3
Folder 32
  University of Chicago, 1990
Box 3
Folder 33
  Unlabeled, undated
Box 3
Folder 34
  Cassette, "Let's Have a Party!," Franz Jackson with the Jazz Entertainers, undated
Box 3
Folder 35
  Record album, Jeanne Carroll with Franz Jackson and the Original Jass All-Stars, undated

Series V: Publications and Oversize

Box 4
Folder 1
  Cod Fish Ball, 1995
Box 4
Folder 2
  "100 Club News," 1982
Box 4
Folder 3
  Allegro, Associated Musicians of Greater New York, 1992
Box 4
Folder 4
    Chicago Tribune Magazine, 1993
Box 4
Folder 5
    Jazz Beat, 1991
Box 4
Folder 6
    Jazz Express, 1982
Box 4
Folder 7
    Jazzgram, 1994-1994
Box 4
Folder 8
    "Midwest Museum Bulletin," 1985
Box 4
Folder 9
    Hyde Park Herald, 1972
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Folder 10
    Intermezzo, 1994-2000
Box 4
Folder 11
    International Musician, 1992, 1996
Box 4
Folder 12
    The Mississippi Rag, 1982-1994
Box 4
Folder 13
    "Notes to You," Illiana Club of Traditional Jazz, 1980-1981