

## Nashville Gospel Arts Day Program Records, 1983-1990

### Collection Summary

**Creator:** Seroff, Doug

**Title:** Nashville Gospel Arts Day Program Records

**Inclusive Dates:** 1983-1990

**Summary/Abstract:** This collection consists of administrative and other papers documenting the three-year history of Nashville Gospel Arts Day programs, 1987-1989.

**Physical Description/Extent:** ca. 0.43 cubic feet

**Accession Number:** RT-112

**Language:** English

**Stack Location:** Closed stacks SCC workroom Range 3 Section 3

**Repository:** Special Collections Division, Nashville Public Library, Nashville, Tennessee

### Chronology

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 1987 | First Nashville Gospel Arts Day held at Fisk University, June 20  |
| 1988 | Second Nashville Gospel Arts Day held at Fisk University, June 19 |
| 1989 | Third Nashville Gospel Arts Day held at Fisk University, June 18  |

### Biographical/Historical Sketch

In 1987, President Ronald Reagan signed a proclamation designating June 19 as "American Gospel Arts Day." Shortly before June 19, 1987, a California organization contacted Tennessee Folk Arts Coordinator Dr. Robert Cogswell and collector/author Doug Seroff, suggesting that they arrange a Nashville commemoration. On this short notice, the first Nashville Gospel Arts Day took place, setting the stage for more ambitious, grant-funded programs the next two years. Nashville Gospel Ministries/Nashville Gospel Productions co-directors Tommie Lewis and Teresa Hannah produced these events, while Seroff served as project director and Cogswell as project advisor. Fisk University hosted all three concert programs, as well as exhibits of photographs and artifacts which were part of the 1988 and 1989 events. Seroff researched and wrote the program booklets for the 1988-1989 concerts, and a one-hour documentary, "Don't Let Nobody Turn You Around," was produced as part of the 1989 event. Each of the three programs identified and honored a distinguished individual or group associated with Nashville African-American gospel music history: Revered Jerome I. Wright in 1987 (at that time the oldest surviving alumnus of the Fisk Jubilee Singers), the Fairfield Four in 1988, and Mrs. James A. Myers (long-time director of the Fisk Jubilee Singers) in 1989.

### Scope and Contents of the Collection

Administrative and other materials document the three-year history of Nashville Gospel Arts Day (1987-1989). Materials include planning notes, proclamations, publicity releases, grant funding requests, correspondence, performance contracts, local press coverage clippings, expense receipts, souvenir booklets, invitation lists, guest lists, and descriptive reports.

### **Organization/Arrangement of Materials**

**Organization:** By Series (program year) and Sub-Series (subject).

**Arrangement:** Chronological

### **Restrictions**

**Restrictions on Access:** In library use only.

**Restrictions on Use and Reproduction:** This material may be protected by copyright (Title 17 U.S. Code).

### **Index Terms**

#### **Personal Names:**

Myers, James A., Mrs.

Wright, Jerome I.

#### **Corporate Names/Organizations:**

Fairfield Four

Fisk University

Nashville Gospel Ministries

#### **Subjects:**

African Americans – Music – History and criticism

Gospel music – Tennessee – Nashville – History and criticism

Gospel musicians – Tennessee – Nashville

#### **Places:**

Nashville (Tenn.) – Social life and customs

#### **Genre/Document Types:**

Clippings

Contracts

Correspondence

Grant applications

Occupations: Gospel musicians

Press releases

Souvenir programs

### **Associated and Related Material**

Gospel Arts Day, Nashville: A Special Commemoration, Fisk Memorial Chapel, Fisk University, June 19, 1988, researched and written by Doug Seroff. 783.7 G6768 1988

Gospel Arts Day, Nashville: A Special Commemoration, Fisk Memorial Chapel, Fisk University, June 18, 1989, researched and written by Doug Seroff. 783.7 G6768 1989

## **Administrative Information**

**Copyright:** This material may be protected by copyright (Title 17 U.S. Code)

**Preferred Citation:** Nashville Gospel Arts Day Program Records, Special Collections Division, Nashville Public Library

**Immediate Source of Acquisition:** Donated by Doug Seroff, June 7, 2004.

**Ownership and Custodial History:** Materials were in the possession of Doug Seroff at the time of the donation.

**Processing Information:** Processed by Ronnie Pugh in 2007.

**Accruals:** None

## **Detailed Description of the Collection**

**Series I: 1987 Program**

**Series Abstract/Description**

**Arrangement**

**Box 1 of 3**

**Folder 1 -- Handwritten notes (3 pages)**

**Folder 2 – Photocopied Clippings**

1986 interview with Rev. Jerome Wright

December 6, 1987 Nashville newspaper obituary of Rev. Jerome Wright

Scans of Robert Cogswell photos from 1987-1988 programs

**Folder 3 – Publicity Releases (9—1987)**

Includes 7-page “Preliminary Report” for 6-19-87 event

**Folder 4 – Correspondence: Pre-Event (22 pages – 1/27/87 – 6/19/87)**

Articles about Congressional Resolution, and various copies thereof, including “Suggested Copy”

**Folder 5 -- Correspondence: Post-Event (2 letters, 2 enclosures)**

Doug Seroff to Hilary Clay Hicks, July 30, 1987

Hilary Clay Hicks to Doug Seroff, August 22, 1987 (w. 2 enclosures)

**Series II. 1988 Program**

**Series Abstract/Description**

**Arrangement**

**Box 2 of 3**

**Folder 6 – Program Ideas (Handwritten Page, following 8-12-87 conversation between Doug Seroff and Revis Mitchell)**

**Folder 7** – NEA Folk Arts Grant Application & Supporting Text  
Application: Signed Sept. 29, 1987—5 pages  
Supporting Typescript Explanatory Materials – 20 pages

**Folder 8** – Private Funding Request: Gospel Arts Day, 1988 (2 pages)

**Folder 9** – Program Host Biographies – Tommie Lewis, Teresa Hannah (1 page)

**Folder 10** – Permission to Reproduce Photos from Fisk University Library  
10 items requested on 1 page form by Doug Seroff for program booklet and video documentary, May 23, 1988

**Folder 11** – Video Production Documents  
5x8 Yellow Pad – 15 pages of handwritten planning notes  
Nashville Gospel Inserts – April 5, 1988 (1 page—typed)  
Interview Timing List – May 9, 1988 (1 page—typed)  
WSM Taping Session – May 9, 1988 (3 pages—typed)  
Video Script Outline (Annotated Typescript—52 pages)  
First Group Interview Segment (Pages 1-3)  
Second Group Interview Segment (Pages 4-5)  
Letter from Doug Seroff to Teresa Hannah (10-27-88) re. closing credits (2 pages)

**Folder 12** – Correspondence  
Nashville Gospel Ministries to NEA, August 11, 1987 (2 pages)  
Robert Cogswell to Folk Arts Commission, NEA, September 29, 1987 (3 pages)  
Robert Cogswell “To Whom It May Concern” fundraiser, January 21, 1988 (2 pages)  
Doug Seroff to Gene (?), May 11, 1988 (1 page)  
Doug Seroff to Rev. Morgan Babb, May 22, 1988 (1 page)  
Doug Seroff to Teresa Hannah, June 7, 1988 (2 pages)  
Doug Seroff to Teresa Hannah, June 8, 1988  
Doug Seroff to Teresa Hannah, June 9, 1988 (1 page – plus 16-page invitee list)  
Dr. Bobby Lovett to Doug Seroff, June 28, 1988 (1 page)  
ABSM Convention (Dr. Donna Cox) to Doug Seroff, July 27, 1988 (1 page – plus two pages of ABSM fliers)  
Doug Seroff to Jerry Davis, November 10, 1988 (2 pages)  
Nashville Gospel Ministries to Tony & Judy Backhouse, November 15, 1988 (1 page)  
Jerry Davis to Doug Seroff, November 29, 1988 (2 pages)  
William Ferris to Doug Seroff, March 15, 1989 (1 page)  
William Ferris to Tommie Lewis (Nashville Gospel Ministries), Oct. 11, 1989 (4 page blank contract)

**Folder 13** – Gospel Arts Day Guest Book  
9 5/8 x 6 1/4, 160 page guest book – Guest signatures on 3 pages near front

**Folder 14 – NEA Folk Arts Program Site Visit Report (Dr. Gerald L. Davis -- October 31, 1988 – 6 pages)**

(Two attached notes copied and filed in front)

**Folder 15 – Souvenir Booklet**

*Gospel Arts Day Nashville – A Special Commemoration – Jubilee Hall, Fisk University, June 19, 1988 -- 21 pages (2 copies)*

Delivery Receipt for 275 copies of booklet – to Doug Seroff, June 16, 1988

**Folder 16 – Photocopied Articles**

“Gathering Celebrates Spirit, Style of Fairfield Four,” *Tennessean*, June 18, 1988, 1D, 8D

*Tennessee Arts Report*, Summer 1988, p. 4

*Rejoice!* – Summer, 1988 – p. 3

*Musical Echoes Seen In Exhibit*, *Tennessean*, July 6, 1988

*History Gram*, Metropolitan Historical Commission, Winter 1988, #47, “Eighth Annual Local Conference on Afro-American Culture & History” (1 page)

“Nashville Recalls Its Gospel Roots,” *Sunday Tennessean Showcase*, February 19-25, 1989, Cover & p. 11

**Folder 17 – Final Descriptive Report (Typed – 3 pages)**

**Series III. 1989 Program**

**Abstract**

**Arrangement**

**Box 3 of 3**

**Folder 18 – Advance Work**

Notes From August 16, 1988 Conversation: Seroff & Mitchell (1 page)

Notes From September 17, 1988 Conversation (same) (2 pages)

Notes From December 6, 1988 Meeting: Seroff & Matthew Kennedy (1 pg.)

**Folder 19 – Grant Applications**

Federal (NEA Folk Arts):

Cover Letter from Nashville Gospel Ministries to NEA (4 pages)

4-page form (signed August 18, 1988)

Additional Information (10 pages – typed)

1 Application Acknowledgement Card

Notes From Phone Conversation w. Barry Burgee, Oct. 18, 1988

Follow-up letter, Doug Seroff to Barry Burgee, Oct. 18, 1988

State (Tennessee Arts Commission Grants-In-Aid):

Completed Grant Application Form (5 pages), plus biographies (1 page)

Letter awarding the grant – June 10, 1988 (4 pages)

Contract copies, w. cover letter from Seroff to Lewis, 2-9-89 (5 pgs.)

Interim Invoices: 2-1-89, 4-1-89, 6-1-89 (3 pages)  
City (Metro Nashville Grant Funds for the Arts):  
Contract Information & Revised Budget – Oct. 18, 1988 (2 pages)  
**Cover Letter to Anne Brown – November 16, 1988 (2 pages)**

**Folder 20 – Press Release & Announcements**

Press Release – June 18, 1989 (2 pages)  
Press Release on Nashville Gospel Ministries Letterhead  
Announcement – 30-Second Spot (1 page)  
Announcement – One Minute Spot (1 page)

**Folder 21 – Correspondence: Thru 1988**

18 items: September 22, 1983 – December 9, 1988

**Folder 22 – Correspondence: 1989**

42 items: January 2, 1989 – December 26, 1989

**Folder 23 – Correspondence: 1990**

5 items: February 13, 1990 – June 26, 1990

**Folder 24 – Performance Contracts**

Rawn W. Spearman – Signed May 8, 1989  
Starling E. Hatchett – May 8, 1989  
Matthew Kennedy – May 9, 1989  
Daniel W. Anderson, Jr. – May 15, 1989  
Oscar Henry – May 18, 1989  
Jared O. Dixon – Signed June 10, 1989  
June 12, 1989 – Receipt of Payment, signed by all of the above (2 pages)

**Folder 25 – Audio Recording**

MTSU Permission To Record – Form Signed June 18, 1989  
Audio Log – MTSU Stationery – 2 pages  
List of Persons For Whom Cassette Tapes were made (35 tapes)  
Nashville Gospel Show Inserts – June 16, 1989  
The Princely Players – June 18, 1989

**Folder 26 – Expenses: Photographic**

Tennessee Arts Commission Invoices:  
#0014 – May 25, 1989 (2 copies)  
#0017 – July 18, 1989 (2 copies)  
#0018 – July 21, 1989 (1 copy)  
#0019 – August 9, 1989 (2 copies)  
#0020 – August 10, 1989 (1 copy)  
Cumulative Invoice w. Sub-Total

**Folder 27 – Expenses: Travel**

Fischer Brothers Travel Bureau: Air, Hotel 4 pages, 1 letter, 1 voucher

Van Rental (1 typed page)

**Folder 28 – Expenses: Miscellaneous**

Miscellaneous Expense (1 typed page)  
Exhibit Expenditures (1 typed page)  
Telephone Expense (1 typed page)  
Schedule of Remaining Payments (1 typed page)  
Receipts (1 actual; 3 copied)  
Grant Fund Redistribution (1 page -- handwritten note)

**Folder 29 – Proclamations**

State of Tennessee – May 25, 1989 (actual copy, plus 1 photocopy)  
City of Nashville – For June 18, 1989 (actual copy, plus 1 photocopy)

**Folder 30 -- Souvenir Booklet**

*Gospel Arts Day Nashville – A Special Commemoration – Jubilee Hall, Fisk University, June 18, 1989* (1 copy – 21 pages)  
List of persons to receive booklets (1 typed page)

**Folder 31 – Clippings**

“Spirituals to Ring Out at Fisk Event,” *Tennessean*, June 11, 1989  
“Singing Tribute to Mrs. Myers,” *Banner*, June 14, 1989  
“Brothers in Spirit,” *Tennessean*, June 18, 1989

**Folder 32 – 1989 Guest List**

7 photocopied legal pad pages

**Folder 33 – Final Descriptive Report**

9 typed pages

**Folder 34 – Site Report**

5 pages – Computer draft copy – July 29, 1989 – Dr. Stephen H. Martin

**Folder 35 – Book Outline**

1 page – 13-part outline of proposed book on Mrs. James A. Myers