

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Biographical Sketch	2
Scope and Content	4
Series Notes	4
Container List	6
Series I: Personal / Professional	6
Series II: Correspondence	6
Series III: Grants & Awards	6
Series IV: Programs & Events	7
Series V: Miscellaneous	7
Series VI: Publications & News Clippings	7
Series VII: Music & Teaching	8
Series VIII: Photographs	10

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Born [né Sonny/Richard White*] in Kansas City, on July 24, 1934, Alaadeen grew up around music. "I listened to all types of styles. I went to Philharmonic concerts, loved Lester Young, liked T-Bone Walker and was crazy about Eddie "Cleanhead" Vinson. He began on the saxophone when he was in sixth grade, in time also mastering flute, clarinet and oboe. He studied at R.T. Coles High School under the tutelage of Leo H. Davis, a well-respected music instructor reported to have taught Charlie Parker. "The way he taught improvisation was to sing the melody in my ear when I soloed so I'd always keep the melody in mind." Alaadeen debuted as a professional with Davis' concert band playing e-flat horn when he was 14 and his first major job was playing baritone sax with the great pianist-band leader Jay McShann. In later years he would rejoin McShann on tenor.

Alaadeen studied at the Kansas City Conservatory of Music (studying flute since the educators did not think of the saxophone as a legitimate instrument), St. Mary's University (where he studied oboe) and DePaul University. He served in the military during 1957-59, being the Jazz saxophonist and principal oboist with the 4th Army Band. After his discharge, Alaadeen spent time in Chicago, playing in a program led by pianist-composer Richard Abrams that was the beginning of the AACM (Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians); other members included trumpeter Lester Bowie and bassist Malachi Favors. He picked up a lot of experience living and playing in such cities as New York, Chicago, Denver, Houston, San Antonio and St. Louis. In addition to McShann, he had opportunities to work in a countless number of settings including stints with Miles Davis, Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald, the Count Basie Orchestra, The Glen Miller ghost band under the direction of Tex Beneke, Della Reese, Eddie "Cleanhead" Vinson, T -Bone Walker, Claude "Fiddler" Williams and with R&B stars, Rufus Thomas, Carla Thomas, Gladys Knight, Smokey Robinson, the Temptations, Four Tops and Sam Cooke.

After returning to Kansas City, Alaadeen not only played music locally but also became a very significant educator, teaching Jazz in both the school system and privately. "I always tell my students that playing Jazz is a hard life, that it is important to always study and be current, and that they should not be afraid to make mistakes." His skills as a teacher were recognized when he was inducted into the R.T. Coles Lincoln High School "Outstanding Alumni Hall Of Fame." During 1990-91, he won songwriting competitions sponsored by Billboard for his songs Big Six, Wayne Himself and Blues For R.C. Along the way he recorded with Jay McShann, Crown Prince Waterford, the City Light Orchestra and countless others. He led the Deans of Swing in the 1990s, and the ensemble was picked in 1996 as Musician Magazine's Best Unsigned Band.

To document his music, Alaadeen started the ASR label. Each of his CDs, which include *Blues For RC and Josephine Too*, *Time Through The Ages*, *New Africa Suite* and *And The Beauty Of It All*, features him with some of Kansas City's top young Jazz players. He also prepared many of his original compositions for performance by large Jazz ensemble through his publishing company, Fandeen Publishing Company, Inc. In 2009, Alaadeen authored *The Rest of the Story: Jazz Improvisation and History*, a method manual in which he shares the secrets of how he learned the music as handed down to him by the masters.

Alaadeen was recognized in his community and state as a master of the distinctive sound known as Kansas City Jazz with his receipt of numerous awards including Kansas City's Jazz Heritage Award, the Missouri Humanities Council's Community Heritage Award, the Missouri Arts Award and Kansas City's Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2000, Congresswoman Karen McCarthy recognized Alaadeen in the United States House of Representatives for the contributions he has made to his community's understanding of its heritage; and in 2002, Missouri Governor Bob Holden honored Alaadeen at an official dinner at the Governor's Mansion in Jefferson City. In an effort to acknowledge Alaadeen for making a significant impact in the history, development and performance of Jazz, and to applaud Alaadeen for his outstanding achievements in the art form of Jazz, Alaadeen was issued a Proclamation from the Office of the Governor, State of Missouri. The American Jazz Museum honored him with a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2010.

Cancer claimed Ahmad Alaadeen's life on August 15, 2010, at the age of 76.

Source:

Alaadeen, Ahmad. "Biography of Ahmad Alaadeen." *Dysfunctional: Life Journeys of a Second Generation Jazz Musician*. Overland Park, KS: Fandeen Publishing Company, 2011.

* Alaadeen, who joined the Nation of Islam in 1965 and subsequently changed his name, states in his autobiography: "My name on my birth certificate is Sonny White... [it] also says that Delbert White is my daddy. My mom is Eva Oldham... I was the youngest of ten kids... My mother just put Delbert White as the father on everybody's birth certificate, but Delbert was only [the two oldest's] daddy... Clark Hurt is my daddy... He was an American Indian... When I got to elementary school, one of my teachers started calling me Richard Lee White. I guess she thought Sonny wasn't a good name. How I knew to answer to Richard is the mystery part."

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Ahmad Alaadeen Collection was gifted to LaBudde Special Collections and Marr Sound Archives, UMKC Miller Nichols Library, by his widow, Victoria “Fanny” Dunfee, in February 2012. The collection consists of personal and professional material, contracts, correspondence, grants and awards, programs and event ephemera, publications and news clippings, music and teaching material, photographs, and other miscellaneous items. Collection highlights include rare images of Alaadeen’s early life and career (né Sonny/Richard White); music scores and instrument parts to six original Alaadeen compositions; and a published copy of Alaadeen’s music instruction and technique book, *The Rest of the Story: Jazz Improvization and History*, along with manuscript drafts, outlines, correspondence, and reviews related to the book. Overall, the collection reflects Alaadeen’s profound commitment, both as performer and mentor, to the art of jazz and to the importance of life-long learning.

SERIES NOTES

I. Personal / Professional

Series I consists of biographical and promotional material, press releases, album reviews and ads, and business contracts. Items are located in Box 1, Folders 1-9.

II. Correspondence

Series II consists of correspondence, mostly of a business nature, spanning 1980s-2000s. Material is arranged chronologically, but includes undated items, greeting cards, and miscellaneous notes. Items are located in Box 1, Folders 10-14.

III. Grants & Awards

Series III consists of correspondence, applications and other paperwork related to various grant projects and award nominations, as well as numerous certificates and proclamations honoring Alaadeen, spanning the 1990s-2000s. Items are located in Box 1, Folders 15-27; oversized items are located in Box 6.

IV. Programs & Events

Series IV consists of programs, flyers, tickets and other ephemera related to music and cultural events at which Alaadeen attended, performed and/or was honored. Also included are items related to student recitals and graduations, funerals, religious events and services, and a trip to Macedonia. Material is arranged chronologically, spanning 1980s-2000s. Items are located in Box 1, Folders 28-40, and Box 2, Folders 1-8; oversized items are located in Box 6.

V. Miscellaneous

Series V consists of general miscellanea such as notes, lists, autographed items, jazz-themed postage stamps, illustrations and other random documents. Islamic-related miscellanea are in its own folder to highlight faith-based initiatives with which Alaadeen was involved. There is also a folder of calendars, and a box of memorabilia that contains two medallions, an ink pen and carrying case from the Missouri Governor’s office, and a pin-back button. Items are located in

Box 2, Folders 9 and 10; calendars are located in Box 6; oversized illustrations are located in Box 6; memorabilia is located in Box 7.

VI. Publications & News Clippings

Series VI consists of talent rosters and program literature for several arts organizations, such as the Missouri Arts Council; music magazines and newsletters; travel/tourism guides; and other publications. Most reference or promote Alaadeen in some manner. There are also news clippings highlighting Alaadeen's life and career from the 1990s-2000s, with a few items dating back to the 1960s and 1970s. Items are located in Box 2, Folders 11-21; news clippings and oversized publications are located in Box 5.

VII. Music & Teaching

Series VII consists of print material related to music performance and teaching. Highlights include full scores and instrument parts to six original Alaadeen compositions: *Big Six*, *Blues For R.C.*, *F.Q.O.S.*, *The Jinnah Now*, *Peace In The 'Hood*, and *The Ringing*. Also of note is a published copy of Alaadeen's music instruction and technique book, *The Rest of the Story: Jazz Improvization and History*; along with manuscript drafts, outlines, correspondence, and reviews related to the book. Handwritten musical sketches and notes, instructional handouts, student/teacher evaluations; as well as miscellaneous set lists and song lyrics round out this series. Items are located in Box 2, Folders 22-31, and Boxes 3 and 4; oversized items are located in Box 6.

VIII. Photographs

Series VIII consists of nearly 900 color and black-and-white photographs, dating from 1940s-2000s. Included are publicity and performance shots; images documenting instructional clinics, award banquets and other events; as well as personal and candid photos. While most photos are 1990s-2000s era, there are a handful of rare images from Alaadeen's early life and career (né Sonny/Richard White) that are worth noting. Items are located in Photo Boxes 1-18, with oversized images in Manuscript Box 6.

Box Folder Description

CONTAINER LIST

I. PERSONAL / PROFESSIONAL

Box	Folder	Description
1	1	Biographies / General Promos
	2	Press Releases
		<u>Album Reviews & Ads</u>
	3	<i>Blues For R.C.</i>
	4	<i>Time Through The Ages</i>
	5	<i>New Africa Suite</i>
	6	Miscellaneous
		<u>Business Contracts</u>
	7	1990-1996
	8	1997-1999
	9	2000s

II. CORRESPONDENCE

Box	Folder	Description
1	10	1982-1994
	11	1995-1999
	12	2000s
	13	No date/year
	14	Cards/notes

III. GRANTS & AWARDS

Box	Folder	Description
1	15	MO Artist of the Year, 1990
	16	Arts America / Jazz Panel Rating, 1995-96
	17	Meet the Composer, 2003
	18	NEA / Challenge America, 2003
	19	Master / Apprentice, 1997
	20	Master / Apprentice, 2008
	21	Tradin' 4s (series I & II), 1999
	22	Tradin' 4s (series III), 2000
	23	Tradin' 4s (series IV), 2000
	24	Tradin' 4s (series V), 2001
	25	Humanities Award, 2000
	26	IAJE Humanitarian Award, 2006
	27	Certificates & Proclamations

[see Awards, Box 6, for oversized items]

IV. PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Box	Folder	Description	
1	28	1984-1991	
	29	1992	
	30	1993	
	31	1994	
	32	1995	
	33	1996	
	34	1997	
	35	1998	
	36	1999	
	37	2000	
	38	2001	
	39	2002	
	40	2003	
	2	1	2004
		2	2005-2007
		3	2008-2011
4		No date/year	
5		Trip to Macedonia, 1993	
6		Student Recitals & Graduations	
7		Funerals	
8		Church & Islamic-related	

[see Events, Box 6, for oversized items]

V. MISCELLANEOUS

Box	Folder	Description
2	9	Islamic-related
	10	General

[Calendars, housed in Box 6]
[Illustrations (oversized), housed in Box 6]
[Memorabilia, housed in Box 7]

VI. PUBLICATIONS AND NEWS CLIPPINGS

Box	Folder	Description
2		<u>Talent Rosters / Program Literature</u>
	11	Missouri Arts Council [1/2]
	12	Missouri Arts Council [2/2]
	13	Arts Council of Metropolitan Kansas City / ArtsKC Fund

Box	Folder	Description
2	14	Miscellaneous Publications: Model Talent Charm, Ltd. Of Kansas City (MTC); Kaw Valley Arts & Humanities; Heartland Arts Fund; Mid-America Arts Alliance; Missouri Alliance for Arts Education; Kansas City Chapter of Young Audiences, Inc.
		<u>Magazines/Newsletters/Booklets</u>
	15	<i>JAM</i> (KC Jazz Ambassadors)
	16	<i>Jazz</i> (Berman Music Foundation)
	17	<i>Midwest Jazz</i> (Arts Midwest)
	18	Miscellaneous Newsletters
	19	Miscellaneous Magazines
	20	Miscellaneous Travel/Tourism/Commerce
	21	Miscellaneous Brochures and Booklets

[News Clippings and oversized Publications, housed in box 5]

VII. MUSIC & TEACHING

Box	Folder	Description
		<u>Alaadeen Book: <i>The Rest of the Story: Jazz Improvization and History</i></u>
2	22	Correspondence, planning, reviews
	23	Published book
	24	Text drafts, page mock-ups
	25	Text drafts, typed
	26	Text drafts, handwritten
	27	Notes, concepts, remarks, etc.
	28	Lesson Manual & Handouts
	29	Student/Teacher Evaluations
	30	Performance Set Lists
	31	Song Lyrics
3	1	Sheet Music / Practice Sheets
	2	Music Sketches, A-C
	3	Music Sketches, D-I
	4	Music Sketches, J-Q
	5	Music Sketches, R-Z
	6	Music Sketches, No Title / Miscellaneous
		Music Sketches, Manuscript Notebooks (6) [housed at the top of box 3]
		<u>Full Scores & Instrument Parts</u>
4	1	Big Six [see box 6 for score] Full score [see box 6] and instrument parts for jazz ensemble. Parts: alto saxes 1-2, solo tenor sax, tenor saxes 1-2, baritone sax, trumpets 1-4, trombones 1-4, piano, bass, drums. Score includes guitar; instrument parts include solo tenor sax. By Ahmad

Box	Folder	Description
		Alaadeen. Arranged by Sean Conly. Published by Fandeen Publishing Company. 1989.
4	2	Blues For R.C. [See box 6 for score] Full score [see box 6] and instrument parts for jazz ensemble. Parts: alto saxes 1-2, tenor saxes 1-2, baritone sax, trumpets 1-4, trombones 1-4, guitar, piano, bass, drums. By Ahmad Alaadeen. Arranged by L.C. Neal. Published by Fandeen Publishing Company. 1991.
	3	Blues For R.C. Full score and instrument parts for jazz ensemble. Parts: alto saxes 1-2, tenor saxes 1-2, baritone sax, trumpets 1-4, trombones 1-3 (bass 3), guitar, piano, bass, drums. By Ahmad Alaadeen. Arranged by Chris Burnett. Published by Fandeen Publishing Company. 2003, [1991].
4		F.Q.O.S. [See box 6 for score] Full score [see box 6] and instrument parts for jazz ensemble. Parts: flutes and alto saxes 1-2, tenor sax 1 (solo), flute and tenor sax 2, baritone sax, trumpets 1-4, trombones 1-4, guitar, piano, bass, drums. By Ahmad Alaadeen. Arranged by L.C. Neal. Published by Fandeen Publishing Company. 1989.
5		The Jinnah Now Full score (no pg. 8) and instrument parts for jazz ensemble. Parts: solo soprano or tenor sax (Alaadeen part), alto saxes 1-2, tenor saxes 1-2, baritone sax, trumpets 1-4, trombones 1-3 (bass 3), guitar, piano, bass, drums. By Ahmad Alaadeen. Arranged by Chris Burnett. Published by Fandeen Publishing Company. 2002.
6		Peace In The 'Hood [Peace In The Neighborhood] [See box 6 for score] Full score [see box 6] and instrument parts for jazz ensemble. Parts: alto sax and flute, solo tenor sax, tenor saxes and flutes 1-2, baritone sax, trumpets 1-4, trombones 1-4, guitar, piano, bass, drums. Score includes alto sax/flute 2 part and only one tenor sax/flute part (in addition to solo tenor sax part). By Ahmad Alaadeen. Arranged by L.C. Neal. Published by Fandeen Publishing Company. 1991.
7		Peace In The 'Hood [Peace In The Neighborhood] [See box 6 for score] Full score [see box 6] and instrument parts for jazz ensemble. Parts: solo tenor sax, alto saxes (optional flutes) 1-2, tenor saxes (optional flutes) 1-2, baritone sax (optional bass clarinet), trumpets 1-4, trombones 1-4, piano, bass, drums. Score includes guitar. By Ahmad Alaadeen. Arranged by Sean Conly. Published by Fandeen Publishing Company. 1991.
8		The Ringing Full score and instrument parts for jazz ensemble. Parts: Alaadeen, alto saxes 1-2, tenor saxes 1-2, baritone sax, trumpets 1-4, trombones 1-4 (bass 4), piano, bass, drums. By Ahmad Alaadeen.

Arranged by Chris Burnett. Published by Fandeen Publishing Company. 2002.

VIII. PHOTOGRAPHS

Photos from this collection can be accessed online at:

<http://dl.mospace.umsystem.edu/umkc/islandora/object/umkc:alaadeen>