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Bobby Davis Photograph Collection

1980-1983

1 box (0.2 linear ft.)

Call no.: PH 065



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A native of Providence, R.I., Bobby Davis arrived in Amherst in 1977 and soon afterward entered the University Without Walls program at UMass to earn his college degree. A talented jazz musician, Davis became immersed in the vibrant local arts scene, learning photography while writing for the student publications Nummo News and the Collegian, and covering performances by a steady stream of jazz and R&B acts touring through the area. Working later as a photographer for Smith College and traveling for the yearbook company, Delmar Studios, Davis eventually settled in Northampton, where he remains active as a photographer.

The Davis collection contains twelve exhibition prints of jazz musicians performing in Amherst, including Art Blakey, Angela Bofill, Ray Charles, Miles Davis, Dizzy Gillespie, Yusef Lateef, Oscar Peterson, Max Roach, Gil Scott-Heron, and Archie Shepp.

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Background on Bobby Davis

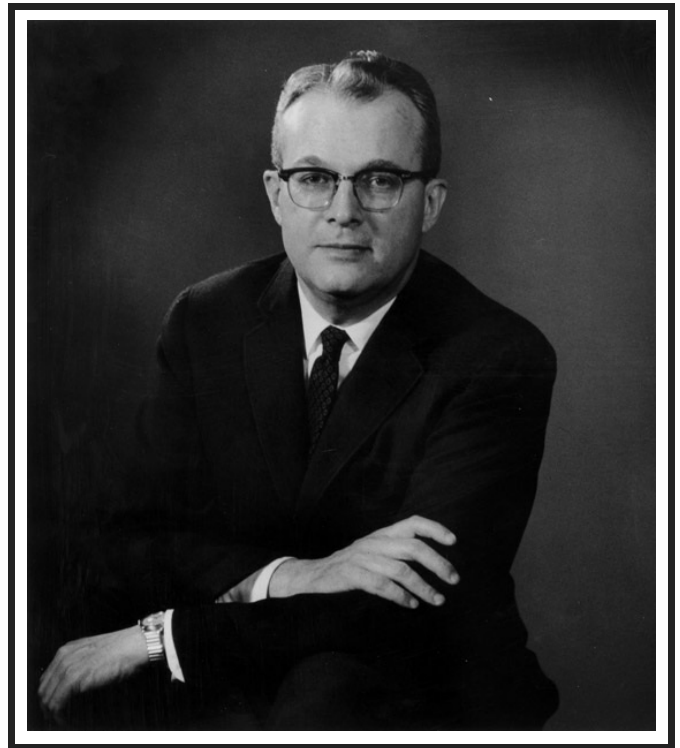
A native of Providence, R.I., Bobby Davis spent several years as a young man playing his Fender Rhodes electric piano with a variety of jazz and R&B groups. Exhausted by the touring, Davis had a chance encounter with jazz great McCoy Tyner who reinforced his father's advice: "Son, don't forget to give college a chance."

After following a friend to Amherst in 1977, Davis entered the University Without Walls program at UMass to earn his college degree and soon became immersed in the vibrant local arts scene. Joining the staff of the student publication *Nummo News*, Davis' first assignment was to cover a concert by the guitarist Michael Gregory, and when he discovered that there were no photographers present, he grabbed a camera and shot the session himself. Through his work with *Nummo News* and the *Daily Collegian*, Davis learned his way around a darkroom and took opportunities to film other concerts, with his photographs appearing not only in student publications, but in the *Amherst Record*.

Davis parlayed his success in photography into jobs for the Smith College and for the yearbook company, Delmar Studios. Davis eventually settled in Northampton, where he remains active as a photographer.

Scope of collection

The Davis collection contains ten exhibition prints of jazz musicians performing in Amherst, including Art Blakey, Angela Bofill, Ray Charles, Miles Davis, Dizzy Gillespie, Yusef Lateef, Oscar Peterson, Max Roach, Gil Scott-Heron, and Archie Shepp.



John W. Lederle

Inventory

Art Blakey at drum set

ca.1980

36 x 28 cm.

No. 1

Angela Bofill, arms raised on the stage

1982

28 x 36 cm.

No. 2

Ray Charles, leaning back, smiling

ca.1980

28 x 36 cm.

No. 3

Miles Davis, playing trumpet on stage

1981

28 x 36 cm.

No. 4

Miles Davis, playing trumpet on stage

1981

36 x 28 cm.

No. 5

Dizzy Gillespie playing trumpet on stage

ca.1980

28 x 36 cm.

No. 6

Close-up portrait of Yusef Lateef

ca.1980

28 x 36 cm.

No. 7

Oscar Peterson in heavy coat, playing piano

ca.1980

36 x 28 cm.

No. 8

Max Roach playing drums

ca.1980

28 x 36cm.

No. 9

Gil Scott-Heron on stage, in front of a microphone

ca.1980

36 x 28 cm.

No. 10

Gil Scott-Heron on stage, in front of a microphone

ca.1980

36 x 28 cm.

No. 11

Archie Shepp playing the saxophone

1983

28 x 36 cm.

No. 12

Administrative information

Access

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Provenance

Acquired from Bobby Davis, 2015.

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Copyright and Use (More information)

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Search terms

Subjects

Blakey, Art, 1919-1990

Bofill, Angela, 1944-

Charles, Ray, 1930-2004

Davis, Miles

Gillespie, Dizzy, 1917-1993

Jazz musicians--Photographs

Lateef, Yusef

Peterson, Oscar, 1925-2007

Roach, Max, 1924-2007

Scott-Heron, Gil, 1949-2011

Shepp, Archie

Contributors

Davis, Bobby [main entry]

Genres and formats

Gelatin silver prints

Photographs

Link to similar SCUA collections

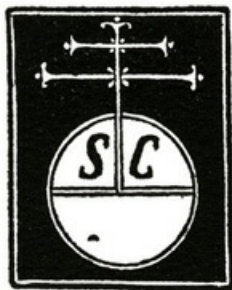
Jazz

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