

TITLE: Joe Thomas Collection

DATE RANGE: 1940-1985

SIZE: 2.5 linear feet

ACQUISITION: The Joe Thomas Collection was donated to the University of Missouri-Kansas City in 1997 by Theron Johnson, the daughter of

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

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PROCESSED BY: Andrew Hansbrough

SUPERVISING ARCHIVIST: Kelley Martin

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH: Joe Thomas was born on June 14, 1909, in Uniontown, Pennsylvania. He began his professional career on the alto saxophone with Horace Henderson, but changed to tenor after joining Stuff Smith in 1932. Bandleader Jimmie Lunceford heard him play in 1933 in Buffalo, New York, and asked him to join his group. Thomas' exuberant personality as both singer and saxophone soloist is often credited with playing a major role in the success of the Lunceford band. After the bandleader's death in 1947, Thomas led the Lunceford band with fellow band member Eddie Wilcox, but left after one year to form his own group. His huge and melodious tone is said to have influenced an entire generation of saxophonists in the 1940s.

In the early 1950s, Thomas settled in Kansas City, Missouri, to run the Bruce R. Watkins Funeral Home. He also led the St. Stephen's Baptist Church choir during this time. Thomas appeared at the Newport Jazz Festival in 1970 and recorded as a leader of a quartet with Jimmie Rowles in 1979, but otherwise largely retired from the jazz world when he moved to Kansas City. Thomas died August 3, 1986.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION: The Joe Thomas collection contains 5 7" reels, 2 5" reels, 3 12" reels, 14 10" acetate discs, 73 3" cassette tapes, and 18 8-track tapes. These materials cover vocal performances and rehearsals from church, as well as 78 transfers of original music containing performances by Joe Thomas on Tenor Saxophone.

Item	Item Description	Artist 2	Artist 3	Date	Format	Notes	Box #	Barcode
1	Unidentified 78				10" 78	Matrix: SA-225	1	040-113334847
2	Paul Weston - Unidentified song; Joe Stafford, Paul Weston - <i>Home on the Range</i>	Jo Stafford			10" Instantaneous cut disc	American Heart Association Performance	1	040-113334847
3	<i>Love is a Many Splendored Thing; Song of the Dreamer</i>				10" Instantaneous cut disc	KJBS Broadcasters R73	1	040-113334847
4	<i>Loyal Son; When The Mist Has Rolled Away</i>			1949	10" Instantaneous cut disc	Duodisc; Aluminum Base	1	040-113334847
5	Unidentified disc				10" Instantaneous cut disc		1	040-113334847
6	Unidentified disc				10" Instantaneous cut disc		1	040-113334847
7	Unidentified disc				10" Instantaneous cut disc		1	040-113334847
8	Unidentified disc				10" Instantaneous cut disc		1	040-113334847
9	Hair				10" Instantaneous cut disc	1 Sided disc	1	040-113334847
10	Unidentified disc				10" Instantaneous cut disc	Warped Edge.	1	040-113334847
11	<i>The Goon Came On ;</i> Demonstration Record	Joe Thomas			10" Instantaneous cut disc		1	040-113334847

12	<i>Just You; Moonlight and Music</i>	Joe Thomas		10"		1	040-113334847
				Instantaneous cut disc			
13	<i>I'm a Heck of a Guy; Isn't That Everything and I Heart My Heart</i>	Joe Thomas		10"		1	040-113334847
				Instantaneous cut disc			
14	<i>Honeysuckle Bop; Pyramid Club Blues</i>			10"	Red Acetate; Peeling.	1	040-113334847
				Instantaneous cut disc			
15	<i>Get Out of My Sight; Me and My Wig</i>			10"	Cut at Esoteric Records, Greenwich Music Shop; For Demonstration Purposes Only; Modern Ace Music Company	1	040-113334847
				Instantaneous cut disc			
16	Theron Thomas/Rev. Tindall (Watkins Tape)			10" Reel	7.5 IPS	1	040-113334847
17	Joe Thomas 78's Vol. I			10" Reel	7.5 IPS; Contains Insert	1	040-113334847
18	Joe Thomas 78's Vol. II			10" Reel	7.5 IPS; Contains Insert	1	040-113334847
19	Commercial Pop			7" Reel	7.5 IPS; Contains Insert	2	040-113334909
20	Lunceford Band			7" Reel	7.5 IPS; Contains Insert	2	040-113334909
21	Lunceford Band			7" Reel	7.5 IPS; Contains Insert; maybe at 3 3/4 IPS.	2	040-113334909
22	Opera			7" Reel	7.5 IPS; Contains Insert	2	040-113334909
23	Drake University Student Recital		11/19/1977	7" Reel	7.5 IPS; Contains Insert	2	040-113334909
24	Unidentified Reel			5" Reel		2	040-113334909

25	Norm's B-Ball Jingles			5" Reel	7.5 IPS; Mono	2	040-113334909
26	<i>Honestly & Truly I'm in Love With You; Let's Go Swimming.</i>			8-Track		2	040-113334909
27	<i>Echoes of an Era</i>	Laverne Thomas		8-Track	from Groovy Grant	2	040-113334909
28	Theron and Joe	Theron Thomas	1975	8-Track		2	040-113334909
29	X-Mas 1978		1978	8-Track		2	040-113334909
30	Expressions of Joy - Thomas Concert	Theron Thomas	1976	8-Track	Bethel A.M.E. Church, KCMO.	2	040-113334909
31	St. Stephen Baptist Church Special Program Part I	Theron Thomas	3/16/1975	8-Track		2	040-113334909
32	St. Stephen Baptist Church Special Program Part II	Theron Thomas	3/16/1975	8-Track		2	040-113334909
33	Expressions of Joy - Thomas Concert	Theron Thomas	1976	8-Track	Bethel A.M.E. Church, KCMO.	3	040-113334865
34	Oh Mary Don't You Weep			8-Track		3	040-113334865
35	Bettye			8-Track	Unlabeled	3	040-113334865
36	Unidentified Tape			8-Track	Unlabeled	3	040-113334865
37	Unidentified Tape			8-Track	Unlabeled	3	040-113334865
38	Unidentified Tape; Lester, Hawk, Joe			8-Track	Unlabeled	3	040-113334865
39	Men Day			Cassette	from T.E. Worford to Joe Thomas	3	040-113334865
40	Church Recordings			Cassette		3	040-113334865
41	Church Music			Cassette		3	040-113334865
42	Church Recordings			Cassette		3	040-113334865
43	Jazz			Cassette	Bad Audio	3	040-113334865
44	Joe - Bedside Prayers, etc.			Cassette		3	040-113334865
45	Joe Thomas Playing Sax			Cassette		3	040-113334865

46	Theron in Concert at Duke University	Drake Jazz Band		11/13/1976	Cassette	Drake Jazz Band	3	040-113334865
47	Theron on Program				Cassette	Note: "Memories"	3	040-113334865
48	The Treniers, Pearl Bailey	Pearl Bailey		7/17/1973	Cassette	Live at Starlight	3	040-113334865
49	School Survey				Cassette		3	040-113334865
50	Bethel A.M.E. Negro History Week			2/13/1972	Cassette		3	040-113334865
51	Theron Study				Cassette		3	040-113334865
52	Testimony with Saxophone Youth Program at St. Stephen Baptist Church	Male Chorus		1/28/1973	Cassette		3	040-113334865
53	Three Friends			9/1/1979	Cassette	Bethel A.M.E. Church, KCMO.	3	040-113334865
54	Zion Singers, The	Theron Thomas	Jean McFadden	12/16/1973	Cassette	From The Messiah. Handel - He Shall Feed His Flock	3	040-113334865
55	Theron's Recital			10/23/1977	Cassette	Bethel A.M.E. Church, KCMO.	3	040-113334865
56	Big Band Jazz - KCUR Pt. I	Ken Poston		Nov-85	Cassette	KCUR	3	040-113334865
57	Big Band Jazz - KCUR Pt. II	Ken Poston		Nov-85	Cassette	KCUR	3	040-113334865
58	Beulah & Theron	Beulah ____			Cassette		4	040-113334856
59	Jimmie Rowles, NY			4/5/1979	Cassette		4	040-113334856
60	Theron Thomas			2/10/1983	Cassette	Stereo	4	040-113334856
61	Theron and Daddy Recital / Rehearsal	Joe Thomas		6/19/1976	Cassette	Bethel A.M.E. Church, KCMO.	4	040-113334856
62	Theron Thomas Performance; Fairfax Library Series	Lois Fallat (Piano)		2/17/1985	Cassette		4	040-113334856
63	Joe Thomas Interview; Marcellus & Babe Lee			1985; 3/18/1986	Cassette	Joe Thomas Interviewed during KCMO Jazz Festival	4	040-113334856
64	Theron's Recital at Bethel A.M.E.			10/23/1977	Cassette		4	040-113334856

65	Jazz Concert - Theron at Drake University; Theron in Concert in Ames Iowa			11/12/1976; 11/13/1976	Cassette		4	040-113334856
66	Theron and Daddy Concert at Bethel A.M.E.	Joe Thomas		4/29/1974	Cassette	Bethel A.M.E. Church, KCMO.	4	040-113334856
67	Party Conversation				Cassette		4	040-113334856
68	Theron in Recital - Bethel A.M.E. - Drake University			10/23/1977	Cassette		4	040-113334856
69	Recital - Theron and Joe	Joe Thomas		3/16/1975	Cassette	St. Stephen Baptist Church	4	040-113334856
70	Mr. Joe Thomas - Survey of Jazz Class			4/26/1976	Cassette		4	040-113334856
71	Dr. Sonenblick; Jimmie Lunceford at Kit Kat Club; Jimmie Rowles; Louis Armstrong	Jimmie Rowles	Louis Armstrong	4/1/1979; 1943; 4/6/1979	Cassette	Features Multiple Recordings	4	040-113334856
72	Bruce Watkins				Cassette		4	040-113334856
73	Theron Recital at Bethel A.M.E.			10/23/1977	Cassette		4	040-113334856
74	Theron's Senior Recital				Cassette		4	040-113334856
75	Lunceford Airchecks; Jefferson Barricks				Cassette		4	040-113334856
76	Rehearsal for Recording			4/3/1979	Cassette	Cherry Hill NJ, Promoter Dr. Sonnenblick	4	040-113334856
77	Joe Thomas Band, Also The Bird				Cassette		4	040-113334856
78	St. Stephen			8/28/1984	Cassette		4	040-113334856
79	St. Stephen Church - Miss J. Thomas			8/5/1984	Cassette		4	040-113334856
80	Jonah Jones at Theatrical Grill, Cleveland OH			6/24/1978	Cassette		4	040-113334856
81	Beulah & Theron (Copy)				Cassette		4	040-113334856
82	Theron Thomas Recital			7/2/1982	Cassette	Stereo	4	040-113334856

83	Acapella Choir - Drake University	11/23/1975	Cassette		4	040-113334856
84	Joe Thomas 78s Vol I		Cassette		4	040-113334856
85	Joe Thomas 78s Vol II		Cassette		4	040-113334856
86	LP Recording Featuring Joe Thomas	4/4/1979	Cassette	Cherry Hill NJ, Promoter Dr. Sonnenblick	4	040-113334856
87	Lunceford, Thomas, Tatum Joe Thomas Art Tatum		Cassette		4	040-113334856
88	Gone With The Wind 3/16/1975; It Took a Miracle 3/9/1975		Cassette		4	040-113334856
89	Church Music		Cassette		4	040-113334856
90	St. Stephen		Cassette		4	040-113334856
91	Gary Foster 11/24/85 Recording	11/24/1985	Cassette		4	040-113334856
92	Theron - Drake Jazz	4/23/1976	Cassette		5	040-113334874
93	Frank West	8/31/1985	Cassette		5	040-113334874
94	Church Music		Cassette		5	040-113334874
95	Lunceford, Tatum		Cassette	Live Recording	5	040-113334874
96	Church Music		Cassette		5	040-113334874
97	Laverne's Party	2/28/1971	Cassette		5	040-113334874
98	Unidentified Jazz Tape		Cassette	Labeled: "Special from Film"	5	040-113334874
99	Unidentified Jazz Tape		Cassette		5	040-113334874
100	Unidentified Jazz Tape		Cassette		5	040-113334874
101	Unidentified Jazz Tape		Cassette		5	040-113334874