

Collection #  
SC 3655

**HAMPTON SISTERS AND JACK GILFOY  
COLLECTION, 1985-2006**

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

**VOLUME OF COLLECTION:** 1 folder, 2 photographic prints, 1 digital video, 26 digital photographs

**COLLECTION DATES:** 1985-2006, n.d.

**PROVENANCE:** Sue Gilfoy, 2014

**RESTRICTIONS:** None

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**ALTERNATE FORMATS:**

**RELATED HOLDINGS:** SC2992, Hampton Sisters Oral Histories; M1178, Duncan Preston Schiedt Collection

**ACCESSION NUMBER:** 2014.0048

**NOTES:**

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES**

### **The Hampton Sisters**

From the late 1920s or early 1930s, Clarke “Deacon” Hampton formed a family band that included his children. The twelve children learned from an early age to play various musical instruments. By 1938, the Ohio-based family that had traveled throughout the Midwest performing at fairs, tent shows, and other venues had relocated to Indiana—first to Shelbyville, then to Indianapolis. They experienced various degrees of success as individual acts or with an assortment of ensemble configurations. By the 1940s, the Deacon Hampton Family Band had transitioned to the Duke Hampton Band and the Hampton Family Orchestra. Many of the family members played a variety of instruments in the band. The group recorded on the Aladdin and King labels and had engagements at Carnegie Hall, Savoy Ballroom, and the Apollo Theatre. Trombonist Locksley “Slide” Hampton is probably the best-known individual musician of the family.

The Hampton sisters (Aletra, Carmelita, Dawn, and Virtue) were once known as the Hamptonians, but by the late 1960s, they had become the Hampton Sister Group. They became a trio and then a duo with sisters Aletra and Virtue performing at Indianapolis events well into their 80s.

### **Jack Gilfoy**

He was born July 31, 1939, the only child of Lewis and Sue Warren Gilfoy. A lifelong native of Indiana, Jack received a BM (music) and MS (education) degrees from Indiana University where he was the first jazz drummer to complete a degree in percussion.

His career started while still in college as he performed with the Al Cobine big band; followed shortly thereafter were gigging with the Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey, Larry Elgart, and Nelson Riddle big bands. He played locally at the Jazz Kitchen with the Buselli Wallarab big band. He is best known for the 30 years he toured the world as a personal show drummer for Henry Mancini. Gilfoy’s Naptown Jazz Quintet (including Virtue Hampton’s son, trumpeter Pharez Whitted) performed in and around Indianapolis for decades.

Holding equal importance in Jack's life was his role as a music educator. He was the Director of Jazz & Music Business Studies at IUPUI for 19 years. He also performed concerts in schools, from preschool through high school, helping young people understand the joy and vitality of jazz music.

Sources:

“Jack Gilfoy (obituary),” *Indianapolis Star*, 6 May 2008

Materials in the collection

Wilma L. Moore, Biographical Sketch for SC2992

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of material related to the Hampton Sisters (Aletra, Carmalita, and Virtue), Jack Gilfoy, and their collaborations with one another. Included are a Hampton Sisters promotional flier (badly damaged), an issue of *Jazz Notes* newsletter dated September 1985, two reproduction photos of the Hamptons from the 1980s, one of which shows Jack Gilfoy on drums, and two photographic prints of the sisters from the same period.

Also included is a video segment from WFYI's "Across Indiana" program titled "Indy's Queens of Jazz" highlighting sisters Virtue and Aletra. The 2003 segment is about 7 minutes long. Also, 26 digital photographs from a 2006 performance of the IUPUI Jazz Ensemble directed by Jack Gilfoy. This performance was a part of the Indiana Historical Society's "Concerts on the Canal" program. The photos were taken by John R. Gentry, Jr. The video segment and digital photos can be accessed digitally in the Reading Room upon request.

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“Jazz Notes,” promotional flier, photo reproductions,  
circa 1985

Aletra, Carmalita, and Virtue, circa 1985

“Indy’s Queens of Jazz,” 2003

IUPUI jazz ensemble with Jack Gilfooy, 2006

### CONTAINER

Folder 1

Photographs, Folder 1

See digital file

See digital file

