

**Collection #
M 1517**

**ROSEMARIE GORE BIGBEE
COLLECTION, 1981-2001**

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	2 manuscript boxes, 1 half-sized box of photographs
COLLECTION DATES:	1981-2001
PROVENANCE:	Rosemarie Bigbee, 2015
RESTRICTIONS:	None
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ALTERNATE FORMATS:	
RELATED HOLDINGS:	Harold Fryar Materials (OM0552); Indianapolis Opera Company Papers (M1313)
ACCESSION NUMBER:	2015.0354
NOTES:	Artifacts donated with these materials have been transferred to the Indiana State Museum.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Rosemarie Gore Bigbee was born in Indianapolis in 1949. Growing up in the Martindale-Brightwood neighborhood, Rosemarie took piano and ballet lessons and was fascinated by Captain Kangaroo on television.

At Crispus Attucks High School, she heard the term “Renaissance Man” for the first time. The concept of a multi-faceted individual who studied a wide range of subjects appealed to her nature. She participated in Latin Club, the Black History Club, took private cello lessons, excelled in chemistry, and competed in (and won) several vocal competitions. She was selected 1965 basketball homecoming queen and named “Ms. Talent” by her peers. Rosemarie was also the student director for the school’s first musical, a staging of *South Pacific* in 1965. The following year, she landed a lead role in the school’s production of *Oklahoma!*

Teachers urged Rosemarie to apply to the Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan, which she did, and was awarded a scholarship. After graduating from Interlochen in 1967, she attended the University of Michigan with a full scholarship, studying voice under the tutelage of soprano Eva Likova and minoring in medical technology. A brief marriage in Michigan resulted in a daughter, Dawn Marie Dickson, but ended with Rosemarie returning to Indianapolis to finish her degree at Indiana Central University (now University of Indianapolis). While there, Rosemarie was involved in the creation of the Indianapolis Opera Company. For eleven years she worked at Methodist Hospital as a medical technician. At the hospital she met a fellow technician, Kenneth Bigbee, whom she married in 1977. This union yielded a son, Kenny Jr.

In 1981, Rosemarie won the Lucretia Bartenbach Award from the Lafayette (Ind.) Symphony. In 1986, she was selected to study at the prestigious Bel Canto Seminar in Busseto, Italy. But Rosemarie was not content as merely a learner. Rosemarie wanted to pass on her knowledge. She began giving voice lessons at Broad Ripple High School in 1978. She also taught at the Witherspoon Center for Performing Arts. From 1990 to 1994, she taught at Earlham College in Richmond, and sang with the Richmond Symphony Orchestra.

Rosemarie earned her master’s degree in voice from Indiana University in 1995. That same year, her childhood fascination with Captain Kangaroo came full circle when she was selected to replace Hal Fryar’s “Uncle Harlow” character as the children’s TV host on Indianapolis PBS affiliate WFYI. She was the first African American children’s television host in Indiana. Rainbow Rosie, as she was called, appeared on the *Kid Time* segments between children’s shows, teaching viewers about animals, world cultures, art, and other subjects, and interviewing local groups and celebrities. Rainbow Rosie also made in-person appearances where she emphasized a healthy diet at schools and at annual WFYI events like “Let’s Meet on Sesame Street.” WFYI discontinued the Rainbow Rosie character around 2002.

Sources:

Materials in the collection

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of materials from Rosemarie Gore Bigbee's varied career as a vocalist, vocal instructor, and children's television host. Each of these disciplines has been assigned a series within the records. The series have been arranged chronologically according to start date. Series I consists of material related to Rosemarie's training and career as a vocalist. Series II consists of material related to Rosemarie's career as a vocal instructor. Series III consists of material related to the Rainbow Rosie character on WFYI and *Kid Time* viewers. Series IV is the smallest and contains personal and family material.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Vocal Performance

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Indianapolis Opera, *The Magic Flute*, 1982; *Otello*, 1984

35mm color slide, Indianapolis Opera, *Otello*, 1984

“Contest Papers” folder, 1985-1991

Bel Canto Seminar, Busseto, Italy, 1986

Bel Canto Seminar, Busseto, Italy, 1986 (1 of 2)

Bel Canto Seminar, Busseto, Italy, 1986 (2 of 2)

Indiana University, 1987-1996

Letters of recommendation, 1988-1990, n.d.

Indiana Pacers game, 9 December 1988

Professional headshots, circa 1989-1995

Houston Grand Opera information, 1990

Vocal performances, 1987-1991

Glamour Shots proofs, 1992

Vocal performances, 1992-1999, n.d.

Thank you cards and letters, 1981-1990

Thank you cards and letters, 1991-1999, n.d.

Awards and honors, 1990-1998

“American Voice” performance, Richmond, Ind. 1997

CONTAINER

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Digital only. Ask for
assistance.

Box 1, Folder 1

Box 1, Folder 2

Photographs:
Folder 4

Photographs:
Folder 5

Box 1, Folder 3

Box 1, Folder 4

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Folder 6

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Folder 7

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Folder 8

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Glamour Shots, 1998

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Vocal miscellaneous

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Series 2: Vocal Instruction

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Pages from vocal instruction notebook, n.d.

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Voice students, 1987-1998, n.d.

Box 1, Folder 13

Broad Ripple High School, 1988-1999

Box 1, Folder 14

Contest judging requests, 1989-1996

Box 1, Folder 15

Earlham College, 1990-1994, n.d.

Box 1, Folder 16

Below Zero Productions promotional book and
cassette, 1991

Box 2, Folder 1

Witherspoon Performing Arts Center, 1992, 1998

Box 2, Folder 2

National Association of Teachers of Singing
application, 1993-1996

Box 2, Folder 3

Vocal students, 1993; 1994

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Rosemarie and Chi Yong Yun, 1994

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Group at US Capitol building, circa 1996

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Series 3: Children's Television

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Rainbow Rosie general, 1995-circa 1999

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Rainbow Rosie headshot, circa 1995

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Script, *Kid Time*, 19 February 1995

Box 2, Folder 5

Appearances, 1995

Box 2, Folder 6

Appearances, 1996	Box 2, Folder 7
Appearances, 1995-1996	Photographs: Folder 13
“Just Say No” club, IPS school no. 107, n.d.	Photographs: Folder 14
Script and other materials for <i>Kid Time</i> , August 1996	Box 2, Folder 8
Script, American Girls Fashion Show, Conner Prairie, August 1996	Box 2, Folder 9
Scripts and other materials for <i>Kid Time</i> , September 1996	Box 2, Folder 10
Scripts, <i>Kid Time</i> , October [1996?]	Box 2, Folder 11
Scripts, <i>Kid Time</i> , November [1996?]	Box 2, Folder 12
Script, “Treatments for Vincent Bear,” St. Vincent Family Life Center, n.d.	Box 2, Folder 13
Appearances, 1997	Box 2, Folder 14
Let’s Meet on Sesame Street (live appearance), 1997	Photographs: Folder 17
List of <i>Kid Time</i> segments, 1997-1998	Box 2, Folder 15
Outline for <i>Kid Time</i> segments, May 1998, March 1999	Box 2, Folder 16
Appearances, 1998	Box 2, Folder 17
Appearances, 1999-2000	Box 2, Folder 18
Script, Let’s Meet on Sesame Street (live appearance), 2001	Box 2, Folder 19
Viewer mail (selection), 1996-1999, n.d.	Box 2, Folder 20
<i>Kid Time</i> viewers, 1996, n.d.	Photographs: Folder 15
Contest judging, 1997-1998	Box 2, Folder 21
News clippings, 1995-1998	Box 2, Folder 22

Rainbow Rosie miscellaneous

Box 2, Folder 23

Series 4: Family/Personal

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Sigma Gamma Rho sorority portrait, circa 1981

Sigma Gamma Rho sorority portrait negative, circa 1981

Rosemarie Gore Bigbee, 1984, c.1992, n.d.

Family correspondence, 1986-1993, n.d.

Family photographs, circa 1990

Family photographs, unidentified

Non-family, identified

Personal miscellaneous

Registrations, American Society of Clinical Pathologists, 1989, 1990

CONTAINER

Photographs:
Folder 1

Digital only. Ask for assistance.

Photographs:
Folder 3

Box 2, Folder 24

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Folder 19

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