

Marr Sound Archives
Miller Nichols Library
University of Missouri, Kansas City

Harold Ashby Collection

SIZE: 4.75 linear feet

DATE RANGE:

ACQUISITION:

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH:

Harold Kenneth Ashby was born March 27, 1925, in Kansas City, Missouri, the last of six children of Herbert Ashby and Anna Lewis. He began playing saxophone and clarinet at an early age and was a protégé of jazz tenor saxophonist Ben Webster, also a Kansas City native. Raised and educated in his hometown, Ashby graduated from R.T. Coles Junior High in 1938 and Lincoln High School two years later, where he was the recipient of the Service Award of the Department of Music in 1939. He graduated from Lincoln Junior College in 1942 and was inducted into the United States Navy the following year. After his honorable discharge in December 1945, Ashby returned to Kansas City to play music.

In the 1950s Ashby moved to Chicago, playing in various bands, often in an R&B or blues-based style. While in Chicago, he played and recorded with Willie Dixon, Jimmy Witherspoon, Memphis Slim, Chuck Berry and Otis Rush. In 1957 he moved to New York to work with, among others, Mercer Ellington. Through that association, Ashby received work from Mercer's father, Duke Ellington, and gained the respect of many of Duke's current and former sidemen. From the late 1950s through the mid 1960s, Ashby recorded with Ben Webster, Johnny Hodges, Paul Gonsalves and Lawrence Brown. In 1968, Ashby became a permanent member of the Duke Ellington band and small groups, and his role progressively grew as the band toured across the country and around the world.

Following Ellington's death in 1974, Ashby continued to perform at concerts and festivals around the world, such as the 1985 Nice Festival, as well as with aggregates of the Duke Ellington band, including the orchestra under Mercer's direction. In addition, Ashby worked with Sy Oliver and Benny Goodman; did tours in Europe, including those with Junior Mance and Kansas City jazz pianist Jay McShann; and recorded under his own name during the late 1980s and early 1990s.

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Ashby's final performance was on September 14, 2002, at the Folly Theatre in Kansas City, where he was featured with Bobby Watson and the Duke's Men. Ashby died June 13, 2003, in New York at age 78.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION:

Contains interviews with Duke Ellington band members, live recordings of performances around the world, recordings of the Sacred Concert Performance at the National Presbyterian Church in 1970, recordings of rehearsals, radio broadcasts, recordings of Harold Ashby performing with many other jazz musicians, performances of musicians such as Ben Webster, Jay McShann, Randy Yonk, Jim Galloway, Johnny Hodges, Buddy Tate, Rufus Reid, Emma Jean, Connie Day, Richard Wyand, Dick Katz, Roland Kirk, Paul Gonsalves, Tim Price, Willie Mabon, Bucky Hound, Lucky Thompson, Reggie Johnson, Ross Shneider, Phil Flanagan, Claude Williams.

COLLECTION DETAIL:

06/11/83	Side 1- Dick Katz and Harold Ashby	HA-CASS-001
N/D	Vocalist Joe Jones commercially released recording.	HA-CASS-002
01/10/81	Neat Simplicity: Piano, John Bunch; Bass, Peck Morrison; Drums, Ronnie Cole; Sax, Harold Ashby.	HA-CASS-003
08/12/79	Bunch, Ashby, Harrell, Pemberton, Kay	HA-CASS-004
N/D	Roy Haynes/Ronald Kirk – Out of the Afternoon; Copy commercial LPs **Held at Marr	HA-CASS-005
05/02/83	Richard Wyands, Reggie Johnson Keep Steppin', Neat	HA-CASS-006
N/D	Major Holley, Connie Kay, Harold Ashby, Richard Wyands Lullaby for Ben	HA-CASS-007
04/26/81	Peck Morrison, Richard Wyands, Harold Ashby; Side A: Scuffing, All of Me, It Don't Mean a Thing, You are Beautiful, Jumping the Blues; Side B: Three Little Words, A Train, Satin Doll	HA-CASS-008
N/D	Soul of Ben Webster copy of commercial LP **Held at Marr	HA-CASS-009
3/27/95	Ashby interviewed by Phil Schaap on WKCR for his 70 th birthday celebration.	HA-CASS-010
07/11/86	Concert Newport Jazz Festival Allstars in concert at Montauban Harold Ashby/Guy LaFitte; Jay McShann, Eddie Jones, Gus Johnson.	HA-CASS-011
12/19/00	Ashby studio recording with false starts	HA-CASS-012

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	Lucky Thompson commercial recordings	HA-CASS-013
N/D	Copy of his 1989 release Viking Side A Viking Side B Tasty, Solitude, Rose Room, Simplicity	HA-CASS-014
10/05/85	Harold Ashby, Booty Wood, Jim Galloway Toronto Alive – CKFM air check Digital Copy Available HA-CD-143	HA-CASS-015
N/D	Claude Williams – Swing Time in New York Copy of CD **Held at Music/Media	HA-CASS-016
N/D	Home recording of Ashby playing one song solo	HA-CASS-017
07/17/85	Interview with Harold Ashby	HA-CASS-018
05/15/86	Suite Montauban Newport All Stars, Hotel Meridien, Paris	HA-CASS-019
N/D	Various Duke Ellington recording issued for members of the Duke Ellington Music Society	HA-CASS-020
N/D	Side A – Tasty Solitude, Rose Room Side B – Viking Cassette of Viking recording.	HA-CASS-021
N/D	Ashby, Joe Jones, Peck Morrison, Richard Wynands Live recording side B only.	HA-CASS-022
N/D	Tape from answering machine.	HA-CASS-023
04/25/99	Documentary about Duke Ellington on CBC Radio Toronto	HA-CASS-024
03/06/81	Ashby interview, KUAT-FM, Tucson, Arizona Produced by Paul Rubin	HA-CASS-025
03/13/80	Oral history with Ashby by Valerie Archer, New York	HA-CASS-026
N/D	Harlem WKCR Side A – Bob Porter, Portraits in Blue, Willie Mabon Side B Live concert	HA-CASS-027
N/D	Slaves to the Rhythm Radio GBC Gibraltar, Modern Jazz Quartet and Harold Ashby featured in concert at the Seville Festival.	HA-CASS-028
N/D	Ashby, Al Grey and others in concert.	HA-CASS-029
9/5/87	Jazz at Jim Dunn's feat. John Bunch, Connie Kay, Randy Sandke, Jack Stuckey, George Mraz, Harold Ashby and Chris Flory. Side A Undecided, It's You or No one for Me, Poor	HA-CASS-030

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	Butterfly, Rosetta Side B Stardust, I Got It Bad, What's New, Mellow Tone, I Found A New Baby, Slow Boat to China, Sophisticated Lady	
N/D	Tenor Saxophonist Tim Price and group	HA-CASS-031
N/D	Tim Price and Ashby in concert.	HA-CASS-032
03/2795	Interview with Harold Ashby on WKCUR on his 70 th birthday.	HA-CASS-033
10/12/91	Yank, Snooky, Bucky Howard	HA-CASS-034
N/D	Ashby with organ playing Black and Blue Honeysuckle Rose	HA-CASS-035
N/D	The Best of Harold Ashby 1948-1978	HA-CASS-036
05/02/78	Ashby with Cat's Cast Villeneuve	HA-CASS-037
N/D	Bennie Wallace and Paul Gonuali recorded live	HA-CASS-038
03/27/95	Carribbean Magazine No. 95/08	HA-CASS-039
08/13/82	Ashby, Richard Wyands, Reggie Johnson Live at Defemio's	HA-CASS-040
08/14/82	Ashby, Richard Wyands, Reggie Johnson Live at Defemio's	HA-CASS-041
N/D	Kenny Davern from CD Mood Indigo **Held at Music/media	HA-CASS-042
02/08/81	Saturday Night Richard Wyands, Phil Flanagan, Joe Jones	HA-CASS-043
N/D	Side A: Paul Up Jump; Side B: Harold Up Jump	HA-CASS-044
03/27/95	Ashby WKCUR	HA-CASS-045
N/D	Sunny Side, unidentified club recording	HA-CASS-046
02-27	All of Me, Undecided, Sunny Gets Blue, Keep Stepping, Earma Jean	HA-CASS-047
05/27/83	Richard Wyands, Reggie Johnson Live at the Defemio	HA-CASS-048
05/27/83	Richard Wyands, Reggie Johnson Live at the Defemio	HA-CASS-049
85-86	Newport All Stars, Limoge, France	HA-CASS-050
N/D	Side A Manila Singing Side B Harlem	HA-CASS-051
N/D	Black and Blue	HA-CASS-052
N/D	What Am I Here For	HA-CASS-053
N/D	Unidentified female vocalist in club.	HA-CASS-054
1992	Forlorn (Dedicated to Billy Strayhorn) Another Winter Night Alone Cassette of two tunes by Ross Schneider sent to	HA-CASS-055

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	Ashby	
N/D	Ashby playing I Can't Get Started.	HA-CASS-056
N/D	Ashby playing Just Squeeze Me and a trio playing one other tune.	HA-CASS-057
1994	New Year's Chicago	HA-CASS-058
1987	Ellington Dynasty	HA-CASS-059
02/28/81	Ashby Quartet practice tape	HA-CASS-060
N/D	Ashby quartet in concert	HA-CASS-061
N/D	Recording of LP "Soul of Ben Webster" **Held at Marr	HA-CASS-062
N/D	Unidentified vibes player from LP (probably Milt Jackson)	HA-CASS-063
N/D	Lucky Thompson Milt Jackson recorded live.	HA-CASS-064
03/27/95	70 th Birthday salute to Harold Ashby from Phil Schapp	HA-CASS-065
N/D	Ashby scat singing a couple of numbers.	HA-CASS-066
N/D	Ellen Martin Sophisticated Lady, Fever, More Than You Know	HA-CASS-067
N/D	Big Joe Turner, Russ Andres	HA-CASS-068
01/21/93	Live Broadcast feat. Harold Ashby, Curtis Fuller, Spanky Davis, Lou Stein, Eddie Yolks?, Louis Bellson	HA-CASS-069
1997	Ashby, Snooky Young, Pete Condoli, Ralph Sutton	HA-CASS-070
N/D	Recording of television program with talking in the background.	HA-CASS-071
N/D	Tapes of recording session for 2005 release "Hash" Hash-4, Ash 1-6, Get Down, Dash , Swing Train	HA-CASS-072
3/6/81	Interview with Ashby on Just Jazz program KUAT-FM Tuscon, AZ	HA-CASS-073
N/D	Recording of unknown early big bands from LP	HA-CASS-074
N/D	Commercial recordings of Wallace Davenport and Al Hirt (tape broken)	HA-CASS-075
03-27	Duke Ellington's Sacred Concert recorded in Winnipeg Digital Copy Available HA-CD-126, HA-CD-127	HA-CASS-076
N/D	Duke Ellington's Third Sacred Concert presented in England by the UN Digital Copy Available HA-CD-128	HA-CASS-077
N/D	Duke Ellington's Sacred Concert, Crockett High	HA-CASS-078

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	School Digital Copy Available HA-CD-129, HA-CD-130	
N/D	Side 1 Good Harlem, New Zealand, Buffalo Symphony Side 2 Toronto Symphony Digital Copy Available HA-CD-144, HA-CD-145	HA-CASS-079
N/D	Conversation, Emma Jean Cootie Practice Digital Copy Available HA-CD-146, HA-CD-147	HA-CASS-080
N/D	Paul Talking, Rufus Reid, Cootie Williams Buddy Tate Mohawk Digital Copy Available HA-CD-133, HA-CD-134	HA-CASS-081
N/D	Ellington with Strings Paris and Poland Digital Copy Available HA-CD-135, HA-CD-136	HA-CASS-082
01/21/93	Radio Broadcast, Duke Story Laren, Holland Digital Copy Available HA-CA-137	HA-CASS-083
N/D	Stardust, Duke Ellington Digital Copy Available HA-CD-140	HA-CASS-084
07/17/93	Sacred Concert Digital Copy Available HA-CD-141, HA-CD-142	HA-CASS-085
N/D	No Info	HA-CASS-086
02-25	Joe Jones All Of Me, Take The Train	HA-CASS-087
10-12	Jay McShann Pennies from Heaven	HA-CASS-088
N/D	Waltz, Stardust	HA-CASS-089
N/D	My People	HA-CASS-090
03/31/84	Excerpts from Ashby's work in France 1986-1988 Side A Never Squeeze Me, Mood Indigo Side B Newport All-Stars	HA-CASS-091

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09/28/58	Ashby, Booty Wood, Jim Galloway Toronto Alive-CKFM	HA-CASS-092
10/11/91	I Can't Get Started	HA-CASS-093
N/D	No Info	HA-CASS-094
N/D	Genesis Then There Were Three	HA-CASS-095
N/D	Ricky Ford, Phil Harold interview	HA-CASS-096
15 Sep 1987	Jazz at J.J. Donn's Side A Get Happy, Too Late Now, Them There Eyes, A Star Fell On Alabama, It Don't Mean a Thing, I Can't Believe You're in Love with Me Side B My Funny Valentine, I Can't Get Started, Memories of You, Don't Get Around Much Anymore, Sunday Blues	HA-CASS-097
N/D	Lester Interview	HA-CASS-098
N/D	Trio-Glidin' and Slidin', Ashby-Take the Train, Just Squeeze Me, Mood Indigo	HA-CASS-099
N/D	Jive at Five	HA-CASS-100
06-20	Harlem, Detroit Band Triplicate Blues Digital Copy Available HA-CD-138	HA-CASS-101
N/D	My People Digital Copy Available HA-CD-124, HA-CD- 125	HA-CASS-102
N/D	Big Miller John Hodges Harlem Record Digital Copy Available HA-CD-123	HA-CASS-103
N/D	China Duke Band Talking Willie Cook Digital Copy Available HA-CD-121, HA-CD- 122	HA-CASS-104
N/D	Ellington's Band Talking, practicing Digital Copy available HA-CD-120	HA-CASS-105
03/14/70	Sacred Concert National Press Digital Copy Available HA-CD-131, HA-CD- 132	HA-CASS-106
N/D	Chinoiserie	HA-CASS-107

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	Digital Copy Available HA-CD-139	
N/D	Sacred Concert Music	HA-CASS-108
13 Nov 1998	DAT – Just Squeeze Me, Mood Indigo, Black and Tan Fantasy, Don't Get Around Much Anymore	HA-DAT-109
13 Nov 1998	DAT – Just Squeeze Me, Mood Indigo, Black and Tan Fantasy, Don't Get Around Much Anymore	HA-DAT-110
13 Nov 1998	DAT—Ducally, Satin Doll	HA-DAT-111
13 Nov 1998	DAT—Ducally, Satin Doll	HA-DAT-112
2 Dec 1998	DAT—Just Squeeze Me, Mood Indigo, Black and Tan Fantasy, Sophisticated Lady, Ducally, Satin Doll, Medley, I'm Beginning to See the Light, Four Kisses, The BP Blues	HA-DAT-113
N/D	VHS Ben Webster: The Brute and the Beautiful	HA-VHS-114
1988	VHS Duc De Barcelona	HA-VHS-115
1989	VHS Ben Webster, Bob Wilber	HA-VHS-116
1984	VHS Memories of Duke Ellington (Commercial)	HA-VHS-117
1983	Beta Memories of the Duke (Commercial)	HA-BETA-118
N/D	Beta No Info	HA-BETA-119
N/D	Digital Copy of HA-CASS-105 - Ashby interviews Ellington Band	HA-CD-120
N/D	Digital Copy of HA-CASS-104 – Duke Band Talking	HA-CD-121
N/D	Digital Copy of HA-CASS-104 – Duke Band Talking	HA-CD-122
N/D	Digital Copy of HA-CASS-103 –Duke People, Johnny Hodges	HA-CD-123
N/D	Digital Copy of HA-CASS-102 – My People	HA-CD-124
N/D	Digital Copy of HA-CASS-102 – My People	HA-CD-125
N/D	Digital Copy of HA-CASS-076 – Scared Concert	HA-CD-126
N/D	Digital Copy of HA-CASS-076 – Scared Concert	HA-CD-127
N/D	Digital Copy of HA-CASS-077 – Third Scared	HA-CD-128
N/D	Digital Copy of HA-CASS-078 – Second Half of scared concert/ Side1	HA-CD-129
N/D	Digital Copy of HA-CASS-078 – Second Half of scared concert/ Side 2	HA-CD-130
N/D	Digital Copy of HA-CASS-106 – Scared Concert, China	HA-CD-131
N/D	Digital Copy of HA-CASS-106 – Scared Concert, China	HA-CD-132

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N/D	Digital Copy of HA-CASS-081 – Paul Talking	HA-CD-133
N/D	Digital Copy of HA-CASS-081 – Paul Talking	HA-CD-134
N/D	Digital Copy of HA-CASS-082 – Ellington with strings	HA-CD-135
N/D	Digital Copy of HA-CASS-082 – Ellington with strings	HA-CD-136
1970	National Presbyterian Church (120 minutes) Digital Copy of HA-CASS-083	HA-CD-137
20 June	Sacred Concert Track 2-7 Side 1-Band Triplicate Blues Track 1-7 Side 2-Harlem Detroit Digital Copy of HA-CASS-101	HA-CD-138
N/D	Digital Copy of HA-CASS-107 - Chinoiserie	HA-CD-139
N/D	Stardust – Duke Ellington Digital Copy of HA-CASS-084	HA-CD-140
17 Feb 1970	Sacred Concert (120 minutes) Digital Copy of HA-CASS-085	HA-CD-141
17 Feb 1970	Sacred Concert (25 minutes) Digital Copy of HA-CA-085	HA-CD-142
N/D	Manila Singing (60 minutes) Digital Copy of HA-CASS-015	HA-CD-143
N/D	Digital Copy of HA-CASS-079 – Good Harlem	HA-CD-144
N/D	Digital Copy of HA-CASS-079 – Good Harlem	HA-CD-145
N/D	Digital Copy of HA-CASS-080 – Conversation—Emma Jean	HA-CD-146
N/D	Digital Copy of HA-CASS-080 –Conversation – Emma Jean	HA-CD-147
N/D	Reel to Reel 5inch Harold Ashby	HA-5OR-148