Creator:
Seroff, Doug (February 21, 1947 - )

Type of Material:
Manuscript materials, Photographs, manuscript and commercial audio/visual materials

Physical Description:
3.8 ft. including
324 images (photographs and negatives)
60 cassette audio tapes
8 VHS video cassettes
10 CD-R audio recordings

Dates:
1876-2011; bulk 1980-1990

Abstract (Descriptive Summary):
The collection consists of correspondence, photographs, articles and newspaper clippings, and manuscript and commercial audio-visual materials including cassette tapes, VHS tapes, 33 1/3 sound recordings relating to African American Gospel groups in Tennessee. The materials were collected and created by Doug Seroff from approximately 1980 to 2011 for his own research and interest.

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

Restrictions:
There is a seven-year restriction on the use of Fisk University Jubilee Singers interviews and related ephemera. That portion of the collection shall not be accessible to researchers during the period of restriction without the expressed permission of Doug Seroff. If CPM receives inquiries about this material, contact Mr. Seroff before replying to the request. The restriction will expire on January 8, 2025.
Box 1 Folder 8 contains some personal information that includes social security numbers. Items from this folder have been redacted for privacy, originals are in Box 9.
Preferred Citation:
(Box Number, Folder Number/Name), Doug Seroff Tennessee African American Gospel Quartet Collection 10-026, Center for Popular Music, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Provenance and Acquisition Information:
The majority of the items in this collection were written, recorded and assembled by historian/researcher Doug Seroff. Some of the historic Nashville images are from the collection of John Phillips. Many of the 1980s-1990s quartet photos were taken by Robert Cogswell. Most of the early Fairfield Four materials come from the collection of John Battle. This collection was purchased by the Center for Popular Music from Doug Seroff in November 2010.

Subject/Index Terms:
African American gospel singers
Popular music
Fairfield Four
Spirit of Memphis Quartet
Swan Silvertones
Tennessee Quartet Singing
Tennessee Music
Oral history transcripts

Agency History/Biographical Sketch:
Doug Seroff, born February 21, 1947 in Newark, NJ, and currently residing in Greenbrier, TN, has been involved in recording, researching, and promoting African American vernacular music since the 1970s. He has written a number of books on the subject, as well as many liner notes for reissues of older music. Mr. Seroff has also been a consultant with television and radio documentaries about the gospel quartet tradition, as well as a promoter of gospel quartet performances.

Scope and Content:
The collection is comprised of 3.8 linear feet of materials. 60 audio cassette tapes (circa 1980s) contain recordings of interviews, rehearsals and performances of gospel quartets and their individual members. 10 CD-R audio discs (circa 1940s-1980s) contain similar material as well as digitized historic recordings of gospel radio performances and unissued test pressings. 8 VHS cassette video tapes (circa 1970s-1990s) contain historic clips, quartet rehearsals, performances and TV appearances. 324 images (photo prints, negatives and photocopies of negatives for which there are no prints. These photocopies identify persons in images) dating 1870s-2000s contains historic promotional, performance, formal and informal pictures of gospel quartet performers. The remainder of the collection is manuscripts, placards, notebooks and booklets. This set of materials ranges from personal datebooks and notebooks from John Battle (Fairfield Four) as well as interview transcriptions (transcriptions for all recorded interviews in collection as well interviews not preserved in audio) not, historic
newspaper articles, ticket stubs, business cards, performance programs and booklets, obituaries, correspondence etc. The collection remains in the organizational scheme as presented by Mr. Seroff.

**Collection Contents (Folder/Box List):**

**Box 1 Nashville Groups Printed Matter**

**Folder 1 “Fairfield Four programs and advertising”**
Folder contains programs, ticket stubs and announcements spanning 1980s-1990s for a variety of events (festivals, lectures, concert series etc) that featured the Fairfield Four. Some of the program sheets contain notes by Mr. Seroff about songs performed by the group at the event.

**Folder 2 “Fairfield Four-Obsequies & Obituaries”**
Folder contains funeral programs and obituaries for Fairfield Four members spanning 1990s-2000s. Some programs contain detailed notes by Mr. Seroff about the funerals (attendance, singers, songs etc) maps of grave locations and copy of John Battle’s birth certificate.

**Folder 3 “Fairfield Four Correspondence”**
Folder contains personal correspondence to Mr. Seroff, Mr. Seroff’s performance notes/reviews relating to the Fairfield Four spanning 1940s-1990s.

**Folder 4 “Fairfield Four Clippings”**
Folder contains original and copied newspaper and magazine clippings related to the Fairfield Four 1980’s-1990s.

**Folder 5 “Fairfield Four Interview Transcripts”**
Folder contains transcriptions of interviews of Fairfield Four members by Doug Seroff spanning 1970s-2000s. Also contains release/permission note from Isaac Freeman. Some are transcript only, others are transcriptions of audio cassette tapes in Box 7.

**Interview transcripts include:**
- Robert Hamlett 2/18/88
- Harold Carrethers/Caruthers 4/10/88, 7/6/82, 7/5/82
- Willie Love 5/16/82, 6/2/82
- Wilson “Lit” Waters 3/7/88
- Isaac “Dickie” Freeman 8/25/06, 9/30/06, 5/16/82, 7/18/80
- Fairfield Four (McCrary, Freeman, Love, Hill) 10/11/80
- Rev. Sam McCrary late 1977

**Folder 6 “Hebb Family/Bobby Hebb File”**
Folder contains material spanning 1960s-2000s relating to the Hebb Family collected by Doug Seroff. Collection includes Helen Hebb interview transcription, Mr. Seroff’s research notes and event reviews/notes, newspaper clippings (original and photocopies).

**Interview transcripts include:**
Helen Hebb 4/30/88

**Folder 7 - “Princely Players File”**
Papers spanning 1970s-2000s relating to the Princely Players group that used a capella singing and drama to trace the history and experience of African Americans. Originally formed by former Fisk graduate and Jubilee singer German Wilson. File contains programs (and Doug’s review/notes of the performance), press releases, correspondence to Doug Seroff, group member biographies, recording log.

**Folder 8 “Nashville Miscellaneous”**
Folder contains material relating to various gospel quartets, such as McCrary in Nashville, 1980s-2000s. Collection includes quartet business cards, Mr. Seroff’s notes for his 1988 presentation at the Conference of Afro-American Culture and History, newspaper clippings, press releases, Mr. Seroff’s performance reviews, and interview report forms and research notes, quartet anniversary programs. Items from this folder have been redacted for privacy, originals are in Box 9.

**Folder 9 “Nashville Various Obituaries and Obsequies”**
Folder contains material spanning 1990s-2000s. Includes funeral programs and newspaper obituary clippings for former members of the Fireside Singers, Singing Tornadoes, bluegrass/gospel producer Jim Stanton (Rich-R-Tone/Champ) and R&B singer Gene Allison and other miscellaneous clippings.

**Folder 10 “Nashville Gospel Quartet Interviews-Various”**
Folder contains transcripts of in-person and telephone interviews conducted by Doug Seroff circa 1970s-1980s. Interview subjects include members of the Fireside Singers, Zion Harmonizers, Sons of Glory, Voices of Nashville, The Relief Four, Harps of Zion etc. Also includes an interview with Wesley Copeland that has information about African American string band music in the Nashville area.

**Interview transcripts include:**
Fireside Singers 4/12/88, 2/17/86
Thomas Gilbert 7/6/82, 4/16/88, 6/7/82
Wesley Copeland and Mamie Wells 3/8/88
William Burney, Sandis Cooper, Joseph Thompson 4/18/88
Willie Love, Tom Smith, John Phillips 4/30/83
John Phillips 3/10/88
Rev. Morgan Babb 3/5/86
Doris Gill 4/23/88
Delton Manley 6/8/88
Rev. O. D. Travis 12/19/78
Rev. F.M. Spence 12/12/78
Folder 11 Gospel Arts Day & Gordon Stoker Transcription

Box 2 Memphis Groups Printed Matter

Folder 1 Spirit of Memphis Correspondence and Promotional
Materials spanning 1960s-2000s relating to the Spirit of Memphis Quartet. Folder contains ticket stubs, photocopied newspaper articles, posters for anniversary performances, list of current and former members of the Spirit of Memphis, correspondence to and from Mr. Seroff and his notes regarding the Spirit of Memphis Quartet’s 50th anniversary program in 1980.

Folder 2 Spirit of Memphis Transcriptions
Transcriptions of in-person interviews with members of the Spirit of Memphis Quartet conducted by Doug Seroff in the 1970s-1980s. Contains detailed information on the quartet’s personnel, history, performances, recordings, radio performances, instrumentation etc.

Interview transcripts include:
Robert Reed 6/79
Essie Wade 4/24/81, 4/26/81
Jet Bledsoe 1/31/81
Earl Malone 8/5/79
Robert Reed and Earl Malone 10/11/80

Folder 3 “Obituaries-Memphis incl. Spirit of Memphis”
Obituaries and funeral programs for gospel singers spanning the 1980s-90s with particular focus on former members of the Spirit of Memphis gospel quartet.

Folder 4 “Memphis Commemorative Booklets”
Collection of 3 booklets spanning the 1980s-90s with historical, musical and biographical information about the gospel groups The Pattersonaires and the Harps of Melody. There is also a booklet for “Observe Willie L Gordon Night”. Gordon was the organizer of the Pattersonaires.

Folder 5 “Various Memphis clippings, programs and correspondence
Collection of materials spanning 1950s-2000s relating to gospel singing groups and individuals from the Memphis, TN area. Folder contains event ticket stubs, program notes/reviews by Doug Seroff, newspaper articles, personal correspondence/Christmas cards, photocopies of radio station bulletins (WDIA) and local magazine articles.

Folder 6 Memphis Gospel Quartet Transcriptions (Various groups)
Transcriptions of in-person and phone interviews with Memphis quartet singers conducted by Doug Seroff in the 1970s-1980s. Contains detailed information on
quartet personnel, histories, repertoire, performance and practice techniques, recording, radio appearances, etc.

**Interview transcripts include:**
Nathaniel Peck [Brewsteraires] - 1/31/81, 4/28/81
Grover Blake - 4/23/81
Julia Anderson Todd, Tommie Todd - 2/1/81
Mary L. Thomas, Doris Jean Gary - 2/3/83
Nina Jai Daugherty - 5/7/81, 5/12/81
Jack Franklin - 4/25/81, 8/79

**Box 3 Nashville Newspapers**

**Folder 1 “Souvenir Books”**
Folder contains four souvenir booklets. Two are from the Nashville Gospel Arts Day (1988, 1989) one copy of the Birmingham Quartet Scrapbook from the Jefferson County quartet reunion in Birmingham, AL on October 12, 1980 and one copy of the booklet for the Program in Black American Culture presented by the Smithsonian in 1981. Booklet articles about the quartets were researched and written by Doug Seroff. Each has detailed information on the groups, individual singers, histories and many historic and current photographs of the quartets and their personnel.

**Folder 2 “The Tennesseans”**
This folder contains information pertaining to The Tennesseans (aka Donavin’s Famous Tennesseans/The Original Tennesseans. Materials include: Photocopy of contents of “Selections of Plantation Songs” (circa 1880s) with song lyrics, melody notation, description of group etc. Includes photocopy of an account of the first commencement of Meharry Medical College (circa 1876-79) at which the Tennesseans performed. There are two pages from the Walden College Catalog (1921-22) with a history of the Tennesseans fund raising tour to raise money for a school building. One page from the Nashville Daily American (Feb. 23rd, 1883) describes a performance of the Tennesseans. Two pages of a performance review of the Tennesseans from the Chicago Evening Journal, February 17th 1874 (reprint is from February of 1941). Photocopy of Donavin’s Original Tennesseans performance ad from 11/13/1880. There is also a small set of correspondence to and from Mr. Seroff regarding the history of the Tennesseans. All reprints have been highlighted to emphasize the text related to the Tennesseans.

**Folder 3 “The Nashville Globe-Folder #1”**
This folder contains a large selection music-related materials copied from microfilms of the newspaper The Nashville Globe. Mr. Seroff has created an index of the materials in this collection for the years 1907-1910. There is also a set of notes regarding Mr Seroff’s review of this material making note of highlights from the newspaper articles. Important sections of text are often highlighted.

**Folder 4 “The Nashville Globe-Folder #2”**
This folder contains a large selection music-related materials copied from microfilms
of the newspaper The Nashville Globe. Mr. Seroff has created an index of the materials in this collection for the years 1907-1913. There is also a set of notes regarding Mr Seroff’s review of this material making note of highlights from the newspaper articles. Important sections of text are often highlighted.

Folder 5 “The Nashville Globe-Folder #3 (1917)”
This folder contains a large selection music-related materials copied from microfilms of the newspaper The Nashville Globe. Mr. Seroff has created an index of the materials in this collection for the year 1917. There is also a set of notes regarding Mr. Seroff’s review of this material making note of highlights from the newspaper articles. Important sections of text are often highlighted.

Folder 6 “The Nashville Globe-Folder #4 (1918)”
This folder contains a large selection music-related materials copied from microfilms of the newspaper The Nashville Globe. Mr. Seroff has created an index of the materials in this collection for the year 1918. There is also a set of notes regarding Mr. Seroff’s review of this material making note of highlights from the newspaper articles. Important sections of text are often highlighted.

Folder 7 “The Nashville Globe-Folder #5”
This folder contains a large selection music-related materials copied from microfilms of the newspaper The Nashville Globe. Mr. Seroff has created an index of the materials in this collection for the year 1946 although there are materials in the collection dated 1939/40. There is also a set of notes regarding Mr. Seroff’s review of this material making note of highlights from the newspaper articles. Important sections of text are often highlighted.

Box 4 Memphis Newspapers

Folder 1 “The Memphis World review-folder #1”
This folder contains a large selection music-related materials copied from microfilms of the newspaper The Memphis World. Mr. Seroff notes that Mr. Lynn Abbott reviewed the microfilm and has created the index of the materials in this collection for the years 1931-32, 1943-49 and some of 1950-53. Important sections of text are often highlighted.

Folder 2 “The Memphis World review-Folder #2”
This folder contains a large selection music-related materials copied from microfilms of the newspaper The Memphis World. Mr. Seroff notes that Mr. Lynn Abbott reviewed the microfilm and has created the index of the materials in this folder. The index for this material is in the previous folder. Collection spans 1948-1960. Important sections of text are often highlighted.

Box 5 Photographs
Folder 1 Nashville Groups B-H

**Bright Star Harmonizers (1 image):** One single cardboard promotional image (circa 1940s?) of the group with names of singers, manager and telephone contact information.

**Chimes of Canaan (7 photos):** These promotional photos of the group are copies of images of the Chimes of Canaan (circa 1950s-1970s) from the collection of John Phillips. Singers identified on reverse side.

**CBS (McCrary) (13 photos):** CBS stands for “Cousins, Brothers and Sisters” (group was formed of relatives of Rev. Sam McCrary). Series of photographs (circa 1980s-1990s) taken by Robert Cogswell of singers posing and performing. Some photos have the singers identified on the reverse side.

**Fireside Singers/Fairfield Four Juniors (3 photos, 1 4x5 negative):** Contains business card, 4x5 negative in envelope of promotional photo, photographs and copies of photographs. Singers named on back.

**Gospel Tones (1 photo):** Contains one glossy promotional photo with names of singers on back.

**Gospel Stirrers (2 photos):** Two photos are copies of images of the Gospel Stirrers of Nashville (circa 1970s) from the collection of John Phillips. Singers identified on back.

**Harmony Kings (1 image):** One photo on cardboard (from poster/placard?) singers names noted on back.

**Hall Harmonizers (2 photos):** Two photographs of the same original photo held in the John Phillips collection. Singers names noted on back.

*Rev Odie Hoover Jr. (1 placard image):* One single small cardboard placard (circa 1940s-50s?) with phone and address of singer.

Folder 2 Nashville Groups I-R

**Israelite Travelers (1 photo):** Promotional photo of the group (circa 1950s) with singers identified on back.

**Princely Players (5 photos):** Series of photographs taken by Robert Cogswell of singers performing at the 1989 Gospel Arts Day. One photo has the singers identified on back.

**The Psalms (1 photo):** The photo is a promotional shot of the Psalms quartet of Nashville (circa 1970s) from the collection of John Phillips. Singers identified on reverse side.

**1989 Gospel Arts Day Reunion Quartet (17 photos):** Series of photographs taken by Robert Cogswell of singers posing and performing. One photo has the singers identified on back.

**Ross Brother (2 photos):** Two photographs of the original (circa 1960s), damaged photograph from the John Phillips collection. Singer’s names noted on back.

Folder 3 Nashville Groups S-W

**Silvertone Mixed Quartet of Nashville (1 image):** One single cardboard promotional image (circa early 1940s) of the group with names of members and mailing address contact information.
Skylarks (4 photos, 3 4x5 negatives): promotional photos with singer’s names on back. 4x5 negatives of the promotional photos.

**Tennessee Arts Commission** one set of negatives dated 5/9/88 of shots of singers taken by Robert Cogswell for the TN Arts Commission.

**Voices of Nashville/Voices of Love (5 photos):** Two photos are copies of images of the Voices of Nashville (circa 1950s) from the collection of John Phillips. Singers identified on back. Two 8 1/2x 11” promotional photos (circa 1980s) of the Voices of Nashville with singers identified on reverse side. 1 Performance photo of the Voices of Love (1995) taken by Robert Cogswell. Singers identified on back.

**Watson Grove Gospel Singers:** One image on folded paper (from magazine?).

**Madame L.M. Wilson (2 photos):** Two photos of Madame Wilson.

**Folder 4 Fairfield Four**

**Fairfield Four Photo Negatives (31 negatives-14@ 4x5, 17@ 35mm):** Envelope contains negative images of the Fairfield Four (circa 1930s-1980s).

**Fairfield Four Photos #1 (11 photos):** Contains snapshots of the Fairfield Four (circa 1980s-1990s). Mostly casual images but also contains Grammy Award ceremony and history conference shots. Names of singers and photographer credits included on back.

**Fairfield Four Photos #2 (17 photos):** Photo set of the Fairfield Four (circa 1980s) with singers names and photo credits on the back sides of photos. Majority of shots are of performances but also contains photo of John Battle’s gravesite, Fairfield Church, early Fairfield Four record.

**Fairfield Four Photos #3 (2 photos):** Two 8x10 promotional photos

**Fairfield Four Photos # 4 (24 photos, 4 placards):** historic placards (with photos, song lyrics, contact information, singer’s names, advertising etc) promotional materials/photos, performance photos (circa 1930s-1980s). One contact sheet with photos of singers, 1980s era performance photos. Most images have information about singers, events, photographer credits and locations on the back.

**Folder 5 Memphis Groups B-P**

**Brewsteraires (1 photo, 1 negative):** Promotional photo of the group (circa 1965) with names of members on back. Negative is for this image.

**Dixie Nightingales (1 photocopy of image on negative):** Promotional photo of the group (circa 1960s) with names of members on front.

**Gospel Writers (1 photo, 2 photocopies):** Promotional images of the group circa 1930s-1960s with member’s names included. Two negatives Gospel Writers/Elijah Jones

**Harps of Melody (2 photographs):** Photographic copies of promotional photos of the group (circa 1945) with names of members on back.

**M.N. Gospel Singers of Memphis (1 photo):** Contains one photographic copy of original image of promotional photo circa late 1940s. Singer’s names are listed in the photo.

**Pattersonaires (1 negative, 2 photographs):** One photo is a group shot circa 1957 the second photo shows two men in radio studio. Negative is for group image. Names included on back.
Folder 6 Memphis Groups S-Z
Silvertone Gospel Singers female group (1 photograph): one photographic copy of original promotional photo of the singers.
Southern Wonders Religious Singers (2 negatives, 1 performance poster, 4 photographs, 1 photocopy of image): original performance poster (1979), four (circa 1940s-1950s) promotional photos, one photocopy of promotional photograph and two negatives for included images.
Sunset Travelers (3 photos, 1 negative): Promotional images of the group circa 1950s. Two photos are photographic copies of the original images and one 8x10 appears to be an original copy. (Negative of this image)
Songbirds of the South/Gospel Writer Junior Girls (3 photos, 4 negatives, 1 placard): Promotional images of the group circa 1950s. The photos are photographic copies of the original images (negatives are included). There is one original cardboard promotional photo of the group. Singers identified on the back.
Zion Hill Spirituals (1 cardboard image): Appears to be an original (circa 1950s-1960s) cardboard promotional photo of the group.

Folder 7 Spirit of Memphis
Spirit of Memphis Quartet photo negatives (9 negatives): Negatives of photos of the quartet.
Spirit of Memphis Quartet #1 (25 photos): Photos of the group in performance and casual settings (circa 1980s-2000s). One grouping of performance photos also has the 35mm negatives included in the collection (photo credit-Cheryl Evans Thurber). Also contained are photographs of older (1930s) promotional images. Many of the images have names of singers on back.
Spirit of Memphis Quartet photos #2 (21 photos, 3 photocopies) Contains group and individual performance and promotional photos of the singers along with other Memphis personalities (B.B. King, WDIA DJs Ford Nelson and Nat Williams, boxer Jersey Joe Walcott) circa 1940s-1990s. Folder also includes a number of original 8x10 promotional photos for the group circa 1950s. Many of the photos include singer’s names on the backside. The folders also contain three photocopies of photographs of group and individual members of the quartet. Some photos appear to be originals while others seem to be photo reproductions.

Folder 8 Various Tennessee Groups
Various Tennessee Gospel Groups (3 photos): Photographic copies of originals held in the John Phillips collection. Subjects are the Major Harmonizers, Dixie-Land Singers of Jackson, TN, and the Dixie Travelers of Dickson, TN.
Southernaires Gospel Singers of Murfreesboro, TN female group (1 cardboard placard): one original placard for the group with singer’s names and contact information.
Swan Silvertones (1 photocopy, 1 promotional sheet, 3 photographs): one photocopy of early (1930s-1940s) photo of the group, Specialty Records promotional handout with photo and biographical information, performance photo, promo photo and informal shot of Rev Dewey Young.
**Harps of Zion Quartet of Murfreesboro, TN female group (1 image):** Contains one image of the quartet (circa 1940)

**Box 6 John Battle Material**

**Envelope #1 “John Battle Datebook”**
Envelope contains John Battle’s datebook for 1947 with names, addresses and performance dates and locations.

**Folder #2 “Fairfield Four Notebook/Bylaws”**
Official notebook of the Fairfield Four (circa 1940s) Containing detailed notes about song arrangements, bylaws, fines for member’s infractions, song lyrics, finances/treasury numbers, early histories, stage introductions, minutes of meetings and news clippings on a variety of subjects (The Fairfield Four, current news, sports-boxing, poetry etc.)

**Folder #3 “John Battle Notebook”**
John Battle’s personal notebook containing song lyrics, “thoughts for the day”, Ten Commandments, poems etc.

**Box 7 Interview and Field Recording Cassette Tapes**

**Folder 1 Oversize photographs**
photograph of reunited Fairfield Four for Jefferson County Quartet Reunion, 1980, contact sheet of images shot by Robert Cogswell of gospel singers, large photo of Claude Jeter of Swan Silvertones and performance placard for the Southernaires female quartet of Murfreesboro and Fairfield Four quartet. (Circa early 1940s)

**Interview tapes cassette tapes**
1. Interview with Wilson “Lit” Waters, March 7, 1988 [Fairfield Four]
2. Harold Caruthers 7/5/82 [Fairfield Four]
4. (Side 1) Harold Caruthers [Fairfield Four] 6/6/82
   (Side 2) Bill Woodruff/Willie Love [Fairfield Four/Voices of Nashville] - 6/2/82
5. Robert Hamlett interview 2/18/88 [Fairfield Four]
6. W. Lawrence Richardson 4/7/82 Richardson #2 [Fairfield Four]
7. James Hill interview May 4, 1988 [Fairfield Four]
8. Isaac Freeman interview 8/25/06. [Fairfield Four]
10. Thomas Gilbert [Fireside Singers] 6/7/82
11. Thomas Gilbert [Fireside Singers] Interviews April 22, 1988 both sides
12. Fireside Singers Interview April 12, 1988
15. Delton Manly June 8, 1988 [Bright Stars, Spiritual All-Stars]
16. Interviews with Billy Burney, Sandis Cooper & Joe Thompson [Sons of Glory]
   April 18th, 1988
17. Doris Gill interview 4/24/88 [L. K. Singers]
19. Interview w/ Wesley Copeland, Mamie Hall, Nashville March 7, 1988 -side only
21. (Side A) ACP George Rooks 11/27/82 (Side B) Doris Jean Gary & Mary Thomas [Songbirds of the South]
22. Julia Anderson Todd [Songbirds of the South] and Tommie Todd [Gospel Writers]
23. Grover Blake 1/31/81 [Sunset Travelers]
24. Henry Jack Franklin [Southern Wonders]
27. (Side 1) Nathaniel Peck [Brewsteraires] -April, 1981
   (Side 2) Essie Wade [Spirit of Memphis wife]- April, 1981
28. (Side 1) Nathaniel Peck [Brewsteraires] 1-31-81
   (Side 2) Jet Bledsoe [Spirit of Memphis] 1/31/81

Field Recording cassette tapes
29. Doug Seroff 1-27-93 2nd Quartet Interview
   No track listing or details included.
30. Doug Seroff on the Fisk Jubilee Singers, 5-11-93
   Cassette insert has the note “Transcribers-Doug Seroff ends this interview by identifying himself after his chat with Bernice. Chat is not related to interview.” 60 min.
32. Willie Love’s 50th Anniversary at St. Mark’s M.B.C. March 20, 1989. 90min
   Song list side A:
   Congregational singing-Swing Low Sweet Chariot/My Lord’s Getting us Ready
   Gospel Lights-Lord, You’ve Been So Good
   Sister Mattie Lloyd-You Must Be Born Again/How I got Over
   Billie Joe and the Gospel Jubilees-Just Like He Said He Would/Sending up my Timber (short portion only) Low Down Chariot
   Song list side B:
   Van Trees Family-Lord Show Me the Way
   Sons of Glory (lead, Rev. Shannon)-He Looked Beyond My Faults/Glory, Glory (lead, Frank Newsome)
   Parran (?) Choir-Stumbling Over Me
   Chosen Five (of Mobile)-I’ll Fly Away
   Willie Love and Voices of Nashville-The Lord Loves Me
33. Fireside Singers 45th Anniversary program 11/13/88 (also features the Fairfield Four). 90min
Song list side A:
Fireside Singers-I Want to Rest, Noah, My Heavenly Father Watches over Me, Dr. Jesus, He’s So Good To Me
Fairfield Four-Jesus, Hallelujah
Song list side B:
Fairfield Four-(in progress) Dig A Little Deeper
Gospel Jubilees(Rutherford, TN)-Just Like He Said He Would, Stand By Me, See About Me, When the Gates Swing Open

34. The Fairfield Four (with unknown guitar accompaniment circa 1983-84. Unknown source. Short recording (demo?)
Song list:
Be What You Are (Richardson)
Sign Me Up For the Christian Jubilee (Freeman)
Dig A Little Deeper (Hill Freeman, Richardson)
Don’t Let Nobody Turn You Around (McCrary)
Love Like a River (McCrary)

35. The Fairfield Four-WRLT 2/7/93. 90min (no song list with tape)

36. Harps of Melody Practice/Pattersonaires Program
Song list side A: Harps of Melody-Lord Bless the Weary Soldier in Vietnam, He’s My Everything, I’m a Soldier, Old Time Religion, Job, Remember Me Pattersonaires-I Need Thee, I Don’t Feel No Way Tired, I Shall See Him Face to Face (lead, Al Davis), How Great Thou Art (lead, James Shelton)
Side B: Pattersonaires program at the New Salem Baptist Church, Memphis, TN. Detailed performance notes included on separate sheet in cassette case. 90min.
Song list side B: Holding On (Willie Neal-lead), He’s Worthy, He Took the Time To Save My Soul, The Old Landmark, Amazing Grace

Song list: Ride on King Jesus, Go Down Moses, We Shall Walk Through the Valley, I’m A-Rollin’, Go In The Wilderness, Rise Shine, Ain’t That Good News, I’ve Been Buked and Scorned, Roll Jordan Roll, “Slave Auction”, “Slave Sermon” w/There’s A Meeting Here Today, Amazing Grace

Song list: Princely Players-Oh Freedom (Odessa Settles), Roll Jordan Roll, Steal Away, Heaven, We Shall Walk Through the Valley, Get On Board, Swing Low Sweet Chariot, Ride On King Jesus

39. Princely Players Sing Spirituals for WADE IN THE WATER
Performance recording of the Princely Players.
Song list: Ride on King Jesus, Go Down Moses, Go In The Wilderness, Rise,
Shine Light is a Coming, Ain’t That Good News, I’ve Been Buked, Roll, Jordan Roll, Slave Auction, Amazing Grace, Oh Freedom, I Got Shoes, Gospel Train.


**Song list side A:**
- *Fireside Singers*: Lift Every Voice and Sing, Shepherd Feed My Sheep, Run On, Everybody Ought to Love Their Soul, In My Savior’s Care, Wade In the Water, Just A Closer Walk With Thee, The Lord Will Make A Way Somehow, Gonna Live By Your Word, Couldn’t Hear Nobody Pray
- Rev. Morgan Babb—What A Friend We Have In Jesus, Soon Will Be Done, Pray for Me, Move On Up A Little Higher

**Song list side B:**
- *Voices of Nashville*: Cool Down Yonder (lead: John Phillips), I Shall Know Him (lead: Willie Love), Let It Be Me (lead: Love), Peace In the Heaven Above (lead: Huey Brown), Release Me (lead: Love), The Lord Loves Me (lead: Love)

41. **Label title information crossed out**. Detailed liner notes enclosed in cassette case. **Side A**: California Jubilee Singers (not TN group). This is a dub of an East German LP recorded in 1964. No song list for side A. **Side B: Famous Jubilee Singers** under the direction of Mrs. James A. Myers. Recorded during South American tour circa 1956. Personnel includes Starling Hatchett (tenor). 90 min.

**Song list side B:**
- *Famous Jubilee Singers*: Live A-Humble, Good News, Climbing Up the Mountain Children, Unknown Title, Deep River, Swing Low Sweet Chariot, I Got A Robe, Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho, Unknown, Unknown, King Jesus is A-Listening, Every Time I Feel the Spirit, Little David, Soon Will Be Done, Remaining tracks are by unidentified mixed group—Live A-Humble, Couldn’t Hear Nobody Pray, Oh Mary Don’t You Weep.

42. **Gospel Harmonettes Anniversary Concert. December 13, 1992**

43. **Gospel Harmonettes Anniversary Concert. December 12, 1992**

44. **Gospel Harmonettes Anniversary Concert. December 13, 1992**

45. **Fisk University Jubilee Singers**-10/6/91. Performance tape of the group recorded at Meharry Medical College. Card insert has song list and order of performance. 60min.

**Song list side A:** Rise Shine, Fare the Well Everybody (at City Cemetery), Gonna Journey Away, Done Opened My Mouth to the Lord.
Box 8: Compact Disc and VHS Recordings

1. **CD-R recording of two groups, Fairfield Four and Harps of Melody.** Fairfield Four recorded by Bruce Nemerov at the 8th Annual TN Grassroots Days Festival, 9/25/83 and Harps of Melody recorded at home of Clara Anderson during rehearsal, 8/20/84. Detailed song list in case. Volume and audio condition is good.

   **Song list:**
   - *Fairfield Four*: God Shall Wipe All Tears Away (lead McCrary), Roll Jordan Roll (Freeman), I’ll Rise Again (Freeman), Don’t Let Nobody Turn You Around (McCrary and Hill), Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land (Freeman), I Know the Lord Will Make a Way (Richardson)

2. **CD-R of live recordings of the Fairfield Four.** Performances include “Home of the Heroes” concert in Bessemer, AL Civic Center Auditorium (9/30/90), Nashville Summer Lights Festival (6/3/83) and a rehearsal recording in Brighton, AL (early 1984) for the “On the Battlefield” film. Sound quality and volume is good. Detailed song list in case.

   **Song list:**
   - Today, Hallelujah, Shadrach, Dig A Little Deeper, Remember Me, Hallelujah, Swing Low Sweet Chariot, Jesus Is Ready, I’ll Rise Again, Don’t Let Nobody Turn You Around, Be What You Are, Remember Me, Hallelujah, Roll Jordan Roll, Don’t You Let Nobody Turn You Around, Be What You Are.


   **Song list:**
   - Hallelujah, I Couldn’t Hear Nobody Pray, His Love Is Like a River, Talk to the Man Above, Noah, Walk This Road to Glory, Dig A Little Deeper, Don’t Let Nobody Turn You Around, Leaning and Depending, You Can’t Beat God Giving, Swing Low Sweet Chariot, I Thank You Jesus, Shadrach Meshach and Abednego, Roll Jordan.

4. **CD-R of various field recordings by Doug Seroff.** Recording features performances of The Voices of Nashville (2/16/86), Way Plain Travelers of Knoxville (3/1/86), The Fairfield Four rehearsal (4/30/88) and Spirit of Memphis rehearsal (7/30/83). Volume and sound quality good. Detailed song list in case.

   **Song list:**
Way Plain Travelers—God Is Coming Back, Your Tears, Don’t Forget to Remember, God Rode in a Windstorm, The Lord Will Make a Way, Jesus Will Fix It, Lord I Just Want to Thank You, Please Be Patient, Lord Help Me to be Strong. 
Fairfield Four—My Life Will Be Sweeter Someday, I Know I’ve Been Changed, What Could I Do.
Spirit of Memphis—You Better Run, Happy in the Service of the Lord, Jesus Traveled This Road Before.

5. **CD-R of various field recordings by Doug Seroff.** Recording features the Harps of Melody rehearsal (8/20/84), Nashville Jubilee Singers in concert at John Wesley Church in Nashville (3/23/83) and the Fisk University Jubilee Singers sound check and convocation performance for Jubilee Day Commemoration at the Fisk University Chapel (10/6/88). Sound quality and volume is good. Detailed song list in case.

**Song list:**
Harps of Melody—He’s My Everything, Two Little Fishes and Five Loaves of Bread, Walk in Jerusalem
Nashville Jubilee Singers—They Led My Lord Away, Were You There, He Never Said a Mumbling Word, God So Loved the World.

6. **CD-R recording contains air checks of performances by the Fireside Singers from radio station WAMB-Donelson circa 1982-83.** Also contains two recordings of the Fireside Singers from WLAC-Nashville (circa 1950s). Tracks 8, 9 are of good quality and volume. Detailed song list in case.

**Song list:**
Nearer My God to Thee, Closing Theme, Theme, Daniel Saw the Stone, Have You Got Good Religion, Everybody Ought to Love Their Soul, Wade in the Water (incomplete) Gospel Train, When the Roll is Called.

7. **CD-R recordings of air checks of performances by the Fireside Singers on WAMB-Donelson** Sunday morning radio shows 1982-85. Tracks 17-24 are of good quality and volume. Detailed song list in case.

**Song list:**
Theme, In My Saviors Care, Does Jesus Care, On My Way to Heaven Anyhow, Theme, Jesus Met the Woman at the Well, Steal Away, Theme, Before This Time Another Year, Everybody Ought to Love Their Soul, I’ve Got a Witness in Heaven, Closing Theme, Does Jesus Care, Run On, Shadrach, Gonna Live By Your Word, I Made a Vow To The Lord, Lift Every Voice and Sing, Noah, Everybody Ought to Love Their Soul, I Made a Vow To The Lord, Anyhow, In My Saviors Care.
8. **CD-R recordings of air checks of performances by the Fireside Singers on WAMB-Donelson** Sunday morning radio shows 1982-85. Detailed song list in case.

   **Song list:**
   Theme (When I've Sung My Last Song), Daniel Saw the Stone, I Couldn’t Hear Nobody Pray, Nearer My God to Thee, Theme, Lord, I’ve Tried, Shepherd Feed My Sheep, I Shall Not Be Moved, Theme, Daniel Saw The Stone, I Trust in God, Come in the Room, Nearer My God to Thee, Theme, Daniel Saw the Stone, I Shall Not Be Moved, Theme, Packing Up Getting Ready, I’ll Rise Again, Farther Along, Theme.

9. **CD-R re-recording of 78rpm acetates that were originally recorded for airplay on WDIA-Memphis circa 1950s.** Performers include the Dixie Nightingales, Spirit of Memphis, Queen C. Anderson and Brewster Singers, Southern Wonders, Sons of Jehovah, Songbirds of the South and the Brewsteraires. Detailed song list in case. Mr. Seroff mentioned that some of the recordings in this set are available on a reissue LP of gospel music titled Bless My Bones: Memphis Gospel Radio. One is on the P-Vine label (#9051) and the second on Rounder (#2063)

   **Song list:**
   Dixie Nightingales-Music in the Air, In My Saviors Care, Living For Jesus
   Spirit of Memphis-Two Little Fishes and Five Loaves of Bread, Blessed Are The Poor In Spirit, Sending Up Material, Walk of Life, The Lord Will Make a Way, Milky White Way, Savior Don't Pass Me By, I Don't Know Why.
   Queen C. Anderson & Brewster Singers-Bank in the Sky, Walk Thru the Water
   Southern Wonders-Anyhow, Lord Stand By Me
   Sons of Jehovah-John the Revelator, On Calvary
   Songbirds of the South-He is Able
   Brewsteraires-So Glad


   **Song list:**
   Rev. W.M. Anderson and the Jordan River Singers-Jesus on the Mainline, When We Get Over
   Pattersonaires-I Found the Answer, The Old Landmark
   Famous Jubilee Singers (Dir. Mrs. James A. Myers)-Walkin’ on the Green Grass
   Southern Jubilees-There’s A Man In Jerusalem
VHS Video tapes

1. “Clips for Doug” T-120 VHS Cassette. Contains various video clips of The Fireside Singers (featuring Willie Frank Lewis circa 1970s), Jordanaires, Phil Harris and Jubilee 4, outdoor meeting/baptizing etc.

**Box Song/scene list:**
- Phil Harris and Jubilee Four, children tap dancing, Daddy Grace Baptizing, children singing, unidentified male quartet skit, outdoor meeting and baptizing
- **Fireside Singers**-Before This Time Another Year, Out Of The Depths (lead W.F. Lewis, I Shall Not Be Moved (Ben Vaughn-lead)
- **Deep River Boys with Kate Smith**
- **Jordanaires**-Something Within Me, Shadrack, My Journey to the Sky, Clancy
- Lowered the Boom, Joshua Fit The Battle of Jericho, Dig A Little Deeper

2. “**Canaan Band Pre Anniversary 1992**” HQ-120 VHS video cassette. Voices of Love w/Margaret Spence. “The Lord Loves Me” around 1:40


**List of clips:**
- Fisk University Jubilee Hall exterior/interior, Interior of Appleton Room, Helen Hebb interview, Fairfield Four rehearsal, CBS Singers rehearsal, Exterior of St Mark M.B. Church, Mrs. Essie Battle at her home in Nashville, Beth Howse at Ella Sheppard’s gravestone, City Cemetery-Nashville, TN.


**WSM Nashville Gospel TV show:**
- **Voices of Nashville-Lord I Want You to Help Me**
- **Tommy Lewis** interview with Willie Love
- **Voices of Nashville-The Lord Loves Me** (lead, Willie Love)
- **J.T. Stewart** (comedian)
- **Tommie Lewis** interviews-Deborah Talley, Willie Love
- **Voices of Nashville-Stay With Me Jesus**
- **Fairfield Four**-Have I Given Anything Today, Don’t Let Nobody Turn You Around, Be What You Are, Dig A Little Deeper, Hallelujah, Couldn’t HEAR Nobody Pray,
Roll Jordan Roll, I’ve Got Jesus That’s Enough,  
*Teresa Hannah*-Interviews Rev. Samuel McCrary

   **List of Clips:**
   *Interviews*-With members of Fireside Singers, Harold Carruthers (of Fairfield Four)  
   *Fireside Singers performance*-Run On, He’s So Good To Me, Dr. Jesus, Live By Your Word


8. “Fairfield Four ‘Saturday Night Sing’ 1993 Chicago WCF TV-note gaps for commercials” Official VHS cassette from TV 38 in Chicago, Il from the show “Saturday Night Sing” (program #421) featuring the Fairfield Four.

**Box 9 Restricted Fisk Jubilee Singers material**

**Folder 1** “Mrs. James A Myers/Louise Davis-Fisk Jubilee Singers Misc”.  
Materials related to the Fisk Jubilee Singers spanning 1940s-1990s. Contains newspaper announcements and reviews, thank-you letters to Myers from a variety of sources, Mr. Seroff’s detailed notes about performances, programs, singers, speeches etc. 1980s-90s Fisk Jubilee Convocation and Jubilee Day program sheets (Mr. Seroff’s reviews on some events enclosed in the individual programs). Also contains letter of introduction of Myers to General Eisenhower from Cordell Hull.

**Folder 2** “from Ms Louise Davis-Original documentation from Mrs. James A. Myers”  
Materials related to the Fisk Jubilee Singers spanning 1920s-1950s. Includes newspaper and magazine stories about performances, tours abroad, correspondence, performance programs, Press Book with history etc of Fisk Jubilee Singers. Contains some acidic papers (newsprint etc)

**Folder 3** “Fisk University Quartet Interviews”  
Detailed transcripts of interviews (many from included cassettes) spanning the 1980s-2000s with Fisk University Quartet singers conducted by Doug Seroff in the 1980s. Also included are some detailed biographies of some of the interviewees as well as 1950s Fisk Singers tour itineraries and newspaper report from the Tennessee Tribune about Matthew Kennedy’s 90th birthday.

**Folder 4** “Nashville Jubilee Singers file”  
**Subfolder** -Nashville Jubilee Singers: Papers relating to the group formed by former Fisk singer W. A. Collier. File spans the 1970s-1980s and contains programs with performance and biographical information, names and addresses of members.  
*Nashville Jubilee Singers (3 photos)*: Series of photographs taken by Robert
Cogswell of singers performing at the 1989 Gospel Arts Day. Singers are NOT identified in this series.

Folder 5 “Fisk Photos also Mrs. James A. Myers' Famous Jubilee Singers”

Mrs. James A Myers photos #1 (3 photos, 1 4x5 negative): Personal photos featuring Mrs. James A Myers and others in Germany circa 1920s-1930s. Individuals are named on the back with post-it notes and the photos also have original pencil captions on back. Also contains 1 4x5 negative.


Mrs. James A Myers and Famous Jubilee Singers #3 (13 photos): Wide variety of large photos (circa 1871-1980s) and original promotional photos that feature the Original Fisk Jubilee Singers/Club, The Jubilee Singers, and various offshoots. Also contains photo reproductions of performance posters from the U.S. and Swedish tour (1895) and various images of Dr. Rawn Spearman.

Folder 6 “Nashville/Tennessee miscellaneous” [originally from box 1 folder 8] interview report forms that include social security numbers. Items from this folder have been redacted for privacy.

Cassette Tapes:
1. Starling Hatchett 6/10/83 90min
2. Starling Hatchett (tape 2) 60min
3. Nathaniel Dickerson 6/19/89 Tape #1 90min
4. Nathaniel Dickerson 6/19/89 Tape #2 90min
5. Matthew Kennedy interview 1/25/89 60min
6. (Side B) Matthew Kennedy part two 1/25/89 (Side A) Tom Lacy’s porch 90min (with noise reduction checked)
7. Jerome J Wright tape #1 3/22/83 60min
8. Rev. Jerome Wright tape #2 3/22/83 60min
9. Interview w/Wm. A Collier 3/28/83 90min
10. (Side 1) Sam Johnson 6/30/83 (Side B) Nathaniel Dickerson 9/26/83
11. Dr. Rawn Spearman 6/19/89 90min
12. Herbert Rutherford 6/9/83 90min
13. JW Whittaker interview 5/21/91 90min
15. The Nashville Jubilee Singers-Fisk University Chapel-1979. Cassette with 10 songs and introduction to performance. Contains a list of songs and order of performance. **Song list:** Introduction, Steal Away, Shepherd Feed My Sheep, Down By The Riverside, Wade in the Water, The Lord’s Prayer, Mandy Lou, Go Down Moses, Shout All Over God’s Heaven, Lift Every Voice and Sing, Climbing Up the Mountain
Materials Cataloged Separately:
No items in the collection have been cataloged separately from this finding aid.

Arrangement:
The collection maintains the original order as presented by the creator, Doug Seroff.

Location:
All of the materials are currently stored in the 9 boxes that comprise the entire collection and are housed with other manuscript collections by accession number.

Related Materials:
Other related materials in the Center collections include Doug Seroff Alabama African American Gospel Quartet Collection (21-015); Doug Seroff Black Gospel Disc Collection (89-009); Doug Seroff Collection of Negro Harmony Singing (89-031); Doug Seroff Film Collection (95-055); Doug Seroff Master Tapes of Negro Quartet Singing (94-087); and Doug Seroff Ladysmith Black Mambazo Collection (21-015). Also related are African American Easter Gospel Music Programs Audio Tapes (94-034) and Bessemer [Alabama] Black Gospel Quartets Audio Tapes (89-64), as well as commercial sound recordings and vertical files.