

Hazel Scott Papers



**Music Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2020**

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Prepared by the Music Division of the Library of Congress

Finding aid encoded by Janet McKinney and Shantel Lambert, 2020
Revised 2023 July

Collection Summary

Title: Hazel Scott Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1924-1986

Bulk Dates: (1950-1976)

Call No.: ML31.S375

Creator: Scott, Hazel, 1920-1981

Extent: approximately 3,720 items

Extent: 15 containers

Extent: 9 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English and French

Location: Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/2020570081>

Summary: Hazel Scott was a jazz and classical pianist, singer, and actor. Materials in the collection include correspondence, writings, clippings, photographs, business papers, datebooks, and other items that document her career in entertainment and history of political activism.

Provenance

Gift, Adam Clayton Powell III, 2020, 2023

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Processing History

Janet McKinney and Shantel Lambert processed the Hazel Scott Papers and coded the finding aid in 2020.

Related Material

Material related to the recording of *Relaxed Piano Moods* can be found in the [Charles Mingus Collection](#).

Copyright Status

Materials from the Hazel Scott Papers are governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.) and other applicable international copyright laws.

Access and Restrictions

The Hazel Scott Papers are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Music Division prior to visiting in order to determine whether the desired materials will be available at that time.

Certain restrictions to use or copying of materials may apply.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [item, date, container number], Hazel Scott Papers, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1920 June 11	Born in Port of Spain, Trinidad
1924	Scott and family immigrated to Harlem, New York City
1928	Accepted at Juilliard to study piano with Paul Wagner
1933	Performed piano and trumpet in her mother's band, Alma Long Scott's American Creolians
1936	Performed on radio programs for the Mutual Broadcasting System
1938	Performed on Broadway in <i>Sing Out the News</i>
1939-1943	Featured performer at Café Society
1942	Performed on Broadway in <i>Priorities of 1942</i>
1943-1945	Appeared as herself in the films <i>Something to Shout About</i> , <i>I Dood It</i> , <i>The Heat's On</i> , <i>Broadway Rhythm</i> , and <i>Rhapsody in Blue</i>
1945	Married New York Congressman Adam Clayton Powell Jr.
1946	Son Adam Clayton Powell III born
1950 July 3	Hosted the <i>The Hazel Scott Show</i> on the DuMont Television Network, becoming the first African-American to host their own TV show
1950 September 22	Testified in front of the House Committee on Un-American Activities
1950 September 27	Last broadcast of the <i>The Hazel Scott Show</i>
1955	Recorded <i>Relaxed Piano Moods</i> with Charles Mingus and Max Roach
1957	Moved to Paris and gave concerts across Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East
1958	Appeared in the French film <i>Le désordre et la nuit</i>
1960	Divorced Adam Clayton Powell Jr.
1961	Married Swiss-Italian comedian Ezio Bedin
1967	Moved back to the United States
1981 October 2	Died in Manhattan

Scope and Content Note

The Hazel Scott Papers chronicle the life of an accomplished jazz and classical pianist, singer, and actor. The collection consists of writings, correspondence, clippings and promotional materials, photographs, datebooks, business papers, and other items that document her career and history of political activism. Scott's [Writings](#) contain drafts and notes for an unpublished autobiography, along with poetry, song lyrics, quotes, and various thoughts jotted down on scraps of paper, envelopes, and notebooks. Her [Correspondence](#) consists of letters from business associates, family, and friends. Significant correspondents are identified when noteworthy. [Subject Files](#) include a variety of personal and professional materials, including contracts, financial papers, programs, and itineraries. Of particular interest are handwritten lyric sheets for songs with Scott's chord choices interspersed within the text. Headshots and publicity photographs of Scott and her performances and appearances are found in the [Photographs](#) series. Also included are candid photographs of Scott, her family, and friends. [Clippings and Promotional Materials](#) consists of fliers and loose clippings that advertise or review Scott's many appearances and also document her highly publicized marriage to Congressman Adam Clayton Powell Jr. The [Datebooks and Address Books](#) provide insight into Scott's professional and social calendar. The [Music](#) series was a later addition to the collection and consists of several manuscript arrangements of songs for big band. The arranger is identified if known.

Organization of the Hazel Scott Papers

The collection is arranged in seven series:

- [Writings, undated](#)
- [Correspondence, 1950-1981](#)
- [Subject Files, 1947-1981](#)
- [Photographs, 1924-1980](#)
- [Clippings and Promotional Materials, 1933-1986](#)

- [Datebooks and Address Books, 1958-1980](#)
- [Music, 1960-1967](#)

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Gillespie, Dizzy, 1917-1993.
 Horne, Lena.
 Norman, Fred.
 Powell, Adam Clayton, Jr., 1908-1972.
 Scott, Hazel--Archives.
 Scott, Hazel.

Organizations

Hazel Scott Trio.

Subjects

African Americans--Civil rights.
 Band music--Scores.
 Women jazz musicians--United States--Biography.

Form/Genre

Appointment books.
 Arrangements (Music)
 Biographies.
 Business correspondence.
 Clippings (Information artifacts)
 Contracts.
 Fliers (Ephemera)
 Itineraries.
 Musical texts.
 Personal correspondence.
 Photographs.
 Poetry.
 Popular music.
 Programs (Publications)
 Quotations.
 Scores.
 Writings (Documents)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-2	<p><u>Writings, undated</u></p> <p>Scott's unpublished autobiography, poetry, song lyrics, quotes, and other notes. Arranged by subject.</p>
BOX 3-7	<p><u>Correspondence, 1950-1981</u></p> <p>Correspondence between Scott, business associates, family, and friends. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 7-9, 14	<p><u>Subject files, 1947-1981</u></p> <p>Contracts, itineraries, financial papers, legal documents, lyric sheets, and programs. Arranged alphabetically by subject.</p>
BOX 10, 14	<p><u>Photographs, 1924-1980</u></p> <p>Headshots, publicity photos, and candid photos of Scott, her family, and friends. Arranged by subject.</p>
BOX 11, 14 MAPCASE 6	<p><u>Clippings and Promotional Materials, 1933-1986</u></p> <p>Fliers, loose clippings, magazines, and posters. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 12-13	<p><u>Datebooks and Address Books, 1958-1980</u></p> <p>Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 14-15	<p><u>Music, 1960-1967</u></p> <p>Chiefly arrangements by Fred Norman of songs for big band. Arranged alphabetically by title.</p>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-2	Writings, undated Scott's unpublished autobiography, poetry, song lyrics, quotes, and other notes. Arranged by subject.
BOX-FOLDER 1/1 to 2/3	Autobiography
BOX-FOLDER 2/3 to 3/2	Miscellaneous
BOX-FOLDER 3/3	Writings by others
BOX 3-7	Correspondence, 1950-1981 Correspondence between Scott, business associates, family, and friends. Arranged chronologically.
BOX-FOLDER 3/4	1950-1955 <i>Includes:</i> Warner Watson; Robert Breen
BOX-FOLDER 3/5	1956-1959 <i>Includes:</i> Lorraine Gillespie; Charlie Morrison; Adam Clayton Powell Jr.
BOX-FOLDER 3/6	1960-1961 <i>Includes:</i> Carol Channing; Marjorie C. Fairbanks; Adam Clayton Powell Jr.
BOX-FOLDER 3/7	1962
BOX-FOLDER 3/8	1963 <i>Includes:</i> Ezio Bedin; Walter Bishop
BOX-FOLDER 4/1	1964 <i>Includes:</i> Ezio Bedin
BOX-FOLDER 4/2	1965 <i>Includes:</i> Ezio Bedin
BOX-FOLDER 4/3	1966 <i>Includes:</i> Beulah Bryant; Toni Elling (Rosita Sims); Babs Gonzalez; Carmen McRae; Nina Simone; Mary Lou Williams
BOX-FOLDER 4/4	1966 <i>Includes:</i> Ezio Bedin; Alice Childress; Leonard Feather
BOX-FOLDER 4/5	1967 <i>Includes:</i> Walter Bishop; Oscar Cohen; Langston Hughes
BOX-FOLDER 4/6	1968
BOX-FOLDER 4/7	1969
BOX-FOLDER 5/1	1970
BOX-FOLDER 5/2	1971 <i>Includes:</i> Lon McAllister
BOX-FOLDER 5/3	1972 <i>Includes:</i> Dizzy and Lorraine Gillespie; Coretta Scott King; George McGovern
BOX-FOLDER 5/4	1972
BOX-FOLDER 5/5	1973-1974 <i>Includes:</i> Aaron Bridgers

Correspondence, 1950-1981

Container	Contents
BOX-FOLDER 5/6	1975 <i>Includes:</i> Lillian Upshur
BOX-FOLDER 5/7	1976
BOX-FOLDER 6/1	1977 <i>Includes:</i> Walter Bishop, Hugh Carey
BOX-FOLDER 6/2	1978
BOX-FOLDER 6/3	1979
BOX-FOLDER 6/4	1980 <i>Includes:</i> Stanley Adams; Hugh Carey; Kitty Carlisle Hart; Gerald Marks
BOX-FOLDER 6/5	1981 <i>Includes:</i> Hugh Carey; Hal David; Leonard Feather; Murray Horwitz; John Lindsay; Lobo Nocho; Ronald Reagan; Joseph Wershba
BOX-FOLDER 6/6 to 7/3	Undated <i>Includes:</i> Oscar Brand; Sammy Cahn; Marjorie C. Fairbanks; Dizzy and Lorraine Gillespie
BOX 7-9, 14	Subject files, 1947-1981 Contracts, itineraries, financial papers, legal documents, lyric sheets, and programs. Arranged alphabetically by subject.
BOX-FOLDER 7/4	Biographical notes, 1955-1962 and undated
BOX-FOLDER 7/5	Contracts, 1958-1980 and undated
BOX-FOLDER 7/7	Copyright registration, 1971-1977
BOX-FOLDER 7/8	Divorce papers, 1960, 1966
BOX-FOLDER 7/9 to 8/2	Financial papers and bills, 1955-1980 and undated
BOX-FOLDER 8/3	Funeral registers, 1981
BOX-FOLDER 8/4	Itineraries and schedules, 1955-1968 and undated
BOX-FOLDER 8/5-6	Lyric sheets with chords, undated
BOX-FOLDER 8/7	Memberships and committees, 1961-1974
BOX-FOLDER 8/8	Miscellaneous, 1970-1981 and undated
BOX-FOLDER 9/1	Personal identification papers, 1959-1968 and undated
BOX-FOLDER 9/2	Powell, Adam Clayton Jr., 1964-1976 and undated
BOX-FOLDER 9/3	Press releases, 1954-1971 and undated
BOX-FOLDER 9/4, 14/5	Programs, 1947-1981 and undated
BOX-FOLDER 9/5	Projects, miscellaneous, 1955-1978 and undated
BOX-FOLDER 9/6	Residency papers, 1958-1971
BOX-FOLDER 9/7	Testimony, House Committee on Un-American Activities, 1950 September 22
BOX-FOLDER 9/8	Trial papers, 1950-1964
BOX 10, 14	Photographs, 1924-1980 Headshots, publicity photos, and candid photos of Scott, her family, and friends. Arranged by subject.
BOX-FOLDER 10/1	Early years
BOX-FOLDER 10/2	Headshots, publicity photographs
BOX-FOLDER 10/3	Scott, alone
BOX-FOLDER 10/4	Scott, performing
BOX-FOLDER 10/6	Scott, with family
BOX-FOLDER 10/7	Scott, with family, vacation

Photographs, 1924-1980

Container	Contents
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BOX-FOLDER 10/8, 14/3-4	Scott, with others
BOX-FOLDER 10/5	Appearances: Wartime; marquees
BOX-FOLDER 10/9	<i>Nina Simone: Black is the Color</i>
BOX-FOLDER 10/10	Others

BOX 11, 14 MAPCASE 6 Clippings and Promotional Materials, 1933-1986

Fliers, loose clippings, magazines, and posters.
Arranged chronologically.

BOX-FOLDER 11/1	1933
BOX-FOLDER 14/1, 14/3	1940-1945
BOX-FOLDER 11/2	1949
BOX-FOLDER 14/2	1949-1967
BOX-FOLDER 11/3	1950s
BOX-FOLDER 11/4	<i>Jet</i> (magazine), 1958-1967
BOX-FOLDER 11/5	1960-1961
BOX-FOLDER 11/6	1962-1964
BOX-FOLDER 11/7	1965-1966
BOX-FOLDER 11/8	1967
BOX-FOLDER 11/9	1968-1969
BOX-FOLDER 11/10	1970-1971
BOX-FOLDER 11/11	1972
BOX-FOLDER 11/12	1973-1975
BOX-FOLDER 11/13	1976-1977
BOX-FOLDER 11/14	1978-1979
BOX-FOLDER 11/15	1980
BOX-FOLDER 11/16	1981-1986
BOX-FOLDER 11/17-18	Undated
MAPCASE-DRAWER 6/11	Posters, undated

BOX 12-13 Datebooks and Address Books, 1958-1980

Arranged chronologically.

BOX-FOLDER 12/1	1958-1959
BOX-FOLDER 12/2	1960-1961
BOX-FOLDER 12/3	1963-1964
BOX-FOLDER 12/4	1965-1967
BOX-FOLDER 12/5	1966, 1968, 1969
BOX-FOLDER 12/6	1974
BOX-FOLDER 12/7	1975-1976
BOX-FOLDER 12/8	1978-1979
BOX-FOLDER 13/1	1980
BOX-FOLDER 13/2-3	Undated
	Address books only

BOX 14-15 Music, 1960-1967

Chiefly arrangements by Fred Norman of songs for big band.

Music, 1960-1967

Container

Contents

Arranged alphabetically by title.

BOX-FOLDER 14/6	Come by Sunday, undated Arranged by Neal Hefti Vocal part with annotations
BOX-FOLDER 15/1	Dis Hyeah (This Here), 1960 Arranged by Fred Norman Manuscript score for big band
BOX-FOLDER 14/7	Her Name is--Nina, 1967 By Charles Reuben Ozalid of lead sheet
BOX-FOLDER 14/8	I'm for Real, undated Arranged by Fred Norman Manuscript parts for big band
BOX-FOLDER 14/9	It's All Right With Me, 1960 Arranged by Fred Norman Manuscript score for big band
BOX-FOLDER 15/2	Lil Darlin, undated Manuscript score for big band
BOX-FOLDER 15/3	Look Out for Love, undated Manuscript score for big band
BOX-FOLDER 15/4	Love Makes the World Go 'Round, 1960 Arranged by Fred Norman Manuscript score for big band
BOX-FOLDER 15/5	Moanin', 1960 Manuscript score for big band
BOX-FOLDER 15/6	Them There Eyes, 1960 Arranged by Fred Norman Manuscript score for big band