

Guide to Willie Ruff Interviews

WR



Compiled by Anne Rhodes

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<http://guides.library.yale.edu/oham/collectionsguide>

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Oral History of American Music
P.O. Box 208240
New Haven, CT 06520-8307
musicsspecialcollections@yale.edu
<http://guides.library.yale.edu/oham/collectionsguide>

CALL NUMBER: WR

CREATOR: Ruff, Willie , interviewer

TITLE: Willie Ruff Interviews

DATES: 1936–1974

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 55 Audiotape Reels

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY:

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/oham.wr>

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research. The finding aid includes links to stream most interviews online via the AV access system, Aviary. Yale users can login to Aviary using their Yale University ID, to stream these interviews without restriction. Other users are able to request access to interviews directly through Aviary. For access instructions, and to request transcripts of an interview, see [OHAM's website](#).

Some interviews may be restricted. Access to these restricted interviews may only be granted to a patron who has first obtained direct permission from the interviewee or their estate.

Some interviews may not have been digitized or are otherwise not available to stream online. However, these interviews may have been transcribed. Please see [contact OHAM](#) for more details.

Conditions Governing Use

Rights and permissions for OHAM materials vary between individual interviews. Researchers wishing to publish or broadcast OHAM materials are responsible for obtaining direct authorization from copyright holders: generally, the interviewees or their estates.

Preferred Citation

WR, Willie Ruff Interviews, Oral History of American Music, in the Music Library of Yale University.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged alphabetically by surname of interviewee.

Collection Contents

Armstrong, Louis

b. WR 8 a Armstrong, Louis 1934-1935
WR 8 a
1 Audiotape Reel
Approximate running time: 41 mins
English
Ruff, Willie , interviewer
[\[Aviary\] WR 8 a.mp3](#)

Names:
Armstrong, Louis, 1901-1971 , interviewee

b. WR 8 b Armstrong, Louis 1956
WR 8 b
1 Audiotape Reel
Approximate running time: 46 mins
English
Ruff, Willie , interviewer
[\[Aviary\] WR 8 b.mp3](#)

Names:
Armstrong, Louis, 1901-1971 , interviewee

Carter, Benny

b. WR 7 a-WR 7 e Carter, Benny WR 7 a-e undated
5 *Audiotape Reels*
Approximate running time: 153 mins
Ruff, Willie, interviewer
[\[Aviary\] WR 7 a.mp3](#)

Names:
Carter, Benny, interviewee

Blake, Eubie

b. WR 3 a-WR 3 Blake, Eubie
b WR 3 a-b
2 *Audiotape Reels* ()
Approximate running time: 245 mins
English
Ruff, Willie, interviewer
[\[Aviary\] WR 3 a.mp3](#)

1974 August 6

Names:
Blake, Eubie, 1887-1983, interviewee

Hammond, John

b. WR 4 a-WR 4 Hammond, John
b WR 4 a-b
2 Audiotape Reels
Approximate running time: 105 mins
English
Ruff, Willie, interviewer
[\[Aviary\] ohamwr4 a39002038323623a.mp3](#)

1974 August 8

Names:
Hammond, John, 1910-1987, interviewee

Hines, Earl

b. WR 5 a-WR 5 Hines, Earl undated
e WR 5 a-e
5 Audiotape Reels
Approximate running time: 136 mins
English
Ruff, Willie, interviewer
[\[Aviary\] WR 5 a.mp3](#)

Names:
Hines, Earl, 1903-1983, interviewee

Jones, Bessie

- b. WR 1 a–WR 1 d Jones, Bessie 1972 October 10
WR 1 a-d
4 Audiotape Reels
Approximate running time: 67 mins
English
Ruff, Willie, interviewer
[\[Aviary\] WR 1 a.mp3](#)
Interviews conducted by Willie Ruff with Bessie Jones at Yale university in New Haven, CT, as part of his research for the film *The Beginnings of Bebop*, with Dizzy Gillespie and Dwiki Mitchell. In these interviews, Jones demonstrates African slave games.

Names:
Jones, Bessie, 1902-1984, interviewee
-
- b. WR 1 e–WR 1 h Jones, Bessie 1972 October 17
WR 1 e-h
4 Audiotape Reels
Approximate running time: 113 mins
English
Ruff, Willie, interviewer
[\[Aviary\] WR 1 e.mp3](#)
Interviews conducted by Willie Ruff with Bessie Jones at Yale university in New Haven, CT, as part of his research for the film *The Beginnings of Bebop*, with Dizzy Gillespie and Dwiki Mitchell. In these interviews, Jones demonstrates African slave games.

Names:
Jones, Bessie, 1902-1984, interviewee
-
- b. WR 1 i–WR 1 l Jones, Bessie 1972 October 19
WR 1 i-l
4 Audiotape Reels
Approximate running time: 132 mins
English
Ruff, Willie, interviewer
[\[Aviary\] WR 1 i.mp3](#)
Interviews conducted by Willie Ruff with Bessie Jones at Yale university in New Haven, CT, as part of his research for the film *The Beginnings of Bebop*, with Dizzy Gillespie and Dwiki Mitchell. In these interviews, Jones demonstrates African slave games.

Names:
Jones, Bessie, 1902-1984, interviewer
-

- b. WR 1 m–WR 1 p Jones, Bessie 1972 October 20
WR 1 m-p
4 Audiotape Reels
Approximate running time: 129 mins
English
Ruff, Willie , interviewer
[\[Aviary\] WR 1 m.mp3](#)
Interviews conducted by Willie Ruff with Bessie Jones at Yale university in New Haven, CT, as part of his research for the film *The Beginnings of Bebop*, with Dizzy Gillespie and Dwiki Mitchell. In these interviews, Jones demonstrates African slave games.

Names:
Jones, Bessie, 1902-1984 , interviewee
-
- b. WR 1 q–WR 1 t Jones, Bessie 1973 October 2
WR 1 q-t
4 Audiotape Reels
Approximate running time: 65 mins
English
Ruff, Willie , interviewer
[\[Aviary\] WR 1 q.mp3](#)
Interviews conducted by Willie Ruff with Bessie Jones at Yale university in New Haven, CT, as part of his research for the film *The Beginnings of Bebop*, with Dizzy Gillespie and Dwiki Mitchell. In these interviews, Jones demonstrates African slave games.

Names:
Jones, Bessie, 1902-1984 , interviewee
-
- b. WR 1 u–WR 1 x Jones, Bessie 1973 October 3
WR 1 u-x
4 Audiotape Reels
Approximate running time: 111 mins
English
Ruff, Willie , interviewer
[\[Aviary\] WR 1 u.mp3](#)
Interviews conducted by Willie Ruff with Bessie Jones at Yale university in New Haven, CT, as part of his research for the film *The Beginnings of Bebop*, with Dizzy Gillespie and Dwiki Mitchell. In these interviews, Jones demonstrates African slave games.

Names:
Jones, Bessie, 1902-1984 , interviewee
-

Still, William Grant

b. WR 2 a-WR 2 Still, William Grant 1974
e WR 2 a-e
5 Audiotape Reels
Approximate running time: 95 mins
Ruff, Willie, interviewer
[\[Aviary\] WR 2 a.mp3](#)

Names:
Still, William Grant, 1895-1978 , interviewee

Waters, Ethel

b. WR 6 a-WR 6 Waters, Ethel undated
d WR 6 a-d
4 Audiotape Reels
Approximate running time: 137 mins
English
Ruff, Willie, interviewer
[\[Aviary\] WR 6 a.mp3](#)
Los Angeles, CA

Names:
Waters, Ethel, 1896-1977, interviewee

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

African American gospel singers
African American musicians -- Interviews
Jazz musicians -- Interviews