



Guide to the Joe Williams Music Scores

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Williams, Joe, 1918-1999
Collector:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Arnold Shaw Popular Music Research Center
Title:	Joe Williams Music Scores
ID:	MS-00608
Date [inclusive]:	approximately 1940-1991
Physical Description:	1.97 Cubic Feet (3 boxes)
Physical Description:	1.63 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Joe Williams Music Scores date from 1940 to 1991 and comprise the handwritten musical scores of American jazz musician Joe Williams, born Joseph Goreed. Many of the musical scores are Williams' original arrangements.

Preferred Citation

Joe Williams Music Scores, 1940-1991. MS-00608. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Biographical Note

Jazz musician Joe Williams was born Joseph Goreed in the small farming town of Cordele, Georgia on December 12, 1918. When Joe was four years old he and his mother moved to Chicago to be near family. The jazz music scene of Chicago in the early 1920s greatly influenced Joe in his later life. Years later he recalled going to the Vendome Theatre with his mother to hear Louis Armstrong play his trumpet. Already a budding vocalist, he taught himself to play the piano and formed his own gospel quartet known as "The Jubilee Boys," which traveled around the Chicago area performing at various church functions.

At the age of sixteen Joe dropped out of school to pursue singing full time. His family had confidence in his rich baritone voice and at a family meeting they all decided on "Williams" as his stage name.

During his early twenties Williams began performing as a vocalist, singing solo at formal events with local bands and began making a name for himself. In 1942 Lionel Hampton hired him to fill in for his regular vocalist, both at home and on tour. At age 35 he was hired as the male vocalist for the Count Basie Orchestra in Kansas City, Missouri. His first album appeared in 1955. During the 1960s he worked mostly as a solo artist, often accompanied by popular jazzmen including Harry Edison, Clark Terry and George Shearing. He became a familiar face on television, appearing on many variety shows such as Johnny Carson's *The Tonight Show*.

Williams continued to perform regularly at jazz festivals around the world, as well as on the nightclub circuit. During the 1980s Williams appeared at the Chicago Playboy Jazz Festival ten times. He was given a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 1983 next to Count Basie.

He enjoyed a successful career and worked until his death, though he never performed in Las Vegas. He died at age 80, March 29, 1999 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Scope and Contents Note

The Joe Williams Music Scores date from 1940 to 1991 and comprise the handwritten musical scores of American jazz singer Joe Williams, born Joseph Goreed. Many of the musical scores are Williams' original arrangements.

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Arrangement

Materials are arranged in rough alphabetical order by title, with the exception of oversized material, which remain in original order.

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Administrative Information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 2001 by Jillean Williams; accession number 2008-002. Materials were collected by the director of the Arnold Shaw Popular Music Research Center and transferred to Special Collections in 2008.

Processing Note

Materials were processed by Joyce Marshall Moore in 2008. In 2014, part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, Hana Gutierrez revised and enhanced the collection description to bring it into compliance with current professional standards. In 2016 Joyce Moore updated the finding aid in ArchivesSpace.

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Names and Subjects

- scores
- Jazz

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Tribute to Joe Williams Program book, 1991 June 12	box 01
A Man Ain't Suppose to Cry, undated	box 01
After All, undated	box 01
All Blues, undated	box 01

Beautiful People, undated	box 01
Big City, undated	box 01
Deep Purple, undated	box 01
Brother: Man?, undated	box 01
Did I Ever Really Live, undated	box 01
Every Night, undated	box 01
Everybody Needs to be Loved, undated	box 01
Hurry on Down, undated	box 01
Evil Man, undated	box 01
Good Thing, undated	box 01
I Can't Resist, undated	box 01
I'll Belong to You, undated	box 01
If I Were a Bell, undated	box 01
It Isn't in Your Heart, undated	box 01
Imagination, undated	box 01
I Should Have Kissed Her More, undated	box 01
Kansas City, undated	box 01
Me and the Blues, undated	box 02
On the Sunny Side, undated	box 02
One is a Lonesome Number, undated	box 02
Remember, undated	box 02
River St. Marie, undated	box 02
Some of This, undated	box 02
Somebody, undated	box 02
Sometimes I'm Happy, undated	box 02
Soothe Me, undated	box 02
Sugar, undated	box 02
Use Me, undated	box 02
Wayfaring Stranger, undated	box 02
A Woman, undated	box 02
You'd Be So Nice, undated	box 02
Out of My Way, undated	box 02

Nice Work if You Can Get It, undated	box 02
Rocks in My Bed, undated	box 02
She's Warm, She's Willing, She's Wonderful, undated	box 02
Little Girl Blue, undated	oversized box 03
Prelude to a Kiss, undated	oversized box 03
Here's to Life, undated	oversized box 03
War No More, undated	oversized box 03
Gypsy in My Soul, undated	oversized box 03
Just the Way You Are, undated	oversized box 03
Feeling Good, undated	oversized box 03
I Really Don't Want to Know, undated	oversized box 03
You Stepped Out of a Dream, undated	oversized box 03