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## Brown (Bus) Collection

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Holly Withrow

North Carolina Collection Archives

300 N. Roxboro Street

Durham, NC 27701

[ncc@dconc.gov](mailto:ncc@dconc.gov)

URL: <https://durhamcountylibrary.org/ncc>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	North Carolina Collection Archives
<b>Source - dnr:</b>	Alexander, Frankie
<b>Creator:</b>	Alexander, Frankie
<b>Title:</b>	Bus Brown collection
<b>ID:</b>	NCC.0013
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1966-2007, undated
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1 Linear Feet (2 record boxes)
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English

### Preferred Citation

[Item, folder, and box information], Bus Brown collection (NCC.0013), North Carolina Collection, Durham County Library, NC.

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## Biographical / Historical

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Jazz musician Bus Brown was born in Baltimore in 1907, and was friends with fellow Baltimore native Billie Holiday, who was born in 1915. In 1932 he left for New York City, where he reconnected with Billie Holiday and became friends with other jazz pioneers. He and his stepbrother, Baby Laurence , formed the Harlem Highlanders with four other musicians. With them he traveled through the U.S. and Europe in the 1940s and 1950s. Brown moved to Durham in the 1980s to work on the television series "Yusuf and Friends" with Brother Yusuf Salim, and decided to stay to share his music and the jazz tradition with the younger generation. Brown performed throughout the Triangle with Brother Yusuf and jazz vocalist Frankie Alexander. He recorded *The Storyteller* in 1982, and was awarded the Artist Fellowship for Jazz from the North Carolina Arts Council in 1986, the first time it was ever given. He moved back to Baltimore in 1994, where he died at age 99 on February 14, 2007.

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## Scope and Contents

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These materials primarily document the part of musician Bus Brown's life spent in Durham. Audiovisual materials consist of audio recordings of *The Storyteller*, Bus Brown's only published album; a video recording titled "Bus Brown, the Storyteller," and five tapes from a potential documentary, with interviews of Bus Brown by Frankie Alexander and Melva Fager Okun. Papers include several programs from performances and events at which Brown appeared, newspaper articles about him and the jazz scene in Durham, logs of what is on some of the tapes in the collection, and several photos of Brown and his friends. Captions for photos are transcribed from the photos or from accompanying notes.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

North Carolina Collection Archives

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Durham, NC 27701

[ncc@dconc.gov](mailto:ncc@dconc.gov)

URL: <https://durhamcountylibrary.org/ncc>

### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Frankie Alexander

### Conditions Governing Use

There are no restrictions on the use of this material except where previously copyrighted material is concerned. It is the responsibility of the researcher to obtain all permissions.

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## Related Materials

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### Related Materials

Yusuf Salim Collection (NCC.0012)

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Jazz -- North Carolina -- Durham
- Jazz musicians -- North Carolina -- Durham
- Alexander, Frankie
- Brown, Bus

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## Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements

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Audiovisual materials must be reformatted before access is granted. Contact staff for more information.

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## Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Instances	
Born to Suffer, undated	box 1	folder 1
Tape descriptions, undated	box 1	folder 2
Newspaper articles, 1981-2007, undated	box 1	folder 3
Photographs, undated	box 1	folder 4
BB001	box 1	
BB002 - Melva's yard	box 1	
BB003 - Dauod Hassam, Freeman Ledbetter on bass	box 1	

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BB004 - Bus Brown and Arbey (reported to be his son; Bus said couldn't have children but accepted as his)	box 1	
BB005 - Salaam Cultural Center	box 1	
BB006	box 1	
BB007 - Salaam Cultural Center	box 1	
BB008	box 1	
BB009	box 1	
BB010 - Melva's yard	box 1	
BB011	box 1	
BB012	box 1	
BB013 - Salaam Cultural Center, Frankie Alexander, Bus Brown on drums	box 1	
BB014	box 1	
BB015 - Brother Yusuf Salim's daughter Miriam in her apartment	box 1	
BB016	box 1	
BB017	box 1	
BB018	box 1	
BB019	box 1	
BB020	box 1	
BB021	box 1	
Bus Brown gig at Southport, NC, near Wilmington. Left to right: Al Reese's son Mark, Al Doctor (who was sax player), Bus Brown; two people on far right in parking lot unknown.	box 1	
BB023 - Brother Yusuf Salim's daughter in front in her apartment	box 1	
BB024 - Brother Yusuf Salim; Alan Neese, trumpeter from Greensboro, Neese's wife	box 1	
BB025	box 1	
BB026	box 1	
BB027 - Steve Wing and Brother Yusuf Salim	box 1	
BB028	box 1	
Programs and flyers, 1966-1988, undated	box 1	folder 5
Other materials, 1975-2006, undated	box 1	folder 6
Bus Brown The Storyteller, UNC TV (U-Matic tape), 1977	box 2	
Bus Brown - Prime Time Irving Hester Show - VHS tape, undated	box 2	

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Unlabeled VHS tape, undated	box 2
Bus Brown VHS tapes 1-3, 2005-11-06	box 2
Bus Brown VHS tape 4, 2005-11-25-2005-11-27	box 2
Bus Brown VHS tape 5, 2005-11-27	box 2
Do You Thank Allah (God) - 45 rpm (3 copies), undated	box 2

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**Scope and Contents**

Salim Records. Arranged by Yusuf Salim. Produced by Peaceful Three Productions. B side is As-Salaam Alaikum by Beatrice X.