

*Guide to Special Collections
in the Music Division of the Library of Congress*

**DEXTER GORDON
COLLECTION**

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.music/eadmus.mu2005.wp.0011>

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Introduction

The Dexter Gordon Collection [ML31.G67] was acquired by the Music Division of the Library of Congress from Maxine Gordon, widow of Dexter Gordon, in 1999.

A few 45 rpm records which accompanied the collection were transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcast and Recorded Sound Division of the Library of Congress. For further information about these materials, see the staff of the Motion Picture, Broadcast and Recorded Sound Division.

There are no restrictions on viewing any of the materials in this collection. Patrons are encouraged to consult the Music Division's Permissions File for more information.

Some of the materials in this collection are fragile and patrons are asked to use extreme care in handling.

This Finding Aid was prepared with Corel WordPerfect 8; an online version is available in the Performing Arts Reading Room.

Number of containers:	23
Linear feet of shelf space:	7.5
Approximate number of items:	7,000

Biographical Chronology

- 27 Feb 1923 Born in Watts, Los Angeles, CA
- 1936 Studies music with Lloyd Reese; Plays in a rehearsal band with Charles Mingus and Buddy Collette
- 1940 Quits high school and joins Lionel Hampton's touring band
- 1942 Makes recordings with Lionel Hampton's band
- 1944 Moves to New York City; appears with Billy Eckstine's big band
- 1945-46 Records album *Long Tall Dexter*
- 1947 Records album *The Chase* with Wardell Gray
- 1950s Copes with problems of drug addiction
- 1955 Featured in the film *Unchained*
- 1955 Records album *Dexter Blows Hot and Cool*
- 1960 Serves as actor, musician, and composer in Jack Gebler's play, *The Connection* in Los Angeles
- 1960 Records album *The Resurgence of Dexter Gordon*
- 1961 Begins a series of recordings for the Blue Note Records including albums *Doin' Allright* and *Dexter Calling*
- 1962 Records album *Go!*, tours Europe, moves to Copenhagen
- 1963 Records *Our Man in Paris*
- 1967 Records *Body and Soul*
- 1968 Featured in the film *Jag älskar, du älskar*
- 1970 Appears at the Newport Jazz Festival
- 1971 Records *Just Jazz* segment, PBS Television
- 1972 Appears at the Tangier Jazz Festival
- 1974 Records album *The Apartment*
- 1975 Tours Japan

- 1976 Moves to New York, records album *Homecoming*
- 1978 Honored at the White House Jazz Festival
- 1979 Publishes *Jazz Saxophone Solos*, published by Almo Publications (transcriptions from original recordings)
- 1980 Named “Best Tenor Saxophonist” and “Jazz Musician of the Year” by *Down Beat magazine*, records album *Gotham City*
- 1986 Stars in the film *Round Midnight*
- 24 April 1990 Dies in New York City

Scope and Content Note

The bulk of the materials in the Dexter Gordon Collection were amassed and collected by Maxine Gordon, Gordon's wife, from the late 1970s until Dexter Gordon's death in 1990. The materials date from the early 1940s until the 1992, with the bulk between 1976 and 1988. Important among the biographical materials in the collection is an unfinished and unpublished autobiography tentatively entitled "The Saga of Society Red," a project which Gordon began in 1983. It is composed of a number of interrelated *vignettes* which recount various incidents in Gordon's life and career including his relationships with a number of Jazz musicians such as Count Basie, Lionel Hampton, Lester Young, his European tours, and meetings with celebrities.

There are two boxes of music in the collection. The first box contains works composed by Gordon and they are, for the most part, photocopies of leadsheets. Some are annotated. In addition there are full scores and parts for Gordon's works *Rainbow People*, *Montmartre* and *Soy Calita*. The second box contains music by other composers including works from the film *After Midnight*; most of these materials are photocopies.

Included with the correspondence, which date from 1976 to 1988, are letters, greeting cards, notes and related materials sent to Gordon, as well as sympathy correspondence sent to his family upon his death. In addition, there are original typescripts and photocopies of correspondence between Gordon and various record companies, agents, managers, and performing venues. Some important correspondents include Jimmy Carter, Dizzy Gillespie, Charlie Parker, Ronald Reagan, Bertrand Tavernier.

There is an extensive collection of clippings dating from the period 1976-1988 with a few materials from the early 1940s. A number of international jazz-related and other publications, including magazines, feature articles in various languages on Gordon and his music and related subjects. Gordon's copies of the scripts for the motion pictures *Awakenings*, *To Sleep with Anger*, *Paris Jazz*, *Crime Story* and *Leonard VI* are included in the script series.

Among the business papers is an extensive collection of bills and receipts, mostly dating from 1976 to 1989 as well as a collection of performing and recording contracts. These materials provide a glimpse at Gordon's performing activities during this period.

The iconography in the collection includes a number of photographs, mostly black and white, of Gordon and other Jazz musicians (Charles Mingus, Woody Shaw, etc.) and these materials date from the early 1940s until the 1990s. In addition there are several posters advertising various Gordon appearances.

Michael Ferrando, Processing Technician
Robert Saladini, Music Specialist
July 2001

Description of Series

- 1-2 **Biographical Materials** (2 boxes)
Materials relating to Gordon's personal life, including an unpublished autobiography, awards and honors, memorial book, filed in alphabetical order by subject matter, or chronologically when appropriate
- 2 **Awards and Honors** (1 box)
Awards and honors given to Dexter Gordon.
- 3-4, 21 **Music** (3 boxes)
Includes music composed by Dexter Gordon, filed in alphabetical order by title. Included also is music composed by others, filed in alphabetical order by composer.
- 5-7 **Correspondence** (3 boxes)
Containing general, family and business correspondence; filed in alphabetical order by correspondent
- 8 **Programs** (1 box)
Programs of concerts and other events, filed in chronological order
- 9-10 **Clippings** (2 boxes)
Newspaper and other print media clippings; filed in chronological order
- 11-12 **Serials, periodicals, magazines** (2 boxes)
Housed according to format and size
- 13-16 **Business Papers** (4 boxes)
Financial receipts, contracts and related materials; filed alphabetically or in chronological order where appropriate
- 17-18 **Scripts** (2 boxes)
Film/play scripts filed in alphabetical order by title
- 18-20, 22 **Iconography** (4 boxes)
Assorted illustrations including photographs, drawings, artwork filed in alphabetical order by subject and name.

Container List

BIOGRAPHICAL

<i>Box</i>	<i>Contents</i>
1/1	Funeral and Memorial arrangements for Dexter Gordon
1/2	Ms. Management press kit
1/3	Press releases, assorted
1/4	Round Midnight promotional materials
1/5	<i>Vignettes</i> [The Sage of Society Red] [autobiographical notes]
2/3	Memorial Book
2/4	Mosnes, Terje. Jazz i molde. Ålesund : Nordvest-informasjon, 1980. Inscribed.

AWARDS AND HONORS

2/1-2	Awards and Honors
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MUSIC

Music composed by Dexter Gordon, filed in alphabetical order by title

21/1	Bannanas
3/1	Bikini
3/2	Bossa Nova
3/3	Boston Bernie
3/4	Cao Purange
3/5	Clubhouse
3/6	Dedication
3/7	Ernie's tune
3/8	Evergreenish
3/9	Fenja
3/10	Fried bananas
3/11	Montmartre
3/12	Mrs. Miniver
3/13	The Panther
3/14	Rainbow people
3/15	Soy Califas
3/16	Valse Robin
3/17	Winter's calling
3/18	[Arrangements of Gordon's music by others]

Music by Others, filed in alphabetical order by composer/title

3/19-21,	A-Z
4/1-2,	
21/2-3	
4/3	<i>Round Midnight</i> , music from the film

MUSIC

Box

Contents

Printed Music

	Gordon, Dexter
4/4	<i>Jazz saxophone solos</i> (transcribed by Lennie Niehaus) Copyright 1979 Almo Publications
4/5	Sheet Music by various composers
4/6	Title only
4/7	[Unidentified]

CORRESPONDENCE

5/1	A. L. Nellum and Associates 5/1
5/2	Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences
5/3	Aegersold, Jamey
5/4	Allen, Roz Kirkland
5/5	American Cinematheque
5/6	American Federation of Musicians
5/7	Angello, Terri
5/8	Associated Booking Corporation
5/9	Baldwin, [Pappy]
5/10	Barkan, Todd
5/11	Bentley, Charles
5/12	Berganza, Gustavo Adolfo
5/13	Berman, Sandy
5/14	Bernard, Alain
5/15	Bernice, Norman
5/16	Berry, Lee
5/17	Bethea, Mingo
5/18	Bettelheim, Wilhelm
5/19	Bianca's Jazz Club
5/20	Bloch, David
5/21	Bougeant, Gérard
5/22	Bourboulon, Frederic
5/23	Boustedt, Christer
5/24	Bridgewater, Dee Dee
5/25	Britt, Kaye
5/26	Broadcast Music Inc. (BMI)
5/27	Burrows, R.
5/28	Butler, George
5/29	California State University, Sacramento
5/30	Carson Production Group
5/31	Carter, Jimmy
5/32	CBS Records
5/33	Charismic Productions
5/34	Chick Corea Productions
5/35	Cohn, Marvin
5/36	Colburn, Brita
5/37	Columbia Records
5/38	Composers Forum in Albany
5/39	Conciertos GAMA
5/40	Copyright Service Bureau Ltd.

CORRESPONDENCE

<i>Box/Folder</i>	<i>Contents</i>
5/41	Corneille, A.
5/42	Corral, Rosalind
5/43	Council, William
5/44	Crampton, Gil
5/45	Crime Story (Michael Mann Co.)
5/46	Darius Productions Inc.
5/47	de Casseres, Joe
5/48	DeCaro, Lou
5/49	deNoyelles, Jr., Griffith G.
5/50	Diamond, Monty
5/51	District of Columbia, Department of Corrections
5/52	Dury, Monique
5/53	Elgort, Arthur
5/54	Farmer, Art
5/55	Festival Productions Inc.
5/56	Friedman, Carol
5/57	Gaudry, Michel
5/58	Gentry, Theodore
5/59	Giddens, Billy
5/60	Gillespie, Dizzy (John Birks)
5/61	Gitler, Mary Jo
5/62	Goodwin, Jill
5/63	Gordon, Benjamin
5/64	Gordon, Lorraine
5/65	Gordon, Max
5/66	Gottlieb, Carol
5/67	Grosney, Paul
5/68	Group Dynamics, Inc.
5/69	Gruntz, George
5/70	Hagiwara, Youichi
5/71	Hamill, Pete
5/72	Hand, Kevin
5/73	Hannigan, [?]
5/74	Harding and Kurnos
5/75	Harris, Ora
5/76	Hay, Curtis
5/77	Hightower, Renee
5/78	Hishinuma, Taeko
5/79	Hoffler, Irene
5/80	House of the Crossroads
5/81	Howard University
5/82	Hudnut, William
5/83	Hultin, Randi
5/84	Hutcherson, Bobby
5/85	Hutcherson-Zuniga, Rosemary
5/86	Jackson, Cliff
5/87	Jacob, John E. ("A Night of Stars" at Lincoln Center)
5/88	Jazz Institute of Chicago
5/89	Jazz Yaltra (Jazz India)
5/90	John Birks "Dizzy" Gillespie Center
5/91	Johnson, Carl
5/92	Johnson Publishing Company
5/93	Johnston, Glen

CORRESPONDENCE

<i>Box/Folder</i>	<i>Contents</i>
5/94	Jordan, Cliff
5/95	Jorgensen, Finn
5/96	Kabat, Julie
5/97	Keane, [?]
5/98	Kellaway, Roger
6/1	Knight, Larry
6/2	Konde family
6/3	Kurzenberger, Paul
6/4	Lambros, Pete
6/5	LaMothe, Brenda
6/6	Lazar, Irving
6/7	Lee, David
6/8	Leroux, Alain
6/9	Levenstein, Lev
6/10	Lewis, Larry Dan
6/11	Lind, Jack
6/12	Livérant, Babs
6/13	Lundvall, Bruce
6/14	Maizeret, Dan
6/15	Malone, Skip
6/16	Manno, Dana
6/17	Marable, Sheryle Ann
6/18	Mason, Konda
6/19	Matthews, Onzy
6/20	McLaughlin, John
6/21	McLean, Jackie
6/22	Meara, Anne
6/23	Metcalf, Lila
6/24	Metcalf, Oz
6/25	Mexican Consulate (New York)
6/26	Michelot, Pierre
6/27	Milioti, Clark
6/28	Miller, [?]
6/29	Milling-Bey, Darlene
6/30	Mingus, Sue Graham
6/31	Mondale, Joan
6/32	Moreau, Jacqueline
6/33	Morh, Francis
6/34	Mosely, Jon
6/35	Mullins, Diane
6/36	Muylaert, Roberto
6/37	Nanneth, Anthony
6/38	National Endowment for the Arts
6/39	National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
6/40	National Public Radio
6/41	Nevada Motion Picture Division
6/42	Newark, New Jersey (Municipal Council)
6/43	Newport Jazz Festival (New York)
6/44	Noel, Dan
6/45	Norman Annenberg Law Offices
6/46	Ohio State University
6/47	Parker, Charlie

CORRESPONDENCE

<i>Box/Folder</i>	<i>Contents</i>
6/48	Passman, Ray
6/49	Payne, Tyler
6/50	Pearce, Dorothy
6/51	Peter Levinson Communications
6/52	Pikuzinski, Eunice
6/53	Pilot, Joan
6/54	Pimental de Castro, Mario
6/55	Playboy Jazz Festival
6/56	Porte, Isabelle
6/57	Preston, Frances
6/58	Queens College NY
6/59	Radio Free Europe
6/60	Radiologica Clinica (Cuernavaca, Mexico)
6/61	Reagan, Ronald
6/62	Reardon, Patrick
6/63	Reaves-Phillips, Sandra
6/64	Redd, V.
6/65	Reid, Rufus
6/66	Reitman, Linda R.
6/67	République Française Ministère de l'Intérieur
6/68	Rollins, [?]
6/69	Ross, Steven
6/70	Salou, Michel
6/71	Samuels, Jim
6/72	Santiago, Mel
6/73	Screen Actors Guild
6/74	Shirew Publishing
6/75	Sidran, Ben
6/76	Silverman, Bernice (and Norman Annenberg)
6/77	Sjøgren, Thorbjørn
6/78	Sloane, Carol
6/79	Smith, Mary Alice
6/80	Solfors, Mikael
6/81	Spitzer, Michael
6/82	Stephens, David
6/83	Stiller, Jerry
6/84	Stoop, Norma M.
6/85	Strone, Daniel
6/86	Tavernier, Bertrand
6/87	Temple University Jazz Festival
6/88	Thayler, Carl
6/89	Time Magazine
6/90	Townsend, Larry
6/91	Traberg, Ebbe
6/92	Turner, Carl
6/93	Twin Cities Public Television
6/94	Ullman, Michael
6/95	University of California, Berkeley
6/96	USA, Embassy of (Paraguay)
6/97	USA, International Communications Agency
6/98	Vallint, Glenn
6/99	Vason, Lou

CORRESPONDENCE

<i>Box/Folder</i>	<i>Contents</i>
7/1	Wanamaker, George
7/2	Ware, Ron
7/3	Warner Brothers
7/4	Watson, Marian
7/5	WBGO-FM
7/6	Weisman, Donald
7/7	Weston, Paul
7/8	White House [Washington, DC]
7/9	Whittemore, Jack
7/10	WHRB-Harvard University
7/11	Wilson, John S.
7/12	Wright, Leo
7/13	WRVR Jazz Radio
7/14	Yass, Judy
7/15	Zárate, Pedro
7/16	Zinglersen, Kai
7/17	Cards and Condolences, assorted
7/18	Unknown and/or unidentified

PROGRAMS

7/1	1962-1969
7/2	1976-1977
7/3	1978
8/1	1979
8/2	1980
8/3	1981
8/4	1982
8/5	1985-1986
8/6	1987
8/7	1988-1996
8/8	Undated

CLIPPINGS

9/1	1976
9/2	1977
9/3	1978
9/4	1979
9/5	1980
9/6	1981
9/7	1982
10/1	1985
10/2-3	1986
10/4	1987
10/5	1988
10/6	1988 (Japan tour)
10/7	Undated

SERIALS, PERIODICALS, MAGAZINES

Box/Folder *Contents*

11-12 Serials

BUSINESS PAPERS

Bills and Receipts

13/1 1976
13/2 1977
13/3-4 1978
13/5 1979
14/1 1979
14/2 1980
14/3 1981
14/4 1982
14/5 1984-1985
14/6 1986
14/7 1986 (*Round Midnight*)
15/1 1987
15/2 1988
15/3 1989

15/4 Tour books
 April to Oct. [n.d.]
 May to July, 1977
15/4 Bank account books

Contracts

16/1 1976
16/2 1977
16/3 1978
16/4 1979
16/5 1980
16/6 1981
16/7 1982
16/8 1983

SCRIPTS

17/1-4 *Awakenings* adapted from Oliver Sacks book by Steven Zaillian
 Bound script, inscribed; title page dated "Oct. 2, 1989"
17/5 *Crime Story* by Gail Hickman
17/6 *Leonard VI* by Jonathan Reynolds
17/7 *Paris Jazz* by D. Rayfiel and B. Tavernier
17/8 *Round Midnight* by Bertrand Tavernier
 shooting schedules only
18/1 *To Sleep with Anger* by Charles Burnett

ICONOGRAPHY

Box/Folder

Contents

Photographs

	Dexter Gordon, Performing
18/2	Alone (3 x 5; 5 x 7; 6 x 9; 7 x 10; 8 x 10; 10 x 12)
18/3	With Others (3 x 5; 4 x 6; 7 x 10; 8 x 10; 9 x 12)
	Dexter Gordon, Not Performing
18/4	Alone (wallet size; 3 x 5; 5 x 7; 8 x 10; 9 x 12)
18/5	With Others (3 x 5; 5 x 7; 6 x 9; 7 x 10; 8 x 10)
19/1	<i>Round Midnight</i> , stills from the film
20	Dexter Gordon photo album
	ten black and white 8 x 10's
22/6	Dexter Gordon mounted photoprints
19/2	Photographs, assorted
22/2	Contact sheets (in ov box)
22/3	Negatives (in ov box)

Assorted Artwork

22/5	Water color (3) (ss)
22/4	Pen and ink sketches (3)
22/1	Art boards for advertisements
22	Posters (3) (see oversized box)
20	Binder with Dexter Portrait on cover