

TITLE: Claude Williams Collection

DATE RANGE: 1982-2004

SIZE: 3 boxes

ACQUISITION: The Claude "Fiddler" Williams Collection was gifted to the Dr. Kenneth J. LaBudde Department of Special Collections in January 2009 by Blanche

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

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ACCEPTED BY: Chuck Haddix

PROCESSED BY: Erik Blume

SUPERVISING ARCHIVIST: Kelley Martin

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH: Claude "Fiddler" Williams was born February 22, 1908 in Muskogee, Oklahoma. He began playing guitar, mandolin, banjo, and cello at the age of ten. After hearing a performance by legendary jazz violinist Joe Venuti, he decided to take up the violin. In 1927, he began his first professional engagement performing with Terrence Holder's territory band the Dark Clouds of Joy in Oklahoma City. Williams stayed on after Holder was ousted by his sidemen and replaced by bassist Andy Kirk. The band then became known as the Clouds of Joy and enjoyed a great deal of success, largely due to the talents of the young pianist Mary Lou Williams. Claude Williams played on the Kirk band's first recordings but was forced to leave around 1931 when ill health prevented him from completing a tour.

Williams worked with the bands of Alphonse Trent in 1932, George E. Lee in 1933, and Chick Stevens in 1934-1935. After a brief stint with Nat "King" Cole and his brother, bassist Eddie Cole, in Chicago, he returned to Kansas City to join Count Basie's band. Williams soloed and played in the rhythm section in the Basie band. In early 1937, Basie's manager, John Hammond, who did not care for jazz fiddle replaced Williams with Freddie Green.

During the late '30s and early '40s, Williams worked with the Four Shades of Rhythm in Chicago, Cleveland, and Flint, Michigan. Some of the more notable musicians he worked with during the '50s include pianist Jay McShann, saxophonist Eddie "Cleanhead" Vinson, and pianist Hank Jones.

Williams returned to Kansas City in 1953. There he spent most of the next 20 years leading his own groups. A gig with McShann in the early '70s led to Williams' first recordings in nearly three decades and Williams' second career was born. In the '70s and '80s, he toured with McShann and worked as a featured soloist at jazz festivals. He played in a Paris production of the musical Black and Blue and a New York date with pianist Roland Hanna and drummer Grady Tate.

His star rose in the '90s; he was featured on the television program CBS News Sunday Morning and performed at Carnegie Hall and the Lincoln Center in New York. He also played at the first inauguration of President Bill Clinton, played international festivals, and recorded several highly acclaimed CDs. He was also the first inductee of the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame.

Entering his ninth decade, Williams was an active and venerated performer. On April 26, 2004, the venerable elder statesman of jazz died of pneumonia in Kansas City at age 96. He was the last surviving jazz musician to have recorded before 1930.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION: Collection consists of primarily VHS and cassette tapes of performances.

Inventory

Item #	Date	Format	Contents	Category	Box #	Barcode
1	1988-08-00	VHS	Jazz Fiddle By Claude Williams w/ Frank Smith-piano, Brian Hicks-Bass, Del Smith-Drums. Taped in Lincoln Nebraska August 1984. 00:10:15	Live Performances	1	040-113333599
2	1995-09-01	VHS	The Statesmen of Jazz. Live From the Doubletree LA	Live Performances	1	040-113333599
3	1997-11-20	VHS	Claude Williams and Friends. SUNY institute of technology Nov 20, 1997---NO SOUND 02:02:00	Live Performances	1	040-113333599
4	1997-12-28	VHS	Statesmen of Jazz in Japan. Written Note Enclosed.	Live Performances	1	040-113333599
5	1998-09-16	VHS	Savion Glover—Stomp, Slide & Swing—In Performance at the White House. Commercial Production. 00:56:43	Live Performances	1	040-113333599
6	1998-09-16	VHS	Savion Glover Dance at the White House. Claude William BF [Blanche Fouse]---DUB or TV Taping	Live Performances	1	040-113333599
7		VHS	Crusaders For Jazz Presents: Regina Carter and Claude “Fiddler” Williams. 01:41:00	Live Performances	1	040-113333599
8		VHS	Station KVN TV/Neb. ETV Network, 33rd St. sessions,: Claude Williams and the Lightning Bugs.	Live Performances	1	040-113333599
9		VHS	Claude - Aug. NY All Star Jazz Show---Rehearsal Before Show. Show at the Zoo Bar Lincoln NE. Tape Quality Poor. Amateur recording. (2 copies) 4.5hr	Live Performance	1	040-113333599
10	1985-12-30	VHS	MT Productions: Fiddler's Dream. Educational Version/00:25:00 Interview and Performance	Interviews/News/Documentaries	1	040-113333599
11	1990-09-16	VHS	Claude Fiddler Williams CBS News Sunday Morning. Dub of Professional Copy. 00:55:00	Interviews/News/Documentaries	1	040-113333599
12	1990-09-16	VHS	Claude Fiddler Williams CBS News Sunday Morning with Billy Taylor ---Professional Copy	Interviews/News/Documentaries	1	040-113333599
13	1992-12-17	VHS	K.C. Jazz (Claude etc) 3 hrs (3 1hr sessions) WNVT Channel 10. Part 1,2,3. Includes Commercials 02:50:00	Interviews/News/Documentaries	1	040-113333599
14	1999-03-24	VHS	Williams, Claude. Interviewed In KC, MO. By Rodger Harris, OHS Oklahoma Historical Society.)1:31:00	Interviews/News/Documentaries	1	040-113333599
15	2000-03-00	VHS	The Fiddler “Kansas City Crossroads” March 2000 NBC 41. (2 Copies) 00:07:55	Interviews/News/Documentaries	1	040-113333599
16	2001-05-24	VHS	Interview – Upper Room. May 24, 2001. St Louis Church, KC – Tulsa OK---plays twice. 00:08:30	Interviews/News/Documentaries	1	040-113333599
17		VHS	Uniquely Kansas City A History of the Arts. Part 3: The Golden Age, Kansas City's Artistic Renaissance. Commercial Production KCPT 00:60:00	Interviews/News/Documentaries	1	040-113333599
18		VHS	K.C. Positively—News Broadcast about Claude Williams post White House appearance. NBC 41	Interviews/News/Documentaries	1	040-113333599

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19		VHS	Claude/CBS Charlie Parker Billie Holiday Last of the Blue Devils "Fiddler"---Compilation of Various	Interviews/News/Documentaries	1	040-113333599
20		VHS	Claude Williams Lesson. Tape of Claude and David Fowler visiting a school. Written Note Enclosed: "Claude, I Had a great time visiting schools with you and hearing you play. At the end of this tape, you will see me practicing. Thanks, Dave Fowler" 00:54:00	Interviews/News/Documentaries	1	040-113333599
21		VHS	Queen Bey and Claude Williams, Marquee 201. Edited Master KCPT "Sounds of the Town". Interview,	Interviews/News/Documentaries	1	040-113333599
22		VHS	Kansas City Jazz, Part: 1,2,3—Commercial Production KTWU 11. 02:56:00	Interviews/News/Documentaries	1	040-113333599
23	1993-09-00	VHS	Claude on the S.S Norway—Jazz Cruise. Professional	Festival	1	040-113333599
24	2001-06-23	VHS	Claude Williams @ Battleground [Tippecanoe Battlefield] 6-23-01 --*Aaron Weinstein on video. Amateur Footage. Before performance and	Festival	1	040-113333599
25	2001-07-19	VHS	Live From Lincoln Center—Festival 2001. Claude Performs with Ann Hampton Calloway toward the end.	Festival	1	040-113333599
26	2003-00-00	VHS	Mark O'Connor Fiddle Camp 2003 w/Matt Glaser & Claude "Fiddler" Williams (Master Tape) 2hr	Festival	1	040-113333599
27	2003-08-07	VHS	Mark O'Connor fiddle conference. Point Loma, CA	Festival	1	040-113333599
28		VHS	Juneteenth on Greenwood—Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame Music Festival, Tulsa. Professional video	Festival	1	040-113333599
29	2003-02-16	VHS	Claude, Myra @ St. Louis Church, KC Banquet. 2/16/2003 ...Music Worship Banquet??—Amateur Footage. "African American Film Makers"--E channel	Ceremonies	1	040-113333599
30	2004-05-02	VHS	Claude Fiddler Williams Memorial 5/2/2004 02:03:00	Ceremonies	1	040-113333599
31		VHS	The Broadway production of 'Black and Blue'	Misc.	1	040-113333599
32	1998-04-20	VHS	Claude "Fiddler" Williams. KSHB TV CH41 NBC Kansas City. 9:00am news.	Interviews/News/Documentaries	1	040-113333599
33		CD	Folk Tours with Joe Wilson: Howard Armstrong, Claude Williams. Documentary Radio Program. NCTA	Radio	3	040-113333580
34		CD	Claude Williams: Last Recordings Absolutely Live With "The Fiddlers Three." Claude Williams, Joerg Widmoser, John Blake. (two copies)	Live Recordings	3	040-113333580
35	1993-09-23	CAS	Radio Interview "Lincoln Live." Claude Williams interviewed by Ward Jacobson KFOR. Recorded From Radio—Contains Commercials. 1/2hr program. Other Side: Piano Jazz Mix Tape	Interviews/Radio	2	040-113333571
36	1993-11-06	CAS	Claude and Blanche Interview. Just Jazz-KCUR FM. Written Note Included with Tape.	Interviews/Radio	2	040-113333571

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37	1995-04-05	CAS	Claude Williams Interview by C. Haddix. Tape 3 of 4 "Copy" Sides 1 and 2.	Interviews/Radio	2	040-113333571
38	1995-04-05	CAS	Claude Williams Interview by C. Haddix. Tape 4 of 4	Interviews/Radio	2	040-113333571
39	1998-04-08	CAS	Claude "Fiddler" Williams on "The Jazz Exchange" KJLU 88.9 FM Jefferson City, MO Side 2: Claude Continued. Jack Walrath 4/18/98	Interviews/Radio	2	040-113333571
40	2001-03-08	CAS	Claude "Fiddler" Williams Live on WDET W.Kim Heron	Interviews/Radio	2	040-113333571
41	2003-02-22	CAS	Claude Williams 95th Birthday. Broadcast. "Traditions in Swing" WKCR FM NY 89.9 Phil Schaap. Note: Sent By Phil Schaap, Thank You Sent 3-11-03	Interviews/Radio	2	040-113333571
42	2004-02-22	CAS	Claude Williams 96th Birthday. Broadcast. "Traditions in Swing" WKCR FM NY 89.9 Phil Schaap.	Interviews/Radio	2	040-113333571
43	2004-05-01	CAS	Claude Williams Memorial Radio Show. Sides 1 and 6 WKCR FM New York 89.9 Phil Schaap. "Traditions in	Interviews/Radio	2	040-113333571
44	2004-05-01	CAS	Claude Williams Memorial Radio Show. Sides 2 and 4 WKCR FM New York 89.9 Phil Schaap. "Traditions in	Interviews/Radio	2	040-113333571
45	2004-05-01	CAS	Claude Williams Memorial Radio Show. Sides 3 and 5 WKCR FM New York 89.9 Phil Schaap. "Traditions in	Interviews/Radio	2	040-113333571
46		CAS	Jazz Profiles: Claude Williams. NPR 1997.	Interviews/Radio	2	040-113333571
47		CAS	A: Danish Jazz Radio Show on Claude B: Danish Claude Show, 2 Ken Peplowski Tunes	Interviews/Radio	2	040-113333571
48		CAS	NPR's Jazz Alive. Eddie Lockjaw Davis, Jay McShann trio, Claude Williams, at Joe Siegal's Jazz Showcase Chicago. New Years Eve.--(Presented on Jazz Alive)	Jazz Radio	2	040-113333571
49		CAS	KKGO Jazz Radio FM 105 Los Angeles	Jazz Radio	2	040-113333571
50		CAS	Gospel Church Service-both sides	Live Recordings	2	040-113333571
51		CAS	Claude Williams @ The Tulsa Oklahoma State Fair	Live Recordings	2	040-113333571
52		CAS	Live Recording Of Blues Band with Vocalist. Unknown Venue. Singer Identified as "Sandra". Jam Session.	Live Recordings	2	040-113333571
53		CAS	String Summit. Claude Williams Performs. Note: From Russ 9/28/89 Pete Compo: "Hot Jazz Violin"--Commercial Release	Live Recordings	2	040-113333571
54		CAS	Dub – N2 – 4' Claude – JH?....mostly blues with vocals. Claude Singing?	Live Recordings	2	040-113333571
55		CAS	Jim Tilford Combo---Tape Made For Blanche and Claude of Combo Jamming. Jim Tilford--Guitar, Jack Brucker-Piano, Max Cochran--Trpt, Jeff Boswell-Bass,	Live Recordings	2	040-113333571
56	1982-00-00	CAS	Claude 1982, 2. Compilation of live recordings.	Live Recordings	2	040-113333571

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57	1985-06-10	CAS	Two Songs Performed By Claude, Recorded by J.C. Dje Dje	Live recordings	2	040-113333571
59	1988-00-00	CAS	Claude Williams and Others. "Fiddler's Gathering" Tape 2: Side 1 and 2. Live at 'The Tippecanoe Battlefield'—City Unknown. County/Folk. Claude on	Live Recordings	2	040-113333571
58	1988-00-00	CAS	Claude Williams and Others. "Fiddler's Gathering" Tape 1: Side 1 and 2. Live at 'The Tippecanoe Battlefield'—City Unknown. County/Folk. Claude	Live Recordings	2	040-113333571
60	1989-04-24	CAS	Claude Williams Live At J's 4/24/89 Side 1 & 2 Akira Tana, Drums. Ronnie Matthews, Piano. James Chirillo, Guitar. Al McKibbon, Bass.	Live Recordings	2	040-113333571
61	1989-04-24	CAS	Claude Williams Live At J's 4/24/89 Side 3 & 4 Akira Tana, Drums. Ronnie Matthews, Piano. James Chirillo, Guitar. Al McKibbon, Bass.	Live Recordings	2	040-113333571
62	1989-05-01	CAS	Claude Williams Live At J's 5/1/89 Side 1 & 2	Live Recordings	2	040-113333571
63	1989-05-01	CAS	Claude Williams Live At J's 5/1/89 Side 3 & 4	Live Recordings	2	040-113333571
64	1992-08-23	CAS	Live at Saint Peter's Church, NYC. Claude Williams, Ken Peplowski-tenor sax and Clarinet, James Chirillo-guitar, Jimmy Lewis-Bass. Specials Guests: Bross Townsend and Patti Bown-Piano, Master of Ceremonies-Phil Schaap. Recording by Damian	Live Recordings	2	040-113333571
65	1993-05-31	CAS	Claude and John Stewart (guitar) Live at the Brisbane Biennial Festival, Queensland Aus. --Living Traditions	Live Recordings	2	040-113333571
66	1993-07-24	CAS	Claude Williams Trio with Jimmy Slyde-Tap. One side only. Unknown Venue. Probably W/ Ketter Betts and	Live Recordings	2	040-113333571
67	1995-06-00	CAS	Claude, Paul, Matt [glaser?], Buddy. Fiddle Camp Sessions. Rehearsing, Banter, Several Takes and	Live Recordings	2	040-113333571
68	2000-05-21	CAS	Claude Williams Rough Mix. With James Chirillo, Guitar. Wilbur Morris, Bass. Live at the Vision Festival	Live Recordings	2	040-113333571
69		CAS	ave maria	Live Recordings	2	040-113333571
70		CAS	Norris Turney Quartet, Cuts 1-6 Norris Turney Alto Sax Cuts 7-10	Hot Jazz Mgmt. Tapes	3	040-113333580
71		CAS	Blanche's Jump by Monk Rowe,---tenor sax with pre recorded accomp. Repeating song several times.	Hot Jazz Mgmt. Tapes	3	040-113333580
72		CAS	Claude Williams and James Chirillo----Demo Release of "You Have to Know How to Do That"	Commercial Release	3	040-113333580
73		CAS	Masters of the Folk Violin. Produced by Radio	Commercial Release	3	040-113333580
74		CAS	Folk Masters: Great Performances rec. live at The Barns Wolf Trap.	Commercial Release	3	040-113333580

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75		CAS	Will Matthews Solo. -Unmastered Version- One Side only. (Contains Written Note to Blanche and Claude) 1. Little Joe's Blues 2. Lil' Darling 3. Lush Life 4. Stompin' At the Savoy 5. Gershwin Medley 6. Stairway to the Stars 7. Night and day 8. Willow Weep For Me 9. Prelude To A Kiss 10. Lotus Blossom	Unreleased Studio Recordings	3	040-113333580
76	1999-04-00	CAS	Side #7 Claude Williams Quartet 4/99 Recording. (Studio session, unedited.)	Unreleased Studio Recordings	3	040-113333580
77		CAS	Claude Williams "Swingin' The Blues"--Extra Tracks?	Unreleased Studio Recordings	3	040-113333580
78	1999-04-00	CAS	Side #5 and #6 Claude Williams Quartet 4/99 Recording. (Studio session, unedited.)	Unreleased Studio Session	3	040-113333580
79		CAS	Claude Williams. Bass, Drums, Piano, Tenor. Studio Session Unedited. 2 Tracks, One Side. ---'Four', 'I Can't Give You Anything But Love'	Unreleased Studio Sessions	3	040-113333580
80		CAS	"Swing Time in New York" Claude, Dub of Commercial Release??---Tracks Out of Order	Mix Tapes/Dubs	3	040-113333580
81		CAS	Frankfurt Swing Allstars "Jive At Five" Dub of Commercial Release (Claude on Side 2 - Track 5)	Mix Tapes/Dubs	3	040-113333580
82		CAS	"60& 65 (unknown)"	Broken	3	040-113333580
83		CAS	"All Night Long" (unknown)	Broken	3	040-113333580