



# **Guide to the Linda Dahl Collection on Mary Lou Williams, 1944-1993 and undated**

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David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

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## Summary

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**Collection Title:**

Linda Dahl Collection on Mary Lou Williams, 1944-1993 and undated

**Creator:**

Dahl, Linda, 1949-

**Abstract:**

Author Linda Dahl wrote the first full-length biography of jazz pianist, arranger, composer, and educator Mary Lou Williams (1910-1981), titled *Morning Glory: A Biography of Mary Lou Williams* (1999). The Linda Dahl Collection on Mary Lou Williams contains materials compiled by Dahl in researching the Williams biography, including newspaper and magazine clippings, correspondence, photographs and transparency strips, concert programs, and a variety of financial and foundation records.

**Extent:**

0.6 Linear Feet  
375 Items

**Physical Location:**

For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

**Language:**

English

**Language:**

Material in English

**Collection ID:**

RL.00283

**Permalink:**

<http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/findingaids/dahllinda/>

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Linda Dahl Collection on Mary Lou Williams, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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## Background

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### Scope and Content

The Linda Dahl Collection on Mary Lou Williams contains materials compiled by Dahl in researching her 1999 biography of Williams. The collection features newspaper and magazine clippings on Williams; letters from Williams to her friend Joyce Breach regarding Williams's concert tours and other travels, Roman Catholicism, the business of jazz, and Williams's medical ailments; as well as letters to Breach from other of Williams's associates. One folder of miscellaneous correspondence by Williams primarily relates to the planning of jazz concerts and to Williams's work with the Bel Canto Foundation and the Charlie Parker Memorial Fund. The collection also contains a selection of records related to the Mary Lou Williams Foundation; thirteen photographs and four transparency strips of Williams; a folder of concert programs featuring Williams or her compositions; and six miscellaneous publications, primarily on music, from throughout Williams's lifetime.

### Biographical/Historical

Author Linda Dahl wrote the first full-length biography of jazz pianist, composer, arranger, and educator Mary Lou Williams, titled *Morning Glory: A Biography of Mary Lou Williams* (New York: Pantheon Books, 1999). By the 1930s, Williams (born Atlanta, 8 May 1910; died Durham, N.C., 28 May 1981) had begun working as a pianist and/or arranger for bandleaders including Andy Kirk, Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman, and Dizzy Gillespie. Williams gained additional acclaim as a leader of her own bands as well as a composer of such works as *Zodiac Suite* (1946) and *Music for Peace* (1971), also known as *Mary Lou's Mass*. She was an artist in residence in Duke University's Department of Music from 1977-1981.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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## **Access Restrictions**

Collection is open for research.

Researchers must register and agree to copyright and privacy laws before using this collection.

All or portions of this collection may be housed off-site in Duke University's Library Service Center. The library may require up to 48 hours to retrieve these materials for research use.

Please contact Research Services staff before visiting the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library to use this collection.

## **Use Restrictions**

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the copyright section of the Regulations and Procedures of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

## **Acquisition Information**

The Linda Dahl Collection on Mary Lou Williams was received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a gift in 2002.

## **Processing Information**

Processed by Jeremy Smith, December 2008

Encoded by Jeremy Smith, December 2008

Accession 2002-0223 is described in this finding aid.

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## Related Materials

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### Related Material

Mary Lou Williams Collection Institute of Jazz Studies, John Cotton Dana Library,  
Rutgers University

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## Names and Subjects

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- African American Catholics
- Photographs
- Pianists -- United States
- Clippings (information artifacts)
- Jazz
- Concert tours
- African American musicians -- Correspondence
- Transparencies
- Women jazz musicians -- United States
- Programs (documents)
- Jazz -- 1971-1980
- Jazz musicians
- Jazz musicians -- Health and hygiene
- Jazz -- 1931-1940
- Jazz -- 1941-1950
- Jazz -- 1951-1960
- Jazz -- 1961-1970
- Dahl, Linda, 1949-
- Duke University. Department of Music -- Faculty
- Mary Lou Williams Foundation
- Williams, Mary Lou, 1910-1981
- Bel Canto Foundation
- Breach, Joyce
- Catholic Church -- United States
- Dahl, Linda, 1949-. Morning glory
- Dahl, Linda, 1949-

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## Collection Inventory

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### Linda Dahl Collection on Mary Lou Williams, 1944-1993 and undated

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Articles on African-American Music                              | Box 1 |
| Biographical Information  | Box 1 |
| Concert Programs, 1944-1982                                     | Box 1 |
| Documentary Film Research Files                                 | Box 1 |
| Early Jazz Greats Information Cards                             | Box 1 |
| Last Will and Testament   | Box 1 |
| Letters from Williams and associates to Joyce Breach, 1964-1981 | Box 1 |
| Magazine and Newspaper Clippings, 1957-1993                     | Box 1 |
| Mary Lou Williams Foundation, Records and Correspondence        | Box 1 |
| Miscellaneous Correspondence from Williams, 1955-1969           | Box 1 |
| Miscellaneous Publications, 1959-1981 (2 folders)               | Box 1 |
| Photographs and Transparencies                                  | Box 1 |

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