

John D. LaPorta papers

BCA 001

Finding aid prepared by Sofía Becerra-Licha

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Berklee College Archives
2012-10-25
1140 Boylston St
Boston, MA, 02215
617-747-8001

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Summary Information

Repository	Berklee College Archives
Creator - Author	LaPorta, John
Title	John LaPorta papers
Date	Between 1940 and 2004
Extent	67.0 Cubic feet 69 Boxes total: 45 file boxes, 9 small file boxes, 11 flat storage boxes, 4 plastic oversized boxes.
Language	English

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the John LaPorta papers, BCA-001. College Archives, Stan Getz Library, Berklee College of Music.

Biographical Note

American saxophonist, clarinetist, and educator John Daniel LaPorta was born on April 13, 1920 in Philadelphia, PA. LaPorta earned his BS in clarinet (1956) and MME (1957) from the Manhattan School of Music, where he also taught before joining the faculty of the Berklee College of Music in 1959 (then the Berklee School of Music). LaPorta served on the Berklee faculty until 1985, and continued to help organize the College's summer schools after his departure.

As a performer, LaPorta played with the big bands of Bob Chester (1942-1944), Woody Herman (1944-1946), and Herb Pomeroy (1976). In 1953, he was a founding member of the experimental Jazz Composers' Workshop alongside musicians such as Teo Macero and Charles Mingus in New York. LaPorta also recorded with Lennie Tristano (1947) and pianist Bob Winter (1981), among others, as well as performing in a faculty saxophone quartet during his tenure at Berklee.

A prolific composer for professional and collegiate ensembles, LaPorta also authored a number of instructional workbooks and other teaching materials. He was a founding member of the National Association of Jazz Educators (later the International Association of Jazz Educators), which eventually awarded him a Lifetime Achievement Award. LaPorta passed away on May 12, 2004 in Sarasota, FL. The materials in this collection (the John LaPorta papers) were compiled posthumously by his children Karen Burnham, Donna Marks, John LaPorta Jr., and Jeannette McCarthy and donated to Berklee College in March of 2011.

Scope and Contents Note

The personal papers of American saxophonist, clarinetist, and educator John D. LaPorta (1920-2004), who taught at Berklee College of Music from 1959-1985. LaPorta's papers include published and unpublished compositions and arrangements, teaching materials, correspondence, clippings, programs, assorted writings, photographs, awards, and performance recordings collected by LaPorta over the course of his career as a performer and teacher. Audiovisual formats include CDs, DVDs, VHS tapes, cassettes, and reel to reel tape of both live and recorded performances, as well as ear training and other pedagogical materials. These materials were compiled by his children, Karen Burnham, Donna Marks, John LaPorta Jr., and Jeannette McCarthy, after his death on May 12th, 2004.

Arrangement Note

This collection has been minimally processed in order to expedite access. The original thematic arrangement provided by the donor has been maintained, including original box numbers. Numerical gaps indicate duplicate materials were removed or condensed as necessary and added to the end of the series. A more detailed inventory is also available upon request.

Processed and encoded by: Sofía Becerra-Licha. This collection was processed with support from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Berklee College Archives 2012-10-25

Access

This non-circulating collection is open for research use by appointment on site at the college archives (Monday - Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with evening hours available upon request). Advance notice is required to retrieve archival items because these materials are stored offsite. Use of audiovisual materials may require the production of listening or viewing copies. To schedule an appointment or request further information, please email (archives@berklee.edu) or call (617-747-8001) the college archivist.

Controlled Access Headings

Subject(s)

- Jazz musicians
- LaPorta, John

Collection Inventory

JLP-9a A/V: Reel to reel tapes (25 count)

JLP-9b A/V: Reel to reel tapes (5 count)

JLP-10 A/V: Reel to Reel tapes (26 count)

JLP-11a A/V: Reel to reel tapes. Original works and improvisation techniques; includes ear training (9 count)

JLP-11b A/V: Reel to reel tapes: original works and improvisation techniques; includes ear training (9 count)

JLP-12a A/V: Reel to reel tapes to accompany ear training

JLP-12b A/V: Reel to reel tapes to accompany ear training

JLP-19a A/V: JLP performances (CDs)

JLP-19b A/V: JLP performances (cassettes)

JLP-19c A/V: JLP performances (cassettes)

JLP-19d A/V: JLP performances (CDs)

JLP-20a JLP course materials (master copy): Improvisation Lesson Plans, Ear Training Lessons 1 to 5, Blues course (PS 217)

JLP-20b JLP course materials continued

JLP-20c JLP course materials continued

JLP-23 JLP original compositions, handwritten originals

JLP-24 JLP original compositions (mostly copies)

JLP-25a JLP arrangements & compositions

JLP-25b A/V: JLP live recorded performances (VHS tapes)

JLP-26a JLP original arrangements

JLP-26b JLP original arrangements

JLP-27a JLP original compositions and arrangements. Includes pieces written and arranged for Saxophone Quartet and Herb Pomeroy's Orchestra

JLP-27b JLP original compositions and arrangements. Includes pieces written and arranged for Saxophone Quartet and Herb Pomeroy's Orchestra, etc.

JLP-28a JLP original compositions and arrangements

JLP-28b JLP original compositions and arrangements

JLP-29 JLP works in progress and revisions

JLP-30 JLP compositions and arrangements for band/ ensemble, some for educational purposes

JLP-32a JLP monumental works: core/master copies, autobiographical manuscripts (printed)

JLP-32b JLP monumental works: core/master copies, autobiographical manuscripts (printed)

JLP-33 A/V: JLP educator tools (cassettes)

JLP-35 JLP teaching materials: Developing the High School Stage Band, Berklee (various instrumental parts)

JLP-38a JLP teaching materials: Ear Training Lessons; improvisation materials/chord books; published duets

JLP-38b JLP teaching materials: Ear Training Lessons; improvisation materials/chord books; published duets

JLP-39a JLP teaching materials: lesson plans, teaching philosophy, and other hand-written and published documents. Includes: Pentatonic Madness; Theory Materials course; Ear Training Lessons 2-7; Rock Improv. course; Rock arrangements; Harmony lesson plans

JLP-39b JLP teaching materials: lesson plans, teaching philosophy, and other hand-written and published documents. Includes: Pentatonic Madness; Theory Materials course; Ear Training Lessons 2-7; Rock Improv. course; Rock arrangements; Harmony lesson plans

JLP-40a JLP original handwritten music & arrangements; band/ensemble scores and parts

JLP-40b JLP original handwritten music & arrangements; band/ensemble scores and parts

JLP-41a JLP arrangements: band/ensemble scores with parts; mostly original

JLP-41b JLP arrangements: band/ensemble scores with parts; mostly original

JLP-42a JLP compositions: duets mostly, some arrangements

JLP-42b JLP duets compositions: mostly, some arrangements

JLP-43a JLP compositions: scores and/or copies, mostly original

JLP-43b JLP compositions: scores and/or copies, mostly original

JLP-43c JLP compositions: scores and/or copies, mostly original

JLP-44a JLP miscellaneous compositions

JLP-44b JLP miscellaneous compositions

JLP-44c JLP miscellaneous compositions

JLP-46a JLP arrangements band/ensemble scores and parts; mostly original

JLP-46b JLP arrangements band/ensemble scores and parts; mostly original

JLP-47a JLP correspondence & clippings

JLP-47b JLP correspondence & clippings

JLP-48 JLP arrangements

JLP-49a JLP original manuscripts: hand-written arrangements/scores, as well as files related to work with Tristano and course preparation

JLP-49b JLP original manuscripts: hand-written arrangements/scores, as well as files related to work with Tristano and course preparation

JLP-49c JLP original manuscripts: hand-written arrangements/scores, as well as files related to work with Tristano and course preparation

JLP-49d JLP original manuscripts: hand-written arrangements/scores, as well as files related to work with Tristano and course preparation

JLP-49e JLP original manuscripts: hand-written arrangements/scores, as well as files related to work with Tristano and course preparation

JLP-50a JLP correspondence & clippings; includes photos and awards

JLP-50b JLP correspondence & clippings; includes photos and awards

JLP-50c JLP correspondence & clippings; includes photos and awards

JLP-50d JLP correspondence & clippings; includes photos and awards

JLP-51a JLP correspondence & clippings; includes photos

JLP-51b JLP correspondence & clippings; includes photos

JLP-51c JLP correspondence & clippings; includes photos

JLP-52 JLP personal papers & photos

JLP-53 JLP teaching materials: compositions and teaching materials

JLP-54 JLP published teaching materials (3 copies each): A guide to jazz improvisation; A guide to improvisation; 10 easy jazz duets; 15 intermediate jazz duets

JLP-55 A/V: JLP published teaching materials and accompanying records for Tonal Organization of Improvisational Techniques; books and accompanying records

JLP-56 A/V: JLP published teaching materials and accompanying records for Jazz Ear Training; booklets for C treble (3 count), E flat (3 count), B flat (3 count), and C bass instruments (3 count) and accompanying records (4 count)

JLP-57 A/V: JLP recorded performances on CD and cassette, including I Remember Woody, Life Cycle, Theme and Variations