



LIBRARY OF  
CONGRESS

# Recorded Sound at the Library of Congress

Gene DeAnna  
Caitlin Hunter  
Karen Fishman  
Bryan Hoffa  
Matt Barton  
Library of Congress



LIBRARY OF  
CONGRESS

# National Recording Preservation Plan

Gene DeAnna  
Head, Recorded Sound Section  
Library of Congress

# National Recording Preservation Plan



- 2000: National Recording Preservation Act
- 2002: National Recording Preservation Board established
- 2010: The State of Recorded Sound Preservation in the United States
- 2012... The PLAN!

# Mission Accomplished!



LIBRARY OF  
CONGRESS



# Audio Preservation Resource Directory



- 1.6: *Create a collaborative online resource to collect, vet, and disseminate knowledge and best practices in the field of recorded sound preservation*
  - New National Recording Preservation Plan website launched July 3, 2014
  - <http://www.loc.gov/programs/national-recording-preservation-plan/tools-and-resources/>

# Audio Preservation Resource Directory



LOC.GOV CONGRESS.GOV COPYRIGHT.GOV

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS Help Contact Ask a Librarian

Discover Services Visit Education Connect About

All Formats Search Loc.gov GO

Print Subscribe Share/Save Give Feedback

## National Recording Preservation Plan

About This Program News & Events Publications & Reports Tools & Resources Collections Management

### Tools & Resources

#### Related Resources

The following is a list of organizations that deal, at least partially, with issues related to recorded sound preservation. (This list does not purport to be exhaustive. Suggestions of additional organizations should be sent to [recplan@loc.gov](mailto:recplan@loc.gov). Please include the full names and web addresses of the organizations.)

[More about "Related Resources" >](#)

#### Video Tutorials

Four-part series of videos created by AudioVisual Preservation Solutions geared toward improving digital preservation workflows but also applicable to other audio applications.

[More about "Video Tutorials" >](#)

#### Preservation & Assessment Tools

**Preservation Research Projects**  
The Library of Congress pursues preservation research with an aim to forward the National Preservation Research Agenda for the Human Record. Library staff members have published extensively on a wide range of research topics.

[More about "Preservation & Assessment Tools" >](#)

#### History Timeline

This brief historic time-line illustrates major events in the recorded sound industry, from the birth of the recorded sound in 1857, to the merger of the two recording industry giants Columbia and Victor Records in 2004 under their parent companies Sony and Bertelsmann Music Group while TowerRecords files for bankruptcy.

[More about "History Timeline" >](#)

#### Support Recorded Sound Preservation

# Audio Preservation Handbook



- 2.1: *Compile a basic audio preservation handbook to guide non-specialists in the management of audio collections*
  - Authors working on individual chapters
  - Scheduled to be completed and online in early 2015

# Online Cataloging Tool



- *2.2: Devise means to assist collection managers in conducting comprehensive appraisals of audio holdings with the goal of establishing priorities for preservation.*
  - Contract to be awarded soon.
  - Expected to be available after August 2015



# National Discography / National Directory



- 3.1: *Encourage the continued development of an authoritative national discography through the expansion of existing discography projects*
  - EDVR becomes DAHR – Discography of American Historical Recordings
- 3.2: National Directory of Recorded Sound Collections
  - Database structure designed by Association of Recorded Sound Collections (ARSC)

# National Collections Policy



- Coordinated National Collections Policy
  - Develop State and regional programs
  - ARSC: identification of neglected and emerging audio formats and genres

# Online Guide to Best Practices in Fair Use



- 3.11: *Develop a code of Best Practices in Fair Use*
  - Music Library Association (MLA) Legislation Committee working on this

# Copyright Legislation Reform



- U.S. Copyright Office and Congressional activity
  - U.S. House Judiciary Committee conducting comprehensive review of U.S. copyright law
  - U.S. Copyright Office conducting review of issues such as music licensing and orphan works

# Expanding Online Access



- NRPB project to expand online access to recordings
  - Expansion of National Jukebox licenses
    - Across time: 1926-1940?
    - Across copyright holders
    - Across contributing institutions
  - Network of access partners

# NRPP Implementation



- Cataloging
  - BIBFRAME Initiative
  - Next generation LC systems
- Training: Experts/Traveling Archivists program
  - Projects at Packard Campus, ARSC, elsewhere
  - Cylinder preservation training at the Packard Campus

# NRPP Implementation



- IRENE conference
  - July/August 2015
- National Forum on Online-Only Music
  - IMLS grant to University of Washington Libraries and the Music Library Association (MLA) to work on streaming and downloading licenses for libraries

# MLA Activities

- **Additional Music Library Association activities:**
  - Recommendation 3.3: Establishment of Best Practices for Audio Cataloging
  - Recommendation 3.7: Licensing Agreements for Streaming
  - Recommendation 3.11: Devise a Code of Best Practices in Fair Use for sound recordings that libraries and archives can adapt and utilize
  - Recommendation 4.4: Preservation of Twenty-First Century Recordings



# National Recording Preservation Foundation



- National Recording Preservation Foundation
  - Currently operating under a generous grant from Jack White. Seeking sustaining funding.

# NRPB Task Forces



- National Recording Preservation Board Task Forces
  - Collections: Mark Katz and Brenda Nelson-Strauss
  - Education: George Massenbourg
  - National Recording Preservation Foundation: Director Gerald Seligman
  - Radio: Chris Sterling
  - Technology: Maureen Droney
  - Access: Eric Schwartz
  - Preservation Plan website: Cary O'Dell

# National Recording Registry



- Radio programs: 12 NRR/Preservation programs to be produced in the next 12-16 months
- NRR essays: Authored by expert scholars
  - 33 currently online, more to come
  - <http://www.loc.gov/rr/record/nrpb/nrpb-ESSAYS.html>

# NRPP Implementation



What can you do to contribute?

Cary O'Dell

National Boards Assistant

[codell@loc.gov](mailto:codell@loc.gov)

# Resources



- Library of Congress National Recording Preservation Plan:  
<http://www.clir.org/pubs/reports/pub156>
- The State of Recorded Sound Preservation in the United States:  
<http://www.clir.org/pubs/abstract/reports/pub148>
- Protection for Pre-1972 Sound Recordings Under State Law:  
<http://www.clir.org/pubs/abstract/reports/pub146>
- U.S. Copyright Office Priorities:  
<http://copyright.gov/docs/priorities.pdf>
- National Recording Preservation Plan: Tools and Resources:  
<http://www.loc.gov/programs/national-recording-preservation-plan/tools-and-resources/>
- National Recording Registry: Essays  
<http://www.loc.gov/rr/record/nrpb/nrpb-ESSAYS.html>



LIBRARY OF  
CONGRESS

# The Recorded Sound Section



- Manage the “National Collection” of 3.5 million recordings (1890s – yesterday)
- Annual acquisitions average about 75,000 recordings
  - Approximately 30,000 current copyright
  - 45,000 retrospective acquisitions of both published and unpublished
- Digitizing 15,000 to 20,000 recordings annually
- Public access in DC – Recorded Sound Research Center
- Staff of 35–40 in Culpeper and DC Reference Center



LIBRARY OF  
CONGRESS

## Processing Unit: Catalogers and Cataloging Technicians







LIBRARY OF  
CONGRESS

## Curatorial Staff: Curators and Preservation Specialists







LIBRARY OF  
CONGRESS

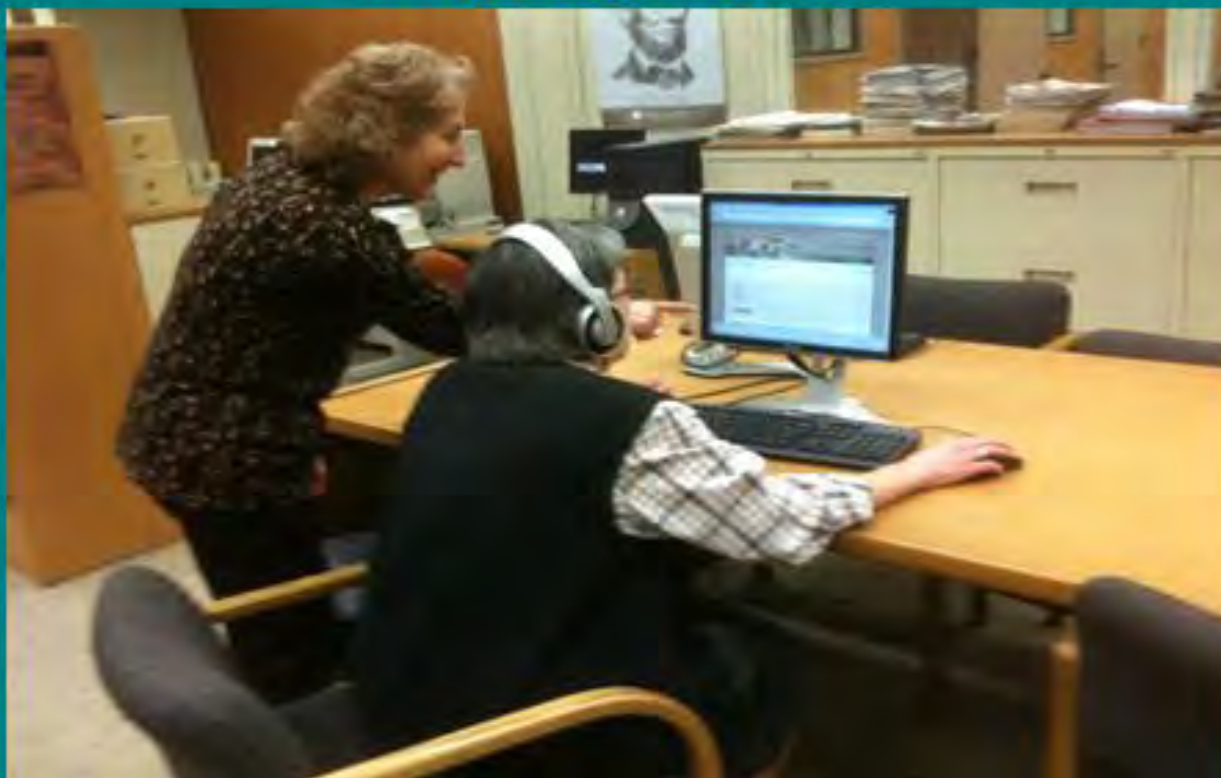
## Audio Preservation Unit: Engineers and Audio Technicians





LIBRARY OF  
CONGRESS

## Reference Staff: Capitol Hill Reading Room





LIBRARY OF  
CONGRESS

# Recorded Sound Section Processing Unit

Caitlin Hunter

Processing Unit Head, Recorded Sound

[chun@loc.gov](mailto:chun@loc.gov)

# What is the Processing Unit?



LIBRARY OF  
CONGRESS

## Basic Overview

- Presently consists of 18 staff members serving in processing unit head, cataloger, cataloging technician, and processing technician roles
- Responsible for all processing and description of collection materials (which includes sound recordings as well as related manuscript materials and artifacts)
- Processing technicians also involved in collection movement, pulling items for orders, and scanning and digitization of some disc formats, as well as accompanying documentation, to support listening requests

# Describing Materials



- **MARC records (ILS)**
  - Published sound recordings
  - Collections for which finding aids exist
  - AACR2 for bibliographic records, RDA for authorities
- **MAVIS records (collection, acquisition, and item records in the MAVIS collection management system)**
  - Unpublished materials
  - Any item to be digitized (may involve data conversion tasks)
- **Finding aids**
  - Manuscript materials and artifacts

# Workflows for Incoming Sound Recordings



- Accessioning and initial collection processing/preservation decisions
- Processing and description workflows
  - Directly to vaults
  - Acquisition Record Only (ARO)
  - MARC records
  - MAVIS records then directly to preservation queue
  - MAVIS records then assess for preservation
  - MAVIS records then to the vaults

# Unit “Working Groups”



LIBRARY OF  
CONGRESS

- ARO
- Intern & Volunteer
- Jukebox
- Manuscript
- New & Emerging Standards
- Presentations & Workshops
- Suggestions for Improvement
- Shared Drive Assessment

# Current Additional Activities



## Activities Include:

- Revising and developing workflows
- Planning the reorganization of LP runs in vaults
- Developing workflows and plans to deal with the unique complexities of the Universal Music Group Collection
- Processing and describing born digital items
- Working with LC's ILS office to determine requirements for next system(s)



# Current Additional Activities (cont.)



- National Jukebox
  - Working with new and existing partners to obtain more content
  - Working with developers to improve the project's internal database
  - Revising project documentation and workflows
  - Somewhat near future: resume editing metadata for new content
  - Future: adding new features and content

# Current Additional Activities (cont.)



- BIBFRAME

- July 2013: staff from LC's Network Development & MARC Standards Office and Eric Miller, of Zepheira, visit the Packard Campus
- Contract for A/V materials and content data modeling
- July 2014: "*BIBFRAME AV Modeling Study: Defining a Flexible Model for Description of Audiovisual Resources*" report published on BIBFRAME website\*
- Ongoing and potential future work: developing list of data elements and relationships, possible contract related to A/V preservation data, and perhaps more

*\*We want to encourage all interested parties to get involved in the discussion about descriptive data needs for audio-visual content and materials at this early stage of BIBFRAME development and hope this study can serve as a common starting point for that discussion across various communities*



LIBRARY OF  
CONGRESS

# Finding Sound Recordings at the Library of Congress

Karen Fishman  
Reference Librarian  
Recorded Sound Research Center  
Library of Congress  
August 13, 2014

# Voice of Victor

## May, 1925

One voice of the victors

### VICTOR IN THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

*A Notable Tribute to Victrola and Victor Records is Given When the World-famous Library Chooses Victor to Preserve the World's Music for All Time*

**A** MOST remarkable and significant tribute to the supremacy of Victrola and Victor Records has been rendered in the recent choice by the Library of Congress of Victor products to form a part of the wonderful collection of the literature of music which is housed

in this, one of the most beautiful buildings and certainly the most famous library in the world. As the outcome of a request made some time ago, the Library of Congress will very soon possess a comprehensive collection of Victor Records, covering the entire range of the music which has been perpetuated in this form. The Victor Company will install this collection, which will include a large proportion of the Records made by world-famous artists during the past twenty-five years.

The collection of Victor Records is now being assembled, and will probably be given a special room in the great Library, together with an electrically operated Victrola. With the Record collection there will be a cross-referenced file relating to the Government's already large collection of music, music history and criticism. Recently the sum of \$50,000 was given to the Library of Congress for the endowment of chamber-music concerts, and with the addition of the Record collection, it is expected that the music division of the Library will be expanded from a simple repository of books and musical manuscripts into an immensely larger field, giving the opportunity to students of music to hear the works of the great composers done by master artists, instead of merely tracing them mentally from books and notes.

The Record library will contain a large number of Records made by artists now dead, and it will be the first seriously conceived public collection of such Records in America. Some of these Records, it will be remembered, are most carefully guarded in Europe. At the Paris "Opera," for example, are vaults, hermetically sealed, which contain Records not to be touched for fifty or a hun-

dred years, and then only for comparison with those made by artists still to come. The Victor collection in the Library of Congress will, of course, be augmented as new Records are made, thereby transferring into permanent form such of the music of the times as seems desirable to perpetuate.

Of the Victor Record collection, Librarian Herbert Putnam says, "The Records will add greatly to the resources of our Music Division and Auditorium in giving pleasure and instruction to a highly significant public. Mr. Carl Engel, Chief of the Music Division, adds "I have been moved especially by the thought of the coming generations. To them this extension of the resources of the music division—adding to the printed record of a composition the record of its sound in performance—will be invaluable. With my pleasure and satisfaction there mingles only the regret that this wonderful invention was not made three hundred years ago."

It may interest you to know that besides Records by Adelina Patti and the great tenor Tamagno, the Library especially requested "When Buddha Smiles," a fox-trot by Paul Whiteman.

Here is one more striking testimonial to the merit of the goods you sell. Tell your customers about it, and impress them with the importance which the educational and musical leaders of the country place upon the Victor Record which is bought and sold so casually. You, too, may take new pride and interest in your merchandise when its mission in the world is in so striking and gratifying a manner made evident to you once again. Incidents such as these are assets to every Dealer in Victor products, and contribute immeasurably to the respect and good-will which the public has toward Victor products. You as a Dealer have a personal share in this good-will; it is one of your most valuable assets. The Victor Company is always striving to increase the value of that asset. What success will attend these efforts depends largely upon the co-operation of all Dealers.



Interior of Congressional Library at Washington where Victor Record collection will be housed



# Library of Congress





**The Library of Congress  
National Audio-Visual Conservation Center  
Culpeper, Virginia**





# Recorded Sound



LIBRARY OF  
CONGRESS



# Major Collections



- Broadcast
  - NBC Radio Collection
  - Voice of America
  - Office of War Information
  - National Public Radio
  - Tony Schwartz Collection
  - Major Bowes Original Amateur Hour
  - Meet the Press



# Major Collections



- Spoken Word
  - Archive of Poetry and Literature
  - Archive of Hispanic Literature
  - Joe Smith Collection
  - Studs Terkel Collection
  - John Peter Oral History of Modern Architecture
  - Marine Corps Combat Recordings
  - NAACP Collection

# Major Collections

- Music
  - LC Coolidge Auditorium Concerts
  - Aaron Copland Collection
  - Leonard Bernstein Collection
  - Newport Jazz Festival
  - Charles Mingus Collection
  - Emile Berliner Collection
  - Peter Muldavin’s collection of children’s recordings

# NBC Radio History Collection



LIBRARY OF  
CONGRESS

Most Visited Login fip - direct - Mardi 1 Ju... The Public Domain Re... Now See Hear! > Log In Home | LOCATING LO... First

The Library of Congress >> Researchers

Recorded Sound Reference Center MOTION PICTURE, BROADCASTING & RECORDED SOUND DIVISION

[Home](#) >> NBC Resources Held by the Recorded Sound Section Find  in Recorded Sound Web Pages

## NBC Resources Held by the Recorded Sound Section

### Page contents

- [The Recordings](#)
- [Locating NBC Recordings in the Collections of the Library of Congress](#)
- [The History Files](#)  
See also: [Finding Aid for the History Files](#)
- [The Log Books](#)
- [The Master Books](#)
- [The Index Cards](#)
- [The Press Releases](#)
- [NBC Daily News](#)
- [Additional Resources](#)

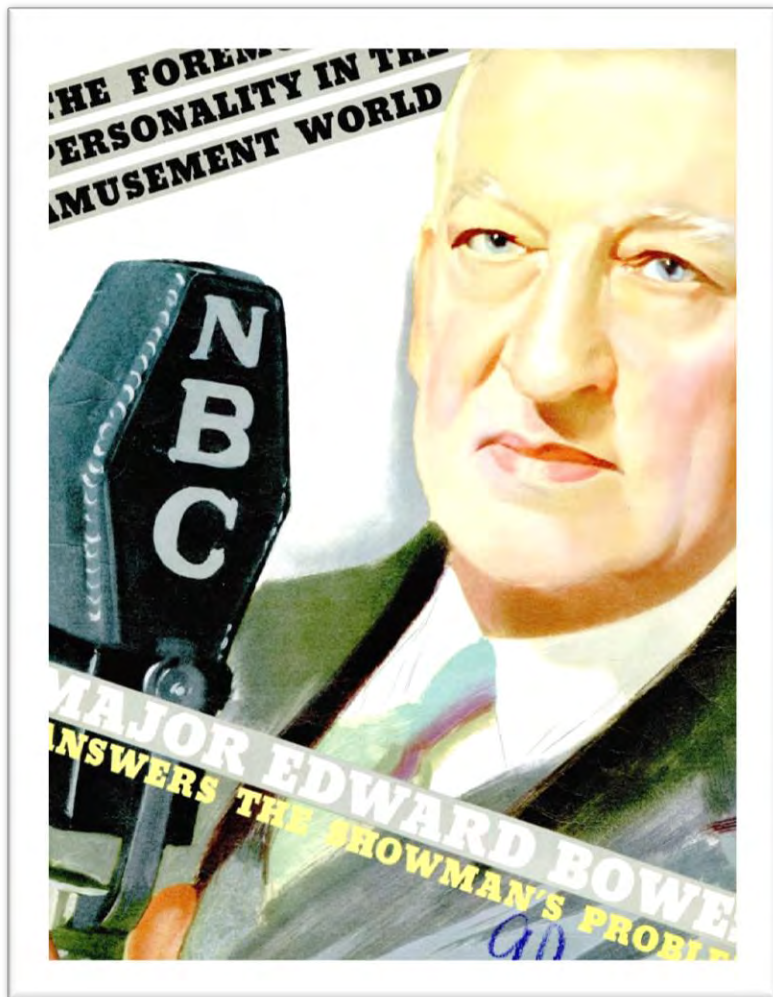
### The Recordings

The Library's NBC Collection contains 150,000 sixteen-inch lacquer discs which date from the early days of the network to the 1980's. While the bulk of the NBC broadcasts at the Library were recorded following the network's establishment of its Electrical Transcription Service in 1935, the collections also contain a large number (nearly 200) of scarce earlier recordings, most of which were recorded by NBC's parent company, RCA. These early discs were recorded with cumbersome equipment that yielded shorter and noisier recordings than those that could be produced after the invention of the lacquer disc in 1934. Equipped with the new recording equipment, NBC started recording many of its own programs, sporadically at first and with increasing frequency as the decade proceeded. From 1935 to 1939, the number of annually recorded programs, retained in the NBC archive, jumps from 661 to 3007. The majority of these recordings are of programs originating from New York. NBC's Chicago and Hollywood bureaus maintained their own recording archives which were never incorporated within the network's primary, New York-based archive, now in the Library.

# Major Bowes Original Amateur Hour



LIBRARY OF  
CONGRESS



# Major Bowes Original Amateur Hour



LIBRARY OF  
CONGRESS





# Major Bowes Original Amateur Hour



# Major Bowes Original Amateur Hour

ENTRANCE: 9/18/35

**"MAJOR BOWES AMATEUR HOUR"**  
(Please write plainly in ink)  
("Hoboken Tour") entered #

Name: Frank Sinatra and the 3 Flashes  
Address: 784 Garden Street - Hoboken, N.J.  
Telephone: Hob. 3-0905 - (Will call)

Type of Entertainment: Singing - Dancing & Comedy  
Give facts of your Vocations, Past and Present  
and all Details of Interest:  
Fred Tamburro - 533 Adams St. Hoboken  
Jimmy Petros - 214 Monroe "  
Patty Prince - 23 A - 20 St. West New York

List all Previous Radio Appearances if any: W.A.A.T. for trios

FOR AUDITION DEPARTMENT USE ONLY  
(DO NOT FILL IN)

Rating of Program: A+ - 1 Program to be Listed as:  
Date: 9/4/35 Auditioned by: Major Bowes  
Selection: "Shine"  
Alternate:

**FRANK  
SINATRA**


*The voice that's  
thrilling millions*

LUCKY STRIKE HIT PARADE  
CBS — Saturdays — 9:00 to 9:45

COLUMBIA RECORDS

RKO-PICTURES

Management:



# Access –

## How do I find anything?



- Online Catalogs
  - LC Online Catalog
    - [catalog.loc.gov](http://catalog.loc.gov)
  - SONIC (Sound Online Inventory and Catalog)
    - [catalog.loc.gov](http://catalog.loc.gov) – click on SONIC
- Recorded Sound Research Center
  - [www.loc.gov/rr/record](http://www.loc.gov/rr/record)
  - [rsrc@loc.gov](mailto:rsrc@loc.gov)
  - 202-707-7833



Login https://navccwebp1.loc.gov:8080/navcc/login.seam?cid=422

DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

LIBRARY CATALOGS

Search Search Loc.gov GO

Library of Congress > Library Catalogs

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS ONLINE CATALOG



- [LC Online Catalog Home](#)
- [About the Catalog](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Search/Browse Help](#)
- [Print/Save/Email Help](#)
- [LC Online Catalog \(legacy\)](#)

Search

- [Browse](#)
- [Advanced Search](#)
- [Keyword Search](#)

Your Account

- [Account Info](#)
- [Account Help](#)

Print Subscribe Share/Save

Library of Congress Online Catalog

LC Online Catalog Quick Search Search

Browse **Advanced Search** Keyword Search

Contains 18 million catalog records for books, serials, manuscripts, maps, music, recordings, images, and electronic resources in the Library of Congress collections. Search LC Authorities at [authorities.loc.gov](#)

Additional Catalogs & Research Tools

The LC Online Catalog is the main access point to the Library's collections. Click on the links below to use specialized catalogs and tools that provide access to additional LC resources:



[Archival Finding Aids](#)  
Guides to unique Library of Congress archival collections



[LC Authorities](#)  
LC authority headings for subjects, names, titles, and name/title combinations



[Copyright Office Catalog](#)  
U.S. Copyright registrations and ownership documents, 1978-present



[E-Resources Online Catalog](#)  
Subscription and free databases, ejournals, and ebooks accessible at the Library



[Handbook of Latin American Studies](#)  
Annotated bibliography of scholarly works on Latin America



[NLS Online Catalog](#)  
National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped braille and talking books



[Prints and Photographs Online Catalog](#)  
95% of Prints & Photographs Division holdings, including over 1 million digital images



[Sound Online Inventory and Catalog \(SONIC\)](#)  
Broadcast and archival recordings, including 78s, 45s, and Copyright tapes



[Thesauri & Controlled Vocabularies](#)  
Controlled search terms with a full network of cross-references. Includes [LC Subject Headings](#).



[Z39.50 Gateway to the LC Online Catalog](#)  
Alternate search gateway to the LC Online Catalog



ASK A LIBRARIAN

DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

LIBRARY CATALOGS

Search Search Loc.gov

GO

Library of Congress > LC Online Catalog > Advanced Search

Print | Subscribe | Share/Save

LC Online Catalog

Browse

Advanced Search

Keyword Search

Search History | Account Info | Help | LC Authorities

### Advanced Search

search

all of these

within Keyword Anywhere (GKEY)

AND  OR  NOT

all of these

within Keyword Anywhere (GKEY)

AND  OR  NOT

all of these

within Keyword Anywhere (GKEY)

+ Add Limits

Records per page: 25

Clear

Search

#### Advanced Search Tips

1. Enter your search term(s) in the Search box(es):
  - o Capitalization does not matter.
  - o Use a percent sign ( % ) as a single-character wildcard, either inside or at the end of a search word: wom%n  
*Note: If your search term contains a percent sign, remove the %. Enter 5% Nation as 5 Nation*
  - o Use a question mark ( ? ) for truncation (different forms of a root word) and as a multiple-character wildcard, either inside or at the end of a search word: entrepr? or col?r
  - o Most punctuation marks (hyphens, slashes, periods, etc.) are replaced by spaces. Because spaces are used to divide words, remove hyphens from ISBN but not ISSN number searches. Enter 0394467249 for ISBN 0-394-46724-9, but enter 0028-7806 for ISSN 0028-7806
2. Select all of these, any of these, or as a phrase from the drop-down list to specify how you want multiple words to be combined.
3. Narrow the scope of your search by changing Keyword Anywhere (GKEY) to the index of your choice in the next drop-down list (after within).
4. Add to your search by selecting a Boolean operator (AND, OR, NOT) and entering more search terms.
5. Refine your search by adding limits.

# SONIC

General Keyword Search - Mozilla Firefox

file Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

General Keyword Search +

lcweb5.loc.gov/cgi-bin/starfinder/2465974/sonic.txt?action=oyQu

Login The Public Domain Re... Home | LOCATING LO... First Listen : NPR Pop Up Archive » Sea... RadioDoc Review | Fa... Tiny Desk Concerts : ... DC Jazz Festival 2012...

## SONIC Keyword Anywhere Search

Type your first search term(s) here:   Exact Match Limit search to:

AND  OR  NOT

Type your second search term(s) here:   Exact Match Limit search to:

**SEARCH RESULTS: 0**

---

**SEARCH LIMITERS - Use in conjunction with the above or alone**

**Publication Status:**  Any/Unknown  Published  Unpublished  
(CAUTION: Not applicable to broadcasts)

**Date (e.g., publication, broadcast, etc.):**  through   
(Enter date in any numeric format- e.g. 7/21/58 or 07/02/1968; for an entire year, simply enter the year - e.g. 1945)  
Caution: Collection contains many undated recordings. Omitting date may improve search results.

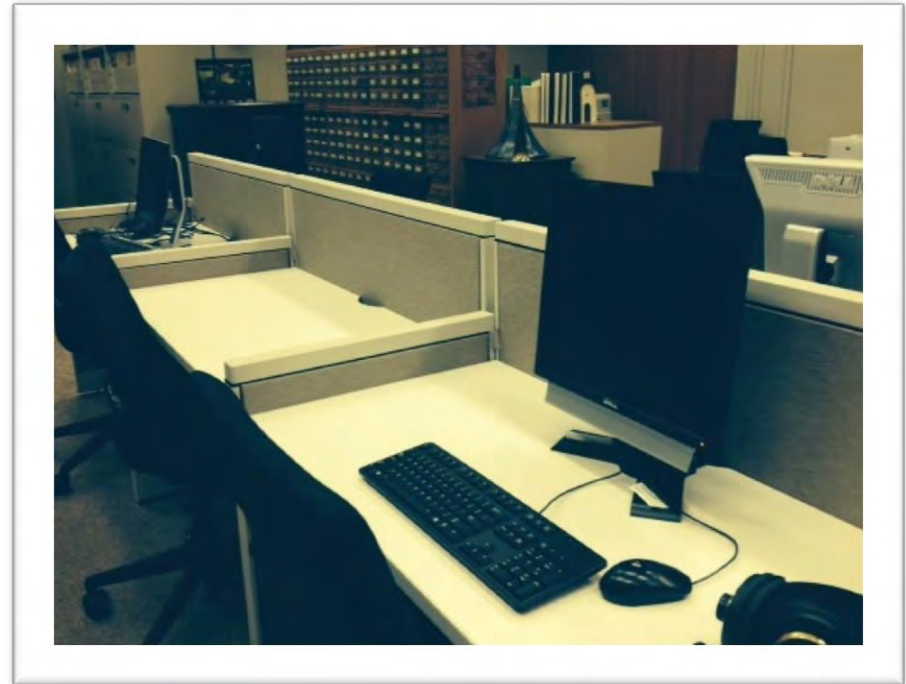


# Online Recordings



- National Jukebox
  - 10,000 recordings made by the Victor Talking Machine Company, 1901 – 1925
  - <http://www.loc.gov/jukebox/>
- Songs of America
  - More than 80,000 online items
  - sheet music, manuscripts, and historic copyright submissions
  - <http://www.loc.gov/collection/songs-of-america/about-this-collection/>

# Recorded Sound Research Center



Madison Building, LM-113  
[rsrc@loc.gov](mailto:rsrc@loc.gov)  
202-707-7833

# Policies



- Recordings do not circulate
- Appointments are required for listening
- Copies of Recordings
  - must obtain permission from rights holder
  - charge for transfer



## Thank you

Karen Fishman  
Library of Congress  
Recorded Sound Research Center  
rsrc@loc.gov



LIBRARY OF  
CONGRESS

# AUDIO PRESERVATION UNIT

NAVCC at The Packard Campus for  
Audio Visual Conservation

Bryan Hoffa



# Audio Preservation?



LIBRARY OF  
CONGRESS

A. To preserve the physical item?

B. To preserve the content?

C. To make preservation masters that sound as good as  
*we* think they can using *any* means necessary

?PRESERVATION?CONSERVATION?RESTORATION?MASTERING?  
?PRESERVATION?CONSERVATION?RESTORATION?MASTERING?  
?PRESERVATION?CONSERVATION?RESTORATION?MASTERING?  
?PRESERVATION?CONSERVATION?RESTORATION?MASTERING?  
?PRESERVATION?CONSERVATION?RESTORATION?MASTERING?

# Audio Preservation?

- Getting the best copy or the *truest representation of sound* from the source before it:
- Degrades (further)
- Becomes obsolete



# Audio Preservation?



LIBRARY OF  
CONGRESS

- Preservation master: **96 kHz, 24 bit PCM**
- File: **Broadcast wave (.wav, BWF)**



# What's the point?



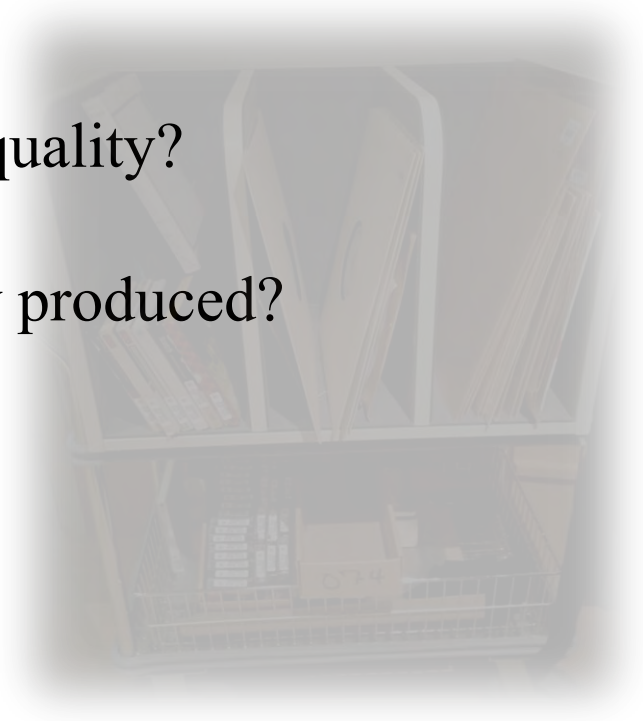
LIBRARY OF  
CONGRESS

- Acts as lossless surrogate for the original item's content when it can no longer be played back
- Provides far more access to it's content than otherwise possible via 44.1 kHz, 16 bit listening copies

# Preservation Planning



- Different collection materials require different workflows
  1. Uniformity of formats?
  2. Consistency of levels and sound quality?
  3. How well documented?
  4. Field recordings or professionally produced?
  5. High maintenance?
  6. Access deadline?





# The Audio Lab

## A1 Preservation Transfer Studios



LIBRARY OF  
CONGRESS



# The Audio Lab



LIBRARY OF  
CONGRESS

## A1 Preservation Transfer Studios

- Single stream capture- 1:1
- Very high quality signal chain and monitoring
- Source>A-D converter>DAW (Merging Pyramix)
- Acoustically designed for critical listening
- Most formats can be reproduced
- Emphasis on irregular and problem media
- Rich metadata capture

# The Audio Lab

## A2 Mass Audio Migration



LIBRARY OF  
CONGRESS





# The Audio Lab



LIBRARY OF  
CONGRESS

## A2 Mass Audio Migration

- Multi-stream capture- 1:4+
- Pyramix for open reel
- Quadriga for cassette
- Parallel transfer with reverse playback
- Sacrifice some metadata
- Material selected for this workflow is based on large runs of very similar items

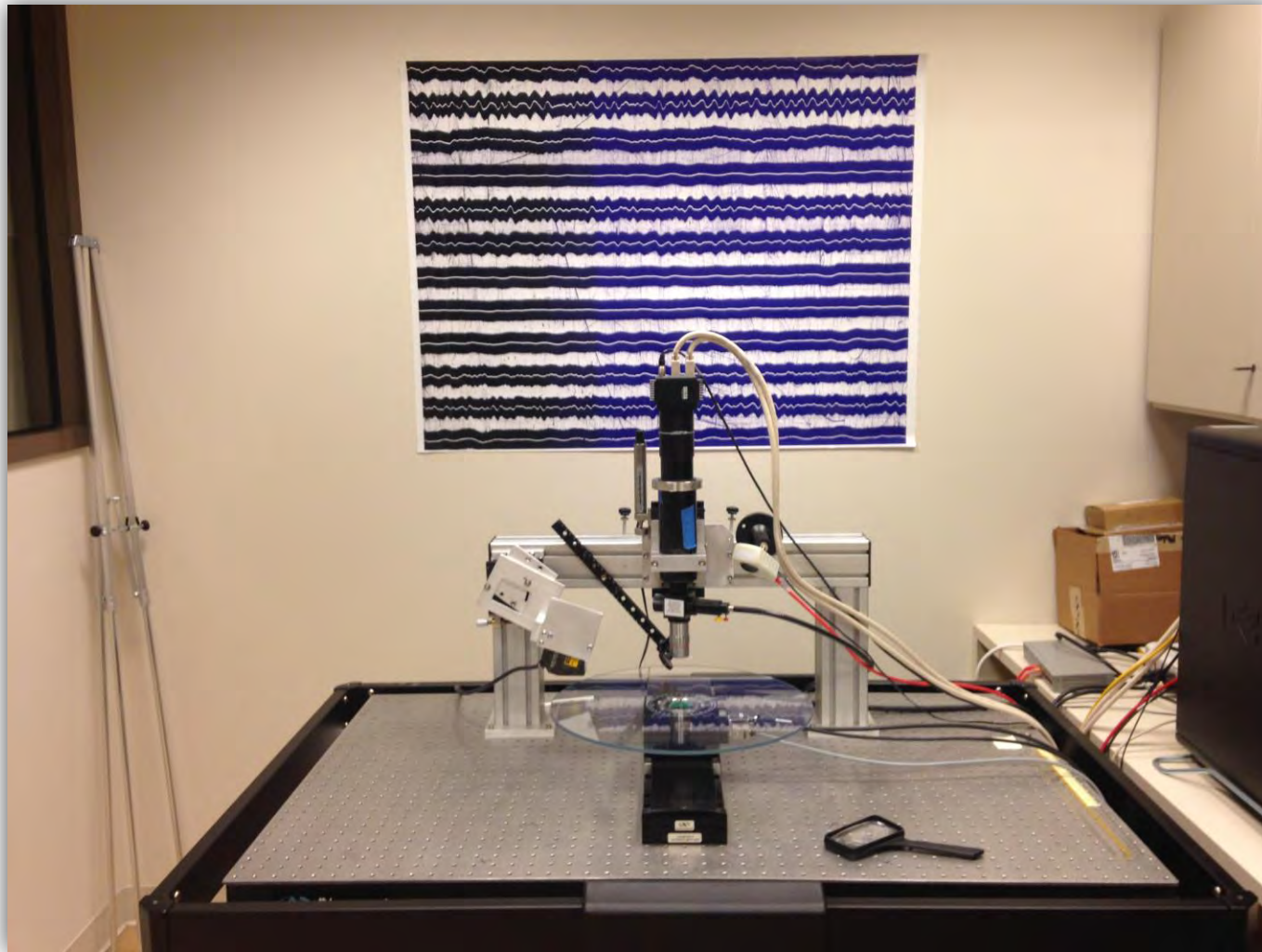
# The Audio Lab

## 2D IRENE

(Image, Reconstruct, Erase Noise, Etc.)



LIBRARY OF  
CONGRESS



# The Audio Lab



LIBRARY OF  
CONGRESS

## Physical Media Intake – Born Digital





# The Audio Lab

## Media Prep Areas



LIBRARY OF  
CONGRESS



# The Audio Lab



LIBRARY OF  
CONGRESS

Sometimes preservation is driven by access

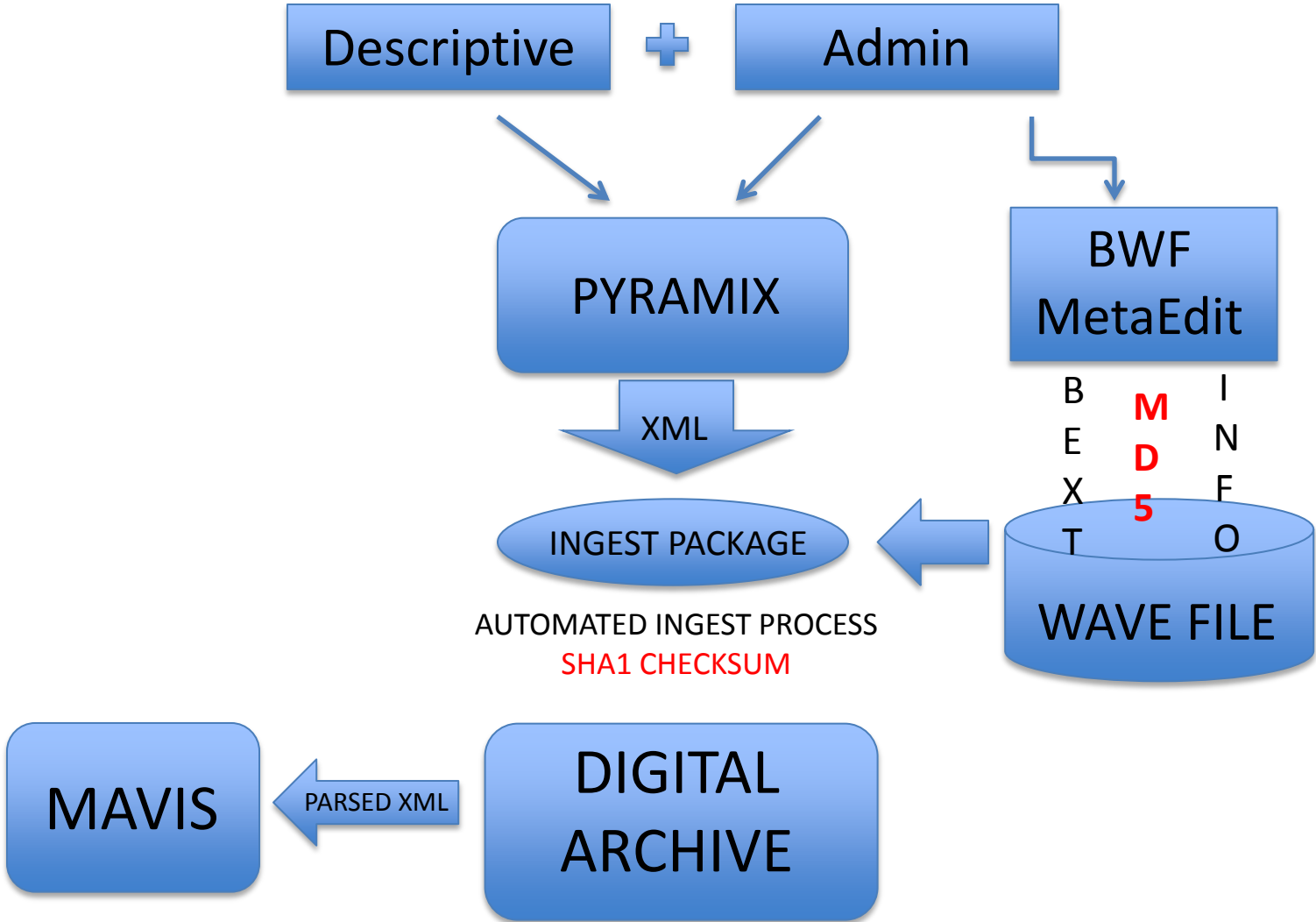
- **Listening requests**
  - files served up in the RS reference center by appointment
- **Phono duplication**
  - Files delivered to customer via secure file sharing service or recorded on physical media



# Metadata



LIBRARY OF  
CONGRESS



# The Audio Lab

## Projects- past, present and future



LIBRARY OF  
CONGRESS

- National Jukebox
- NBC-MOB
- Studs Terkel
- American Indian Cylinder Project



# Looking Ahead



- Build out of final room capable of:
  - Surround/Multitrack preservation (A+D)
  - High-res audio preservation (DSD,SACD)
  - Enhanced QC process
- File based workflows for born digital collex
- More automated post digitization processes
- Working with vendors to enhance metadata functionality

# The End

bhof@loc.gov





LIBRARY OF  
CONGRESS

# Recent Acquisitions in Recorded Sound

Matt Barton  
Curator, Recorded Sound Section  
Library of Congress



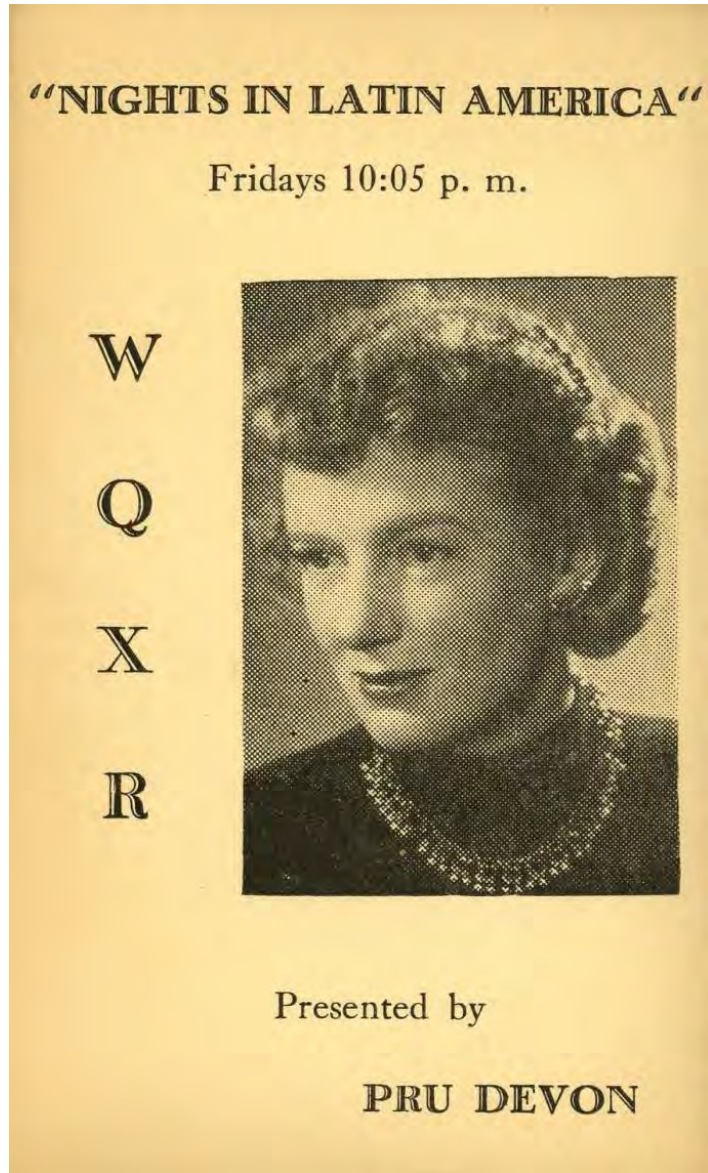
Unfortunately, Matt  
couldn't make it today.



LIBRARY OF  
CONGRESS



# The Pru Devon Collection



Pru Devon (1908-1973) was a British-born singer who settled in New York in the 1930s. She entered radio broadcasting in the mid-1940s and from January of 1947 to June of 1971, she produced, wrote and hosted “Nights in Latin America,” a weekly program of folk, popular and classical music from the Latin music continuum of South, North and Central America, on WQXR, the New York Times’s radio station.

In June of this year, her granddaughter, Wendy Sanderson and her family donated her record library and research files to the Recorded Sound Section of the Library of Congress. In years to come, the Pru Devon Collection will be a unique resource for musicians and scholars.

# The Pru Devon Collection



LIBRARY OF  
CONGRESS



Though little known in the United States, Jacob De Bandolim (1918-1969) was an enormously popular mandolinist, bandleader and composer in his native Brazil. He recorded this piece for the Brazilian subsidiary of RCA Victor in 1951.

# The Pru Devon Collection



LIBRARY OF  
CONGRESS



*Gabriel Oller, 1976*



Cuban-born drummer Chano Pozo (1915-1948) made few recordings in his short life, but profoundly influenced American jazz through his work with Dizzy Gillespie. He made his first recordings in the USA in 1947, for the Puerto Rican recording pioneer Gabriel Oller's Spanish Music Center (SMC) label, from which this recording of traditional of a traditional Cuban song known as "Placetas," but issued as "Ritmo Afro-Cubano No. 4"



# The Pru Devon Collection



LIBRARY OF  
CONGRESS



Florencio Morales Ramos, or “Ramito” (1915-1989) was the greatest singer in the *Jibaro* style of the Puerto Rican mountains. He recorded for Ansonia, a label that specialized in the traditional and rural music of Puerto Rico.



Thank you!



Eugene DeAnna  
Caitlin Hunter  
Karen Fishman  
Bryan Hoffa  
Matt Barton