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This is a quarterly newsletter from the University of Pittsburgh Library System (ULS), in which we share news, event information, collection updates, and more from the August Wilson Archive and Black arts and culture collections.

Over 100 Years of Erroll Garner



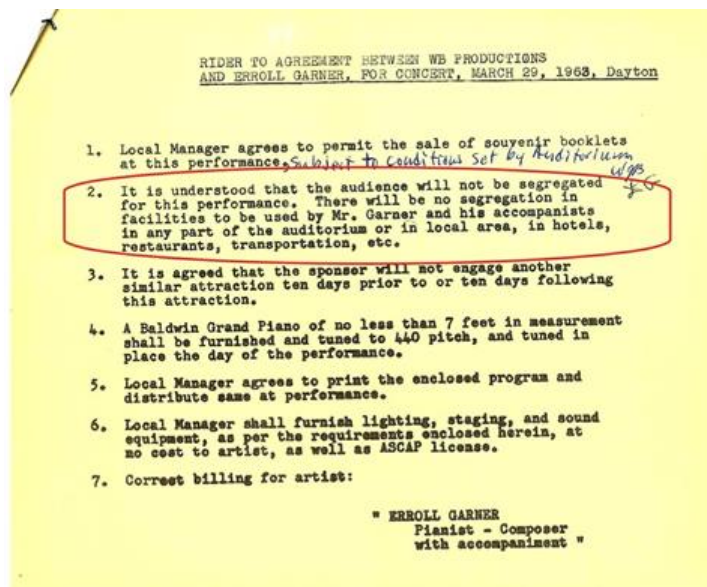
On June 15, 1921, Erroll Garner and his twin brother Ernest were born on St. Clair Street in Pittsburgh's East Liberty neighborhood. By the tender age of three, Erroll's talent was already evident. He would later become one of the most significant jazz musicians of all time.

In honor of Erroll Garner's centennial birthday, our Archives & Special Collections department partnered with the University of Pittsburgh's Jazz Studies department to mount a new exhibit highlighting his illustrious career.

Graduate students in Jazz Studies combed the archives to create four thematic snapshots focusing on Garner's social activism, touring and publicity, acclaim from peers, and posthumous legacy using original archival documents and photographs.

Also highlighted in this exhibition is the re-release of 12 remastered classic Garner albums and the commemorative limited edition box set, [Liberation in Swing: Centennial Collection](#), featuring digitally remastered recordings, items from Garner's personal archive, never-before-seen artwork created by Garner, and essays by Jazz greats Dr. Robin D. G. Kelley, Terri Lyne Carrington, and Cécile McLorin Salvant.

You can view the exhibit online at [Erroll Garner: Four Thematic Snapshots](#) or in person at the Jazz Hall of Fame located on the first floor of the William Pitt Union.



Pictured above is an example from a 1963 contract of the anti-segregation clause that was included in Garner's contracts. The oval shape around the 2 was added to emphasize the clause and does not appear on the original document.

Visit the Erroll Garner Digital Exhibit!



Dave Burrell to Speak at Hillman Library this November

Pianist and composer Dave Burrell will be in residence at Pitt from November 11–13, 2022, for the Music Department's annual Jazz Seminar. During his residency, he will be interviewed before an audience in Hillman Library. [The Library will also display items from Burrell's archive, which he donated to the Center for American Music in the University Library System earlier this year.](#)

In the mid-1960s, Burrell emerged as an influential innovator in the New York free jazz scene, playing alongside trailblazing musicians such as Marion Brown, Pharoah Sanders, Archie Shepp, and David Murray. He has recorded more than forty albums under his own name,

plus more than eighty albums as a sideman. Honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the New York Vision Festival in 2018, he continues to be a fixture at international jazz festivals and top clubs around the world.

Burrell's compositions for the theater include the jazz opera *Windward Passages* (1979), with a libretto by his wife, Monika Larsson. Other extended works include the ballet *Holy Smoke* (1999) and suite *Harlem Renaissance* (2019), also created with Larsson. As a composer-in-residence at the Rosenbach Museum and Library in Philadelphia, he wrote numerous pieces inspired by the library's archival collections. In 2010 he launched a project called *American Civil War: 1861-1865*, which led to the composition of *Portraits of Civil War Heroes* (2011), *Civilians During War Time* (2012), *Turning Point* (2013), *Listening to Lincoln* (2014), and *Ode to a Prairie Lawyer* (2015).

“The Pitt Jazz Program is elated to receive Dave Burrell's archive, which will expand our research offerings immensely,” says Nicole Mitchell Gantt, chair of Jazz Studies in Pitt's music department. “As a pianist, Burrell's stature as an improviser has touched every aspect of the jazz tradition, from ragtime to experimental improvisation. As a composer, Dave Burrell has created a multitude of innovative works that celebrate African American history, and he has an astonishing library of over forty recordings as a leader. It's especially exciting to hold an archive of a legendary artist we can collaborate with in real time. We look forward to celebrating his work next fall at the 52nd Pitt Jazz Seminar.”

The schedule for the Jazz Seminar will be announced as the event approaches. Burrell's archive, which will open to researchers later this year, includes posters, programs, correspondence, contracts, archival and commercial recordings, photographs, and musical scores, documenting his career from the 1960s through the present.

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**JazzLive @Home Joins
the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust Records**

Collection

This past spring, A&SC accepted a donation from the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust (the Trust) containing video files from their JazzLive @Home series. During the pandemic, the Trust converted its Jazz concert series into a series of interviews with Jazz performers. These videos are publicly available via the [Trust YouTube channel](#), and [the finding aid for the pre-existing collection of records that document the history of the Trust](#) has been updated to reflect that the ULS has accepted and will be maintaining these digital recordings.

About the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust Records: The Trust was formed in 1984 to re-establish an art and entertainment district downtown. The Benedum Center, Fulton Theater, Harris Theater, and the Wood Street Galleries are all owned and operated by the Trust. This Collection contains the records of the Trust from 1984 through 1999. Included are marketing materials, financial records, institutional and real estate development, and the production records of the Benedum Center.

Women of Visions, Inc. Donates Organizational Records to Pitt

Women of Visions, Inc., founded in 1981 and believed to be the longest-running collective of Black women artists in the U.S., have donated their organizational records to the University Library System. Archives & Special Collections will preserve and maintain the records, which consist of meeting minutes, correspondence, programs, exhibition catalogs, pamphlets, drawings and renderings, photographs, videos, audio recordings, advertisements, and other ephemera.

The organization “promotes the arts, culture, and history of women of African descent, by helping each other to excel as artists and to grow professionally through exhibitions, community collaboration, educational programming, and other progressive opportunities.” The ULS is proud to be the home of the archive and looks forward to making it available to students, scholars, and researchers.



Selections of Materials from the Frank Bolden Papers Now Online!

Photographs and manuscript selections (1942-1946) from the [Frank E. Bolden Papers](#) were digitized and are now available online through [Historic Pittsburgh](#). These items highlight the African American experience during World War II through Bolden's writings as a war correspondent and his photographs of Fort Huachuca (above). The Fort housed the 93rd Infantry, an all-Black division, as well as the 2nd Cavalry Division and the 32nd and 33rd Women's Auxiliary Corps.



Pitt Secures Grant to Preserve Dr. Vernell Lillie's Papers

The ULS recently received a grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission that will help us process Dr. Vernell Lillie's Faculty Papers, which consists of 78 boxes of material relating to Lillie's life and career as an educator and leader in the Pittsburgh Black theatre community! Dr. Vernell Audrey Watson Lillie (1931-2020) served as professor emeritus of the Africana Studies Department here at Pitt, as well as the co-founder and Artistic Director of the Kuntu Repertory Theatre in Pittsburgh for nearly forty years. She was a founding member of the Black Theatre Network, a scholar of Psychodrama and Black Literature, and much more. We look forward to preserving and sharing these important resources with a larger audience in the future.

Notes from Bedford Avenue

Updates from the August Wilson Collection at Pitt

In June, Archives & Special Collections had the honor of attending the Pittsburgh Public Theater production of August Wilson's *Two Trains Running*. After the performance, Associate University Librarian Ed Galloway moderated a panel discussion with ULS colleagues Bill Daw, Megan Massenelli, Miriam Meislik, and Leah Mickens. These experts shared their experiences and interesting finds while processing the August Wilson Archive.

Stay tuned for information about the August Wilson Archive Grand Opening in the next issue of this newsletter!

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