D.F. CUSIC PAPERS

Creator: Donald F. Cusic (November 13, 1948 - )

Type of Material: includes manuscript materials, clippings, programs, photographs, correspondence

Physical Description: 6 linear feet of manuscript materials in 16 boxes

Languages: English


Repository: Center for Popular Music, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN 37132, (615) 898-2449

Access/Restrictions: All materials in this collection are subject to standard national and international copyright laws. Center staff are able to assist with copyright questions for this material.

Preferred Citation: (Box Number, Folder Number/Name), D.F. Cusic Papers 86-001, Center for Popular Music, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Provenance and Acquisition Information: The D.F. Cusic Collection was donated to the Center for Popular Music by Don Cusic beginning in 1986 while he was a faculty member of the College of Mass Communications [now College of Media and Entertainment]

Subject/Index Terms: Gospel Music Association (GMA) Sandi Patti
Agency History/Biographical Sketch: [as of 2022]

Don Cusic was born in St. Mary's County, Maryland. He attended St. Mary's College and the University of Maryland where he received a B.S. in Journalism. Cusic moved to Tennessee in 1972. His first job in the music industry was with the Country Music Association as a staff writer, then with Record World, a trade publication as Nashville editor. From there he joined Monument Records where he served as head of Artist Development and International Liaison (Monument was distributed by CBS International). After leaving Monument, Cusic and Dan Beck formed a management and public relations company where they managed Riders in the Sky and Dickie Lee. After the management/pr company Cusic became the first Nashville editor for Contemporary Christian Music magazine, then joined Cashbox as Country and Gospel Editor. During this period, he served for three years on the Gospel Music Association's Board of Directors.

Don Cusic joined the faculty at Middle Tennessee State University in 1982 teaching courses in the music business. He earned a Masters and Doctorate in English from MTSU. Since August, 1994 he has been Professor of Music Business at Belmont University and since 2006 has held the professorship of Curb Professor of Music Industry History, endowed by the Mike Curb Family Foundation.

Don Cusic has had over 500 articles published since he began writing. He has been the Country and Gospel Editor for Record World and Cashbox, a columnist for Music City News, editor of The Western Way (the quarterly publication of the Western Music Association), album reviewer and special correspondent for billboard and book reviewer for Music Row Magazine.


He has written liner notes for albums by Dolly Parton, Willie Nelson, Ray Stevens,
Bobby Bare, George Jones, Eddy Arnold, Sonny James, Gary Paxton, George Beverly Shea, Sheb Wooley, the Oak Ridge Boys, Lulu Belle and Scotty, Jimmy Long, Skeeter Davis, Lynn Anderson, Roy Drusky, Floyd Cramer and others.

As a scholar, Don Cusic has presented academic papers for the Popular Culture Association, the Popular Culture Association of the South, the American Studies Association, the International Association for the Study of Popular Music, the International Country Music Conference, the International Popular Culture Conference (in Oxford, England), the Tennessee Folklife Society, the Western Music Association, the Baseball Symposium, the International Association for the Study of Popular Music and the Music Educators Industry and Entertainment Association (MEIEA).

As a record producer, Cusic has produced albums on Jeannie Seely, Bobby Bare and Melinda Doolittle (with Mike Curb) and co-produced (with Cheetah Chrome) the Eddy Arnold Tribute album, *You Don’t Know Me: Rediscovering Eddy Arnold*.

Cusic was a consultant on Ken Burns’ documentary miniseries *Country Music*. Cusic appeared a number of times on CMT programs, including the "Controversy" series, "Greatest Patriotic Songs," "Waiting in the Wings: African-Americans in Country Music " and others; he appeared on a number of TNN shows, including "Life and Times of Eddy Arnold" and the A&E Biography Series on Hank Williams. He also appeared on the BBC series "Lost Highway: The History of Country Music" and “White Gospel.” He has appeared in three films, Country Gold, Wish Me Away, the story of Chely Wright and Country: Portrait of a Music.

Cusic is a member of the Country Music Association (Lifetime), Western Music Association (Lifetime), the Gospel Music Association (Lifetime), the Recording Academy (formerly the National Association of Recording Arts and Sciences-NARAS), the International Bluegrass Music Association and the Music Educators Industry and Entertainment Association (MEIEA). Cusic is a Commissioner on the Metro Historical Commission in Nashville.

**Scope and Content:**

As much as they document his research interests, work as an entertainment journalist, and professional affiliation in the Gospel Music Association, the materials contained in the D. F. Cusic Papers document the subjects Cusic researched and the GMA itself. Included in the collection are business correspondence; magazine and newspaper articles, some of which were written by Cusic but most of which were used by him for research purposes; music industry related mailing lists; information on professional organizations; business records of the Gospel Music Association; and information pertaining to the yearly Gospel Music Association's week-long conventions and Dove Music Awards.

**Arrangement:**
The collection is divided into five series, Series one, general manuscript materials, contains materials primarily related to Cusic's journalism career and personal research,
while the second series, Gospel Music Association (GMA), is composed entirely of GMA materials. Series three, Sandi Patti, contains research materials Cusic used is writing a biography of contemporary Christian artist Sandi Patti, as well as two copies of the manuscript--one of which is marked for editing. Series four, Sound of Light, is a manuscript copy of what would become Sound and Light: A History of Gospel Music book along with a published version. Series five is photograph prints, mostly relating to gospel and Christian music with some relating to country music.

**Series Description:**

**Series 1: General Manuscript Materials**  
3.5 l. f. (boxes 1-7)

Mostly clippings, concert announcements, correspondence, scattered issues of periodicals and other miscellaneous materials related to various topics Cusic researched and wrote about. Arranged alphabetically by title or subject.

Box 2 contains articles written by Cusic early in his career, most relating to contemporary Christian music. Box 6 contains past event programs of the Country Radio Seminar (CRS) and various reports, publications, and programs of the Country Music Association (CMA).

**Series 2: Gospel Music Association (GMA)**  
1 l. f. (boxes 8-9)

Box 8 contains business agendas of board meeting in which Cusic sat for the Gospel Music Association as well as the GMA’s newsletter and other clippings and items relating to the Association. Box 9 contains agendas and programs of the annual conference of the GMA orginized by year.

**Series 3: Sandi Patti**  
1 l. f. (boxes 10-12)


**Series 4: Sound of Light**  
.5 l. f. (box 13)

Final draft of the manuscript The Sound of Light: A History of Gospel Music (1990) along with a published copy of the 1990 publication of the book.

**Series 5: Photographs**  
1.5 l. f. (boxes 14-18)
5 boxes of 981 photographic prints of various sizes mostly relating to gospel and Christian music with some relating to country music. Ask archivist for complete list of photographs.

**Collection Contents (Folder/Box List):**
All folder labels are original to collection; brackets indicate processor's labeling for ease of access.

**Series 1: General Manuscript Materials**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box #</th>
<th>Folder #</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Box 1 | General Manuscript Materials | Folder 1      General Correspondence  
Folder 2 Invitations / Christmas cards  
Folder 3 Mailing Lists  
Folder 4 Mailing Lists - Colleges  
Folder 5 Mailing Lists  
Folder 6 Miscellaneous materials  
Folder 7 General note scraps  
Folder 8 “A Preliminary list of proposed entries”  
Folder 9 National Music Publishers Association  
Folder 10 Delois Clemmons Music sheet music and booklet of lyrics/poems  
Folder 11 Student Papers  
Folder 13 Clippings – General Music |
| Box 2 | Cusic Reviews and Articles – Research materials | Folder 1 Cusic Reviews and Articles draft copies A-C  
Folder 2 Cusic Reviews and Articles draft copies D-H  
Folder 3 Cusic Reviews and Articles draft copies I-M  
Folder 4 Cusic Reviews and Articles draft copies N-P  
Folder 5 Cusic Reviews and Articles draft copies R-Z; misc.  
Folder 6 Research materials: Politics |
Folder 2 Research Materials: Religion A-C  
Folder 3 Research Materials: Religion E-G  
Folder 4 Research Materials: Religion H-Pil  
Folder 5 Research Materials: Religion Pentecostalism  
Folder 6 Research Materials: Religion Powe- Reagan  
Folder 7 Research Materials: Religion Pat Robertson  
Folder 8 Research Materials: Religion Religion – Who |
| Folder 2 | Research Materials: Gospel Music F-H |
| Folder 3 | Research Materials: Gospel Music L-R |
| Folder 4 | Research Materials: Gospel Music Jesus Christ Superstar |
| Folder 5 | Research Materials: Gospel Music S |
| Folder 7 | Research Materials: Gospel Music T-W |

**Box 5 Jimmy Swaggart Ministries**
- Folder 1 | Research Materials: Jimmy Swaggart |
- Folder 2 | Jimmy Swaggart Ministries Mailers/Promo Undated-June 1987 |
- Folder 3 | Jimmy Swaggart Ministries Mailers/Promo July 1987-April 1988 |
- Folder 4 | Jimmy Swaggart Ministries Gift Catalogs and “The Evangelist” |

**Box 6 Country Radio Seminar & Country Music Association**
- Folder 1 | Country Radio Seminar (CRS) 1979 program |
- Folder 2 | Country Radio Seminar (CRS) 1985 program |
- Folder 3 | 1982 CMA Listeners Report (Country Music Association) |
- Folder 4 | CMA Broadcast Handbook and Film Lists |
- Folder 5 | CMA Radio Stations and Fan Club lists |
- Folder 6 | CMA Award Programs |
  - 1984 program, Country Song Roundup Winter 1985 |
- Folder 7 | A Survey of Country Radio Stations [undated] |

**Box 7 Serials and Catalogs**
- Folder 1 | Promotional Materials |
- Folder 2 | Serials – Misc. |
  - Reader 9/19/1986 ‘Red, Hot, & Blues” |
  - NFD Journal March 1984 |
  - World Evangelical Fellowship 1986 no 5 |
  - Sojourners Dec 1982 |
  - Towards Renewal of Church & Society no 18 Su 1979 |
  - National Entertainment Journalist Society Nov 2, 1985 |
  - Continental Ministries News & World Report |
    - Nov 1983, Feb 1984 |
  - Living Sound International Report Vol 1 No 1 1977 |
  - NGRS Report Vol 1 Iss 4, Vol 2 Iss 1, Vol 2 Iss 3 |
  - Christian Research Report Special Issue April 1988 |
- Folder 3 | Catalogs |
  - Epoch Universal Publications Christmas 1978 |
  - Credence Cassettes Fall 1984, Spring/Summer 1984 |
- Folder 4 | Oversize GMA Week 1985 |
- Folder 5 | Oversize Cusic Articles |
Record World, Country Music 1973
Cashbox 16 April 1983
Clipped Oversize Cusic Articles
Folder 5 Saturday Evening Post, Issue on Christianity
Folder 6 Record World Presents, Gospel Music: A New Decade
Folder 7 Record World Presents, Gospel '82: Music to Believe In
Folder 8 Christian Retailing serial, Family Bookstore magazine/catalogs

Series 2: Gospel Music Association (GMA)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Box 8</td>
<td>Gospel Music Association (GMA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 1</td>
<td>GMA Business Binder 1977, 1978</td>
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<td>Folder 2</td>
<td>GMA Business 1977, 1978</td>
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<td>Folder 7</td>
<td>GMA Business 1987</td>
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<td>Folder 8</td>
<td>GMA Miscellaneous</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 9</td>
<td>GMA Newspaper clippings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 10</td>
<td>GMA Good News newsletters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 11</td>
<td>GMA Dove Awards 1978 – 10th Anniversary</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Box 9 Gospel Music Association GMA Week

| Folder 1 | GMA Week 1981 |
| Folder 2 | GMA Week 1982 |
| Folder 3 | GMA Week 1983 |
| Folder 4 | GMA Week 1984 |
| Folder 5 | GMA Week 1985 |
| Folder 6 | GMA Week 1986 |
| Folder 7 | GMA Week 1987 |
| Folder 8 | GMA Week 1988 |
| Folder 9 | GMA 1977 Directory/Yearbook |
| Folder 10 | GMA 1978 Directory/Yearbook |
| Folder 11 | GMA 1979 Directory/Yearbook |
| Folder 12 | GMA 1981 Directory/Yearbook |

Series 3: Sandi Patti

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Box #</th>
<th>Folder #</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 10</td>
<td>Sandi Patti 1977-1990 [clippings and related research materials]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 1</td>
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<td>Folder 4</td>
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Folder 5  1981
Folder 6  1982
Folder 7  1983
Folder 8  1984
Folder 9  1985
Folder 10  1986
Folder 11  1986
Folder 12  1987
Folder 13  1988
Folder 14  1989-1990

Box 11  Sandi Patti [clippings and related research materials]
Folder 1  no date clippings
Folder 2  Family
Folder 3  Anderson College
Folder 4  Miscellaneous
Folder 5  Notes
Folder 6  Anderson, Indiana
Folder 7  Early Sandi
Folder 8  Star Spangled Banner
Folder 9  Honeymoon
Folder 10  Sandi Patti
Folder 11  Concert - Next To Last
Folder 12  Early Morning Light
Folder 13  Press Kits
Folder 14  Edited Draft - Ch 1 - 14
Folder 15  Edited Draft - Ch 15 - 31
Folder 16  Edited Draft - Ch 32 – 42

Box 12  Sandi Patti Manuscript
Folder 1  Final Draft Chapter 1 - 13
Folder 2  Final Draft Chapter 14 - 27
Folder 3  Final Draft Chapter 28 – 42

Series 4: Sound of Light

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<th>Box #</th>
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<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 13</td>
<td>Sound of Light</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 1</td>
<td>Sound of Light book manuscript</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Series 5: Photographs

5 boxes of 981 photographic prints of various sizes mostly relating to gospel and Christian music with some relating to country music. Ask archivist for complete list of photographs.
Materials Cataloged Separately:
Per Center policy, certain formats are cataloged separately for accessibility, including commercial and manuscript sound recording materials. [For a complete list of separated materials, please contact the audio curator.]

Location:
All manuscript materials are located in the special collections storage area filed by accession number. Audio/visual materials are located in special collections storage area.

Related Materials:
Special collection press kits, performance documents, trade catalogs, photographs, sound recordings, rare books, and reading room materials related to the subjects of this collection and/or donated by Cusic are also held by the Center and searchable through the CPM website database or MTSU Walker Library catalog.

Oral histories, many of which relate to the subjects of this collection are located in the Center's audio collection, they have been digitized and are located on the internal server under the accession number 91-012, please contact the audio curator or archivist to accesses these recordings.

Note: [It is unclear since the original processing of this collection where the student papers now located since vertical files and press kits have since been weeded and many press kits were separated by format.]
Student papers for RIM 462, Merchandising of Recordings, and RIM 481, Topics in Recording Industry Management from Fall 1986 to Summer 1988 are primarily filed in vertical files by subject or performer. Because the press releases document their subjects more than they document Cusic, they are filed by subject in the vertical files.

Reprocessed and updated Olivia Beaudry, CA May 2022.