

## Scope and Contents

**TITLE:** Jay McShann Collection

**DATE RANGE:** 1960s to 2005

**SIZE:** .5 Linear Ft.

**ACQUISITION:** The collection was given to the sound archives by the family of Jay McShann in July 2009.

**ACCESS:** This is a non-circulating collection. Listing stations are available in the archives.

**COPYRIGHT:** Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with the Special Collections discussed with the Special Collections

**ACCEPTED BY:** Chuck Haddix

**PROCESSED BY:** Andrew Hansbrough

**SUPERVISING ARCHIVIST:** Kelley Martin

**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH:** Born in Muskogee, Oklahoma, January 12, 1916, James Columbus "Jay" McShann was already a well-traveled musician when he settled in Kansas City in 1936. He taught himself piano as a child, despite his parents' disapproval of his interest in music, and began his professional career in 1931 playing with Don Byas. He studied at Fisk University and performed around Arkansas and Tulsa, Oklahoma, in 1935 and 1936. In the late 1930s and early 1940s, along with his fellow pianist and bandleader Count Basie, the singer Joe Turner and many others, McShann helped establish what came to be known as the Kansas City sound: a brand of jazz rooted in the blues, driven by riffs and marked by a powerful but relaxed rhythmic pulse.

After a club where he was performing in Kansas was closed in a police raid, he boarded a bus for Omaha, where he had family. But during a layover in Kansas City he ran into some musicians he knew and, learning that work was available there, decided to stay. McShann played at the Monroe Inn on Independence Avenue. The following year he formed a sextet and began a residence at Martin's on the Plaza. In late 1939, McShann assembled a big band and played at the Century Room and Fairyland Park.

The Jay McShann Orchestra toured extensively and recorded for the Decca label in 1941. The band's most popular recording was a blues titled Confessin' the Blues, but the band performed and recorded many modern compositions which bridged traditional Kansas City jazz and bebop. This musically progressive band, whose oldest member was twenty-five, included Gus Johnson, Gene Ramey and a teenage saxophonist named Charlie Parker. Within a few years Parker would emerge as the leader of the musical revolution known as bebop, but it was McShann who gave him the training he needed in the basics of swing and the blues. Their recording of Hootie Blues was the first to document Parker's emerging genius. Although his presence would ensure the band's place in jazz history, it was Walter Brown's vocal on Confessin' the Blues, recorded that same year, that gave the band its first and biggest hit, making the ensemble best known for its blues records.

After a triumphant performance at the Savoy Ballroom in New York in 1942, McShann seemed poised to take his place among the leading swing bandleaders. While that never happened, primarily because he was drafted in 1943, he did have success in the field of rhythm and blues in the late '40s with, among other recordings, the first by the singer Jimmy Witherspoon. McShann returned to Kansas City in 1950, studied at the Conservatory of Music, and toured regionally with his trio and small groups.

His career picked up momentum following a successful European tour in 1969, and for the rest of his life McShann – working solo and leading ensembles of various sizes, this time handling the vocals himself – performed and recorded frequently, both in the United States and overseas. He was also featured in a number of documentaries, most notably The Last of the Blue Devils, a 1980 film about Kansas City jazz. Among the many honors McShann received late in his career were an American Jazz Masters grant from the National Endowment for the Arts in 1986 and a Pioneer Award from the Rhythm and Blues Foundation in 1996. McShann died December 7, 2006 at St. Luke's Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri.

Excerpt from texts provided by Chuck Haddix. Additional sources include: (1) Russell, Ross. Jazz Style in Kansas City and the Southwest. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1971. (2) "McShann, James Columbus." The New Grove Dictionary of Jazz. London: Macmillan Press, 1988. (3) Hester, Mary Lee. Going to Kansas City. Sherman, Texas: Early Bird Press, 1980.

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**COLLECTION DESCRIPTION:** The Jay McShann collection was donated to the Marr Sound Archives by the family of Jay McShann in July 2009. The dates of these cassette recordings range from the 1960s to 2005 with the majority of them ranging from 1980 to 1998. Audio content includes various radio appearances and live performances. McShann's radio appearances include National Public Radio's Jazz Profiles and Condell's Corner on KDSU. His live recordings document performances in the United States, Canada, and Europe with musicians such as Ralph Sutton, Gus Johnson, and Milt Hinton as well as Ben Webster and Eddie "Cleanhead" Vinson. This collection also contains various cassette recordings from other Kansas City jazz musicians as well as two versions of the song entitled "Jay McShann" written and performed by Donald Brown.

Inventory

Item	Box	Date	Format	Details	Type	Barcode
1	1	1960-?-?	Cassette Tape	Piano, Curly on drums, '?' on bass; 1960s; from Jack Dedrick, 214 Peckham Pl. Encinitas, CA 92024	Live Performance Recording	040-113333544
2	1	25272	Cassette Tape	Ben Webster, Eddie Cleanhead Vinson, Jay McShann in Europe. #1	Live Performance Recording	040-113333544
3	1	25272	Cassette Tape	Ben Webster, Eddie Cleanhead Vinson, Jay McShann in Europe. #2	Live Performance Recording	040-113333544
4	1	27212	Cassette Tape	Sound Of Swing. Radio Broadcast	?	040-113333544
5	1	30275	Cassette Tape	Jay McShann in Lawrence, KS.	Live Performance Recording	040-113333544
6	1	30376	Cassette Tape	Eddie Thompson & Trio on New Zealand tour	Live Performance Recording	040-113333544
7	1	30545	Cassette Tape	Jay McShann at Café des Copains 8/17/83; Recorded by Ted O'Reilly For CJRT, Toronto; Tape 1 of 2	Live Performance Recording	040-113333544
8	1	30545	Cassette Tape	Jay McShann at Café des Copains 8/17/83; Recorded by Ted O'Reilly For CJRT, Toronto; Tape 2 of 2	Live Performance Recording	040-113333544
9	1	31140	Cassette Tape	Copains, Toronto; 4/3/85; Digitally Recorded by Ted O'Reilly for Broadcast on CJRT-FM	Live Performance Recording	040-113333544
10	1	31168	Cassette Tape	Jazz Festival Bern 5/85; Jay McShann / Carrie Smith (Switzerland).	Live Performance Recording	040-113333544
11	1	31742	Cassette Tape	Toronto; 11/26/86; Digitally Recorded by Ted O'Reilly for CJRT-FM Broadcast 11/29/86; Tape 2 of 2	Live Performance Recording	040-113333544
12	1	31836	Cassette Tape	Jay McShann in Kansas City, MO. Duplicate of 13.	Live Performance Recording	040-113333544
13	1	1987-?-?	Cassette Tape	Jay McShann – K.C. 1987. Duplicate of 12.	Live Performance Recording	040-113333544
14	1	????-?-?	Cassette Tape	A: Carmen McRae B: Charlie Parker	Commercial Production	040-113333544
15	1	1988-?-?	Cassette Tape	SIDE A: Chicago Jazz Fest 1988 SIDE B: Phil Cohran & Circle of Sound	Live Performance Recording	040-113333544
16	1	32672	Cassette Tape	Lewis, Benny Carter, Jimmy Heath, Clark Terry and more; 1 of 3.	Live Performance Recording	040-113333544

Inventory

17	1	32672	Cassette Tape	Lewis, Benny Carter, Jimmy Heath, Clark Terry and more; 2 of 3.	Live Performance Recording	040-113333544
18	1	32672	Cassette Tape	Lewis, Benny Carter, Jimmy Heath, Clark Terry and more; 2 of 3. Copy	Live Performance Recording	040-113333544
19	1	32672	Cassette Tape	Lewis, Benny Carter, Jimmy Heath, Clark Terry and more; 3 of 3.	Live Performance Recording	040-113333544
20	1	32672	Cassette Tape	Lewis, Benny Carter, Jimmy Heath, Clark Terry and more; 3 of 3. Copy	Live Performance Recording	040-113333544
21	1	32778	Cassette Tape	Toronto 9/27/89; Recorded by Ted O'Reilly and Jeff Zabudsky for CJRT Broadcast 9/30/89. Tape 1 of 2.	Live Performance Recording	040-113333544
22	1	32778	Cassette Tape	Toronto 9/27/89; Recorded by Ted O'Reilly and Jeff Zabudsky for CJRT Broadcast 9/30/89. Tape 2 of 2.	Live Performance Recording	040-113333544
23	1	1990-?-?	Cassette Tape	Jay McShann – 1990 Mid-America Jazz Fest	Live Performance Recording	040-113333544
24	1	33379	Cassette Tape	SIDE A: Fargo, North High School Jazz Band SIDE B: James F. Condell	Live Performance and Radio	040-113333544
25	1	33482	Cassette Tape	Montreux Detroit Jazz Festival – Jay McShann Workshop 91-PYR 96	Live Performance Recording	040-113333544
26	1	33482	Cassette Tape	Montreux Detroit Jazz Festival – Jay McShann Workshop 91-TOP2	Live Performance Recording	040-113333544
27	1	33482	Cassette Tape	Montreux Detroit Jazz Festival – Jay McShann Workshop 91-TOP3	Live Performance Recording	040-113333544
28	1	33682	Cassette Tape	McShann 3/19/92 Blues Piano Solo; Other Material w/ Toussaint, Price, Brown. Blues Piano Summit.	Live Performance Recording	040-113333544
29	1	33683	Cassette Tape	Hall, St. Louis, MO; Sponsored by Washington University and the Contemporary Jazz Society of St.	Live Performance Recording	040-113333544
30	1	33833	Cassette Tape	Ed Christiansen, James F. Condell; Fargo, ND 1992	Live Performance Recording	040-113333544
31	1	33862	Cassette Tape	Jay McShann and John Hicks @ Reservoir	Live Performance Recording	040-113333544
32	1	34517	Cassette Tape	Recorded by Carl Swanston Cormier in the Ballroom of the Delta Hotel; Produced by John Hang (sp?) CBC	Live Performance Recording	040-113333544
33	1	34517	Cassette Tape	Recorded by Carl Swanston Cormier in the Ballroom of the Delta Hotel; Produced by John Hang (sp?) CBC	Live Performance Recording	040-113333544

Inventory

34	1	A: 1991-?-? B: 1959-1-4	Cassette Tape	SIDE A: Jay McShann at Bern Jazz Festival 1991 SIDE B: (cont'd) + Jimmy Witherspoon Chess Tunes.	Live Performance Recording	040-113333544
35	1	NO DATE	Cassette Tape	Chris Post + Band; Chris Post w/ Jay McShann	Live Performance Recording	040-113333544
36	1	NO DATE	Cassette Tape	Chicago Jazz Festival – Jay McShann. NOT TRANSFERED, Speed issues.	Live Performance Recording	040-113333544
37	2	NO DATE	Cassette Tape	Jay McShann Concert	Live Performance Recording	040-113333535
38	2	NO DATE	Cassette Tape	Jay McShann on Piano; Vocalist James Van Buren	Live Performance Recording	040-113333535
39	2	NO DATE	Cassette Tape	Jay McShann – Ellington Tribute	Live Performance Recording	040-113333535
40	2	NO DATE	Cassette Tape	Jay McShann on Piano w/ Big Band	Live Performance Recording	040-113333535
41	2	NO DATE	Cassette Tape	Jay McShann, Ralph Sutton, Gus Johnson, Milt Hinton Live in Europe.	Live Performance Recording	040-113333535
42	2	NO DATE	Cassette Tape	Plas Johnson, Jay McShann in Colorado Springs	Live Performance Recording	040-113333535
43	2	NO DATE	Cassette Tape	SIDE A: McShann Quartet Live; Side A #1-#8 SIDE B: Bert & McShann; Side B: #9-#16	Live Performance Recording	040-113333535
44	2	A: NO DATE B: 1980-12-6	Cassette Tape	SIDE A: A Little Jazz Music – Mulligan, McShann SIDE B: Condell's Corner	Radio	040-113333535
45	2	31799	Cassette Tape	Jay McShann – The Sound of Swing	Radio	040-113333535
46	2	A: 1988-4-30 B: NO DATE	Cassette Tape	SIDE B: An Audio Biography of Jay McShann Recorded at KDSU-FM 92, Fargo, N.D.	Radio	040-113333535
47	2	32266	Cassette Tape	McShann Autobiography Special; Recorded Live at KDSU – FM 92	Radio	040-113333535
48	2	32391	Cassette Tape	Jay McShann on NPR's Morning Edition w/ Rebekah Presson	Radio	040-113333535
49	2	A: 1989-1-11 B: NO DATE	Cassette Tape	SIDE A: Confessin' the Blues 1/11/89 SIDE B: Condell's Corner Presentation	Radio	040-113333535
50	2	32922	Cassette Tape	PJ w/ Jay McShann	Radio	040-113333535

Inventory

51	2	33019	Cassette Tape	beginning of side B. [Envelope contains a letter from Clint Freeman and	Radio	040-113333535
52	2	33115	Cassette Tape	Riverwalk, live from the Landing: K.C. Big Blues Show; Texas Public Radio for A.P.R.	Radio	040-113333535
53	2	33211	Cassette Tape	Condell's Corner w/ Jay McShann KDSU FM 92	Radio	040-113333535
54	2	33420	Cassette Tape	"Portraits in Blue" Program covering Jay McShann; Hosted by Bob Porter	Radio	040-113333535
55	2	A: 1992-12-5 B: NO DATE	Cassette Tape	SIDE A: Condell's Corner SIDE B: Jay McShann – KDSU FM 92	Radio	040-113333535
56	2	34608	Cassette Tape	Jay McShann on KANU Radio show "Vintage Jazz"; University of Kansas in Lawrence	Radio	040-113333535
57	2	1995-?-?	Cassette Tape	Jazz Profiles: Charlie Parker 75th Birthday Tribute; Produced by Tim Owens; National Public Radio	Radio	040-113333535
58	2	1997-?-?	Cassette Tape	Murphy; Series Producer: Tim Owens; National Public Radio	Radio	040-113333535
59	2	1997-?-?	Cassette Tape	Jazz Profiles: Al Hibbler; Produced by Joan Merrill; Series Producer: Tim Owens; National Public Radio.	Radio	040-113333535
60	2	1997-?-?	Cassette Tape	Murphy; Series Producer: Tim Owens; National Public Radio	Radio	040-113333535
61	2	A: 1998-1-21 B: 1998-2-25	Cassette Tape	KJLU 88.9 FM Jefferson City SIDE B: The Jazz Exchange – Jack "The Rapper"	Radio	040-113333535
62	2	38418	Cassette Tape	Jay McShann Interview on KPFK, Los Angeles	Radio	040-113333535
63	2	38432	Cassette Tape	Note: "For the Great Hootie. Sorry I messed your Birthday up a bit" – Phil Lebeau (sp?)	Radio	040-113333535
64	2	38432	Cassette Tape	Note: "For the Great Hootie. Sorry I messed your Birthday up a bit" – Phil Lebeau (sp?)	Radio	040-113333535
65	2	A: NO DATE B: NO DATE	Cassette Tape	SIDE A: Jim Cullen Jazz Band– Riverwall Show SIDE B: Jay McShann	Radio	040-113333535
66	2	A: NO DATE B: NO DATE	Cassette Tape	Jay McShann – NPR; Piano Jazz with Marian McPartland	Radio	040-113333535
67	2	NO DATE	Cassette Tape	Jazz Alive Broadcast	Radio	040-113333535

Inventory

68	2	NO DATE	Cassette Tape	Daniel Rus (France Radio)	Radio	040-113333535
69	2	NO DATE	Cassette Tape	McShann, McPartland – Folly	Radio	040-113333535
70	2	NO DATE	Cassette Tape	Riverwalk Show – Jim Cullen Jazz Band	Radio	040-113333535
71	2	NO DATE	Cassette Tape	Piano Jazz: Jay McShann and Marian McPartland at the Folly Theatre	Radio	040-113333535
72	3	NO DATE	Cassette Tape	Jay McShann on the Marian McPartland Show	Radio	040-113333553
73	3	NO DATE	Cassette Tape	“Sounds of Swing” Kansas City – Jay McShann; Program discussing Jay McShann	Radio	040-113333553
74	3	NO DATE	Cassette Tape	“Jay McShann” ; Two versions composed and performed by Donald Brown.	Home Recording	040-113333553
75	3	NO DATE	Cassette Tape	Piano Accompaniment B: “Great Friends” (?)--Commercial Jazz Recording	Miscellaneous	040-113333553
76	3	NO DATE	Cassette Tape	Unlabeled Broken Cassette	Miscellaneous	040-113333553
77	3	1990-?-?	Cassette Tape	Alaadeen and the Deans of Swing; Live jazz on the Plaza	Other Kansas City Jazz Artists	040-113333553
78	3	33952	Cassette Tape	The Jazz Brokers at Chapman Recording Studios	Other Kansas City Jazz Artists	040-113333553
79	3	NO DATE	Cassette Tape	Mike White	Other Kansas City Jazz Artists	040-113333553
80	3	NO DATE	Cassette Tape	The Music Of Jay McShann (From Vinyl)	Commercially Released Recordings	040-113333553
81	3	25381	Cassette Tape	Jay McShann – Master Jazz Piano Series	Commercially Released Recordings	040-113333553
82	3	32933	Cassette Tape	Axel Zwingenberger and Jay McShann – “Blue Pianos”	Commercially Released Recordings	040-113333553
83	3	NO DATE	Cassette Tape	(Rough Mix) Side B: Pop Mix	Commercially Released Recordings	040-113333553
84	3	NO DATE	Cassette Tape	Jazz Weekend Volume 1 – Jazz Mark 102-C; Jay McShann – Craig Recording	Commercially Released Recordings	040-113333553

Inventory

85	4	1996-00-00	VHS	Jay, From Dale and Charlie Wilson. Hotsprings 1996 Enjoy!"	Documentary	040-113333562
86	4	NO DATE	VHS	:00:12-03:32 – Commercials 03:32-1:32:00—Charlie Parker Public Access (Same as	Documentary	040-113333562
87	4	NO DATE	VHS	Kansas City jazz Museum, "Jazz is..." Stereo Letterbox Version 33:20min	Documentary	040-113333562
88	4	NO DATE	VHS	Heritage Library GPN. Swinging the Blues with host Billy Taylor. Hootie's Blues. C-196d. 00:00-29:12	Documentary	040-113333562
89	4	NO DATE	VHS	KTWU—Channel 11, producer Bill Shaffer. (Summary on Inside of Case)	Documentary	040-113333562
90	4	32713	VHS	"American Masters" (Celebrating BIRD) WTTW/TV CH. 11. 00:00-59:25 Jay Enters @ 20:20.	Documentary	040-113333562
91	4	36243	VHS	Society—interviewed by Roger Harris 00:00:00 – 01:25:00	Interview	040-113333562
92	4	34291	VHS	Performance. Oklahoma State University – Stillwater, OK	Interview	040-113333562
93	4	35167	VHS	Hamilton College Jazz Archive. Jay McShann Interviewed by Monk Rowe. 00:00-37:27	Interview	040-113333562
94	4	NO DATE	VHS	Jay McShann Dub, Interview with Jay. 00:00-36:11	Interview	040-113333562
95	4	NO DATE	VHS	00:00-28:38 – Jay McShann Performs 28:34-38:41 – Interview, KC Sound	Live Recording	040-113333562
96	4	NO DATE	VHS	McShann, piano. Terry Hughes, drums. Hoagie Hoagland, Trpt. 00:00:00–01:23:31	Live Recording	040-113333562
97	4	36113	VHS	Oklahoma Music Hall Of Fame (McShann Performs First) 00:00-2:30:35	Live Recording	040-113333562
98	4	NO DATE	VHS	Joe Morgan 70th Birthday—Jay McShann @ piano. 00:00 – 1:17:35	Live Recording	040-113333562
99	4	1987-00-00	VHS	Jay McShann, S.S Norway 1987 00:00-2:03:51 Amature Video Recording (Live Set on Jazz Cruise)	Live Recording	040-113333562
100	4	36834	VHS	Folly Theater 5:00 Min. Track 1) 4:43 Track 2) 1:09	Live Recording	040-113333562
101	4	31383	VHS	Blues from the Zoo Bar. Jay McShann. Note: "Merry Christmas. Best Wishes, Ed." MT Productions 60:00	Live Recording	040-113333562



Inventory

102	4	NO DATE	VHS	5:04) 00:00-25:16 Jazz Festival Concert—amateur video footage	Live Recording	040-113333562
103	4	34603	VHS	Karryn Allison – 00:00-28:38 Millage Gilbert Blues Band 28:30-1:00:00	Miscellaneous	040-113333562
104	4	NO DATE	VHS	Charles (Charlie) Christian *No Jay McShann*	Miscellaneous	040-113333562
105	4	NO DATE	VHS	The Bandleaders: Basie, Ellington, James. *No Jay McShann*	Miscellaneous	040-113333562
106	4	36035	VHS	Oregon Festival of American Music – Colin Davey. Boogie Woogie Presentation. *No Jay McShann*	Miscellaneous	040-113333562
107	4	NO DATE	VHS	Pierre..? 00:00-2:02:43----Various Blues Performances	Miscellaneous	040-113333562
108	4	NO DATE	VHS	0:04:05 Jimmie Lee Robinson: Europe “Remember Me” 1998.	Miscellaneous	040-113333562
109	4	NO DATE	VHS	Live at the Ogden Theatre and Littleton Town Hall. “James Van Buren & The Group” *No Jay McShann*	Miscellaneous	040-113333562
110	4	NO DATE	VHS	Kansas City Jazz Heritage Series. MT Productions 00:00-35:00 (1 Numbered and one Copy)	Commercial Production	040-113333562
111	4	32672	VHS	00:00--50:15 “Homage a Charlie Parker” from 'Halle that jazz	Commercial Production	040-113333562
112	4	NO DATE	VHS	The Last of the Blue Devils 90 min. (One Numbered and 1 Copy)	Commercial Production	040-113333562
113	4	1992-00-00	VHS	Dorothy Donegan Comes to Tulsa 1994. 35:40-46:55 Jacksonville Jazz 1992 Diane Schuur. 46:66-50:86	Commercial Production	040-113333562
114	4	31383	U-Matic	Blues from the Zoo Bar—MT Productions (Same As VHS JM.VHS.)	Live Recording	040-113333562
115	4	28905	U-Matic	Jay McShann – Hootie's Blues 23:30 “1 of 9”	Miscellaneous	040-113333562
116	4	37800	CD	“Goin' To Kansas City” Jay McShann ---Mastering Studio Copy.	Commercial Production	040-113333562
117	4	32975	CD	McShann-piano, Lynn Seaton-bass, Chuck Riggs- drums.	Live Recording	040-113333562
118	4	37763	CD	(Unreleased Studio Session) 1. Hot Biscuits	Live Recording	040-113333562

Inventory

119	4	ND	CD	Ever Radio Broadcast on 'the blue network' announcer: Bill Abernathy	Radio	040-113333562
120	4		CD	"Jay McShann" 'Blues Quest' Radio Broadcast.	Radio	040-113333562
121	4		CD	"Duke Robillard" 'Blues Quest' Radio Broadcast.	Radio	040-113333562
122	3	30297	Cassette Tape	Coe. Side A: Jumpin Blues, Georgia, Willow Weep For Me, Little Girl. Side B: Dinah, I Got It Bad and That Ain't	Live Recording	040-113333553