



The New York Public Library
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

Frederick D. Murphy papers

1970-1992 [bulk 1970-1980]

Sc MG 651

Summary

Creator: Murphy, Frederick D., 1940-1993

Title: Frederick D. Murphy papers

Date: 1970-1992 [bulk 1970-1980]

Size: 7.42 linear feet (8 boxes)

Source: Gift of Sandra Murphy on behalf of the Murphy Family, 1998.

Abstract: The Frederick D. Murphy papers consist principally of press kits and news clippings that Murphy collected on hundreds of recording artists of popular music (primarily rhythm and blues, soul, disco, rock and roll, and other genres) and executives in the music industry. The bulk of the collection consists of these files and material on organizations that Murphy represented, primarily record companies and related music associations, including the Black Music Association. The years for most of the collection span the 1970s and 1980s.

Preferred citation: [Item], Frederick D. Murphy papers, Sc MG 651, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Accessioned by Janice Quinter, September 2006.

Creator History

Frederick D. Murphy was an African American publicist for Black recording artists in the 1970s and 1980s. As the sole proprietor of Frederick D. Murphy Communications, Inc. in New York, he was the public relations consultant for such clients as Nick Ashford and Valerie Simpson, Miles Davis, Roberta Flack, Patti LaBelle, Melba Moore, and actress/models Toukie Smith and Beverly Johnson.

Murphy was a columnist for entertainment oriented newspapers and magazines. He was a music critic and feature writer for the weekly industry newspaper *Variety*, covering special music events and conferences. His columns "Jam Session" and "Discotrax" focused on the Black music market, specifically, recording artists, concerts, and cabarets. In this capacity, he interviewed scores of actors,

entertainers, and behind-the-scenes personalities such as Roberta Flack, Melba Moore, and Naomi Sims. Murphy also wrote the monthly column "Inside the Big Apple" for *Black Stars*, a black consumer oriented publication that deals principally with blacks in the entertainment industry. His column described the activities of personalities in the entertainment field as they passed through the metropolitan New York area.

Scope and Content Note

The Frederick D. Murphy papers consist principally of press kits and news clippings that Murphy collected on hundreds of recording artists of popular music (primarily rhythm and blues, soul, disco, rock and roll, and other genres) and executives in the music industry. The bulk of the collection consists of these files and material on organizations that Murphy represented, primarily record companies and related music associations, including the Black Music Association. The years for most of the collection span the 1970s and 1980s.

Arrangement: Arranged into 5 series: (1) Personal; (2) Writing; (3) Recording artists; (4) Organizations and (5) Miscellaneous.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American entertainers -- United States
African American journalists
African American models
African American musicians
African American singers -- United States
African American sound recording executives and producers
African American women entertainers
African American women singers
African Americans and mass media
African Americans in mass media
African Americans in the performing arts
Music publicity

Occupations

Authors, Black
Music critics

Names

Murphy, Frederick D., 1940-1993
Black Music Association

Container List

Personal 1973-1989

- b. 1 f. 1-3 Resumes and other personal papers
- b. 1 f. 4 Public relations background material
- b. 1 f. 5 Johnson, Alvin (Jay) H., Jr
- b. 1 f. 6 Frederick D. Murphy Communications

Correspondence

- b. 1 f. 7-9 Incoming 1973-1980
- b. 1 f. 10-11 General
- b. 1 f. 12-14 N.Y.C. Department of Housing, Preservation and Development 1981-1982
Includes Task Force.
- b. 1 f. 15-16 Contracts 1978-1989

Writing 1975-1988

This series contains drafts and printed copies of Murphy's columns "Jam Session" and "Discotrax", written for *Variety*. Also included are feature articles and interviews that he conducted with a number of artists. There are also drafts for Murphy's monthly column "Inside the Big Apple", which he wrote for *Black Stars*.

Mostly arranged alphabetically by article or publication name.

- b. 1 f. 17 Portfolio
- b. 1 f. 18 Black Execs 1980
- b. 1 f. 19-21 *Black Stars* 1978
Includes anniversary issue (1978), column, and stories.
- b. 1 f. 22-27 "Discotrax" column 1979-1980
- b. 1 f. 28 G.Q. Arista
- b. 1 f. 29-30 "Inside the Big Apple" column 1976-1992
- b. 2 f. 1-3 "Jam Session" column 1980-1981
- Variety*
- b. 2 f. 4-5 1979
- b. 2 f. 6 Black music 1980
- b. 2 f. 7 Reviews 1980-1981
- b. 2 f. 8 1986
- b. 2 f. 9 1987
- b. 2 f. 10 1988
- b. 2 f. 11 "Project X"
- b. 2 f. 12 Sanchez, Ruth
- b. 2 f. 13 1975
- b. 2 f. 14 Biographies
- b. 2 f. 15-16 General
- b. 2 f. 17 Newspapers

Recording artists 1974-1988

Some of the material in this series concerns performers about whom Murphy wrote in his columns and articles, while other material concerns performers who he actually represented.

Arranged alphabetically by artist or group name.

- b. 2 f. 18 *Ain't Misbehavin'* 1978
- b. 2 f. 19 Alford, Brenda
- b. 2 f. 20 Allen, Debbie
- b. 2 f. 21 Andrews, Ruby
- b. 2 f. 22 Aquarian Dream
- b. 2 f. 23 Armatrading, Joan
- b. 2 f. 24-25 Ashford, Nick and Valerie Simpson
- b. 2 f. 26 Baker, Josephine
- b. 2 f. 27 Barry, Claudja
- b. 2 f. 28 Basse, Shirley
- b. 2 f. 29 Bell, Al
- b. 2 f. 31 Brothers Johnson
- b. 2 f. 32 Brass Construction
- b. 2 f. 33 Brown, Jocelyn
- b. 2 f. 34 Bristol, Johnny
- b. 2 f. 35 Byrd, Gary
- b. 2 f. 36 Castor, Jimmy 1978
- b. 2 f. 37 Chic 1978 December
- b. 2 f. 38 Clifford, Linda 1979
- b. 2 f. 39 Clay, Stanley
- b. 2 f. 40 Cobham, Billy
- b. 2 f. 41-42 Cole, Natalie
- b. 2 f. 43 Creach, Papa John
- b. 2 f. 44 Crocker, Frankie
- b. 2 f. 45 Crusaders
- b. 2 f. 46 Davis, Betty
- b. 2 f. 47 Davis, Miles
- b. 2 f. 48 Dee, Ruby and Ossie Davis 1981
- b. 2 f. 49 Dobson, Tamara
- b. 2 f. 50 Dramatics
- b. 3 f. 1-2 Earth, Wind, and Fire 1974-1979
 - b. 3 f. 3 Emotions
 - b. 3 f. 4 Eubie
 - b. 3 f. 5 Finney
 - b. 3 f. 6 First Choice
- b. 3 f. 7-12 Flack, Roberta 1975-1978

Recording artists (cont.)

- b. 3 f. 13 Floaters
- b. 3 f. 14 Franklin, Aretha
- b. 3 f. 15 F360
- b. 3 f. 16 Funkadelic
- b. 3 f. 17 Futures
- b. 3 f. 18 Gammon, Patrick
- b. 3 f. 19 Gaynor, Gloria 1979-1981
- b. 3 f. 20 Gibbs, Van
- b. 3 f. 21 Gibbs, Van and Sunship
- b. 3 f. 22-23 Giovanni, Nikki
- b. 3 f. 24 Gladys Knight and the Pips
- b. 3 f. 25 Goodman, Gabrielle 1988
- b. 3 f. 26 Graham Central Station
- b. 3 f. 27 Green, Susaye and Scherrie Payne
- b. 3 f. 28 Greene, Denny
- b. 3 f. 29 Green, Diane
- b. 3 f. 30 Greene, Laura
- b. 3 f. 31 Harewood, Dorian
- b. 3 f. 32 Harper, Vaughn
- b. 3 f. 33 Harris, Hilda
- b. 3 f. 34 Harris, Major
- b. 3 f. 35 Harrison, Al "Smiley"
- b. 3 f. 36 Heatwave
- b. 3 f. 37 Henderson, Michael
- b. 3 f. 38 Henderson, Woody
- b. 3 f. 39 Higgins, Chester, Jr
- b. 3 f. 40 Higginsen, Vy 1984
- b. 3 f. 41 Hill, ZZ
- b. 3 f. 42 Horne, Lena
- b. 3 f. 43 Dixie Hummingbirds 1978
- b. 3 f. 44 Humphrey, Bobbi 1978
- b. 3 f. 45 Hurtt, Phil 1978
- b. 3 f. 46 Hyman, Phyllis
- b. 3 f. 47 Impact
- b. 3 f. 48 Isley Brothers 1978
- b. 3 f. 49-50 Abdul-Jabbar, Kareem
- b. 3 f. 51 Jackson, Jimmy
- b. 3 f. 52 Jackson, La Toya 1981
- b. 3 f. 53 Jackson, Millie
- b. 3 f. 54 James, Rick 1978
- b. 3 f. 55-56 Jarreau, Al

Recording artists (cont.)

- b. 3 f. 57 Jean, Norma
- b. 3 f. 58 Jessie D
- b. 3 f. 59 Johnson, Alvin, Jr
- b. 3 f. 60 Johnson, Beverly
- b. 3 f. 61 Johnson, Yvette
- b. 3 f. 62 Jones, Quincy
- b. 3 f. 63 Jones, Tomiko
- b. 3 f. 64 Khan, Chaka 1978
- b. 3 f. 65 Karisma
 - b. 4 f. 1 Kinapps 1985
 - b. 4 f. 2 King, Don
 - b. 4 f. 3 King, Evelyn "Champagne"
 - b. 4 f. 4 Kool and the Gang
 - b. 4 f. 5 Kool Jazz Festivals
- b. 4 f. 6-10 LaBelle, Patti 1974-1982
- b. 4 f. 11 Laine, Cleo
- b. 4 f. 12 Lakeside
- b. 4 f. 13 Lateef, Yusef 1979
- b. 4 f. 14 Leviticus
- b. 4 f. 15 Lewis, Ramsey
- b. 4 f. 16 Life, T 1978
- b. 4 f. 17 Lucas, Carrie 1979
- b. 4 f. 18 Lucas, Reggie 1984
- b. 4 f. 19 Manhattans
- b. 4 f. 20 McCann, Les
- b. 4 f. 21 McCoo, Marilyn and Billy Davis 1976
- b. 4 f. 22 Merman, Ethel
- b. 4 f. 23 MFSB
- b. 4 f. 24 Mighty Clouds of Joy
- b. 4 f. 25 Militello, Bobby
- b. 4 f. 26 Mills, Stephanie 1979
- b. 4 f. 27 Moore, Jackie 1979
- b. 4 f. 28-29 Moore, Melba 1976-1985
 - b. 4 f. 30 Morris, Garrett
 - b. 4 f. 31 Mother's Finest
 - b. 4 f. 32 Mtume
 - b. 4 f. 33 Nichols, Nichelle
 - b. 4 f. 34 Nija
 - b. 4 f. 35 Odyssey
 - b. 4 f. 36 Peaches and Herb
 - b. 4 f. 37 Pendergrass, Teddy

Recording artists (cont.)

- b. 4 f. 38 Petioni, Muriel
- b. 4 f. 39 Peters, Michael
- b. 4 f. 40 Pryor, Richard
- b. 4 f. 41 Revelation 1979
- b. 4 f. 42 The Reddings 1981
- b. 4 f. 43 Robinson, Roger
- b. 4 f. 44 Ross, Diana
- b. 4 f. 45 Segars, Reginald
- b. 4 f. 46 Shirelles
- b. 4 f. 47 Sigler, Bunny
- b. 4 f. 48 Simon, Joe 1979
- b. 4 f. 49 Dr. Simone
- b. 4 f. 50 Simpson, Ray
- b. 4 f. 51 Sims, Naomi
- b. 4 f. 52 Skyy
- b. 4 f. 53 Slave
- b. 4 f. 54-55 Smith, Lonnie Liston 1981-1983
- b. 4 f. 56-57 Smith, Toukie
- b. 4 f. 58-59 Smith, Willi 1988
 - b. 4 f. 60 Starship
 - b. 4 f. 61 Staton, Candi
 - b. 4 f. 62 Stylistics 1978
 - b. 5 f. 1 Summer, Donna
 - b. 5 f. 2 Sutton, Percy
 - b. 5 f. 3 Switch
 - b. 5 f. 4 Thomas, Joe
 - b. 5 f. 5 Tosh, Peter
 - b. 5 f. 6 Townes, Carol Lynn
 - b. 5 f. 7 Trammmps
 - b. 5 f. 8 Turner, Tina 1978
 - b. 5 f. 9 Tymes
 - b. 5 f. 10 Utley, Byron 1978
 - b. 5 f. 11 Washington, Erik
 - b. 5 f. 12 Washington, Grover
 - b. 5 f. 13 West, Louise
 - b. 5 f. 14 Whispers
- b. 5 f. 15-16 *The Wiz*
 - b. 5 f. 17 Young, Andrew
- Biographies
 - b. 5 f. 18-27 B-J
 - b. 5 f. 28-29 K-P

Recording artists (cont.)
Biographies (cont.)

- b. 5 f. 30-34 R-U
- b. 5 f. 35-36 V-W
- b. 6 f. 1-14 Various

Organizations 1977-1988

This series consists of material on organizations that Murphy represented, primarily record companies and related music associations, such as the Black Music Association.

Arranged alphabetically by organization name.

- b. 6 f. 15 American Heart Association
- b. 6 f. 16 American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP)
- b. 6 f. 17-18 ASR Recording Services
- b. 6 f. 19-20 Big Apple
- b. 6 f. 21 Billboard
- b. 6 f. 22 Black Crunch
- b. 6 f. 23-24 Black Enterprise
- b. 6 f. 25-29 Black Music Association 1980
- b. 6 f. 30 Black Ski Summit
- b. 6 f. 31 Blacks in Communication
- b. 6 f. 32 Bonus Records
- b. 7 f. 1 Catering Services
- CBS Records
- b. 7 f. 2 Convention, London 1977
- b. 7 f. 3 President
- b. 7 f. 4 Vice Presidents
- b. 7 f. 5 Charades 1985
- b. 7 f. 6 Club Zanzibar
- b. 7 f. 7 Disco Forum V 1979
- b. 7 f. 8 Dance Theatre of Harlem
- b. 7 f. 9 Day—O
- b. 7 f. 10 Gordon Lee Skin Care Salon
- b. 7 f. 11 Harlem International Records
- b. 7 f. 12 International Disco Record Center
- b. 7 f. 13 Jazz Consortium
- b. 7 f. 14 Lilies of the Field, Inc
- b. 7 f. 15 New Jersey State Department of Education and Anthony Fitchue
- b. 7 f. 16 Philadelphia International Records
- b. 7 f. 17 RCA Records
- b. 7 f. 18 Soul Spectrum, Columbia Records 1974 March
- b. 7 f. 19 TEC Records
- b. 7 f. 20 Theater Le Palace, Paris
- b. 7 f. 21 WDAS-FM 1988

Organizations (cont.)

b. 7 f. 22-23 Various

Miscellaneous 1986-1989

This series consists primarily of printed material about a variety of topics including disco and rap music, male models, and stage productions, and files about individuals who were not involved in the music industry.

Mostly arranged alphabetically, with printed matter at the end.

b. 7 f. 24 Child models

b. 7 f. 25-27 Disco

Manuscripts

b. 7 f. 28 Douglas, Barry and Leon Pickney. "Sleepin"

b. 7 f. 29 Clews, Vince. "A Rich Jewel"

b. 7 f. 30 Male models

b. 7 f. 31-32 Press and press lists 1986

b. 7 f. 33 Proposals

b. 7 f. 34 Rap music

b. 7 f. 35 Stage productions

b. 7 f. 36-37 News clippings 1989

b. 8 f. 1-2

b. 8 f. 3-7 Other printed matter