



**THE CENTER FOR POPULAR MUSIC
MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY, MURFREESBORO, TN**

D.F. CUSIC PAPERS

86-001

Creator:

Donald F. Cusic (November 13, 1948 -)

Type of Material:

includes manuscript materials, clippings, programs, photographs, correspondence

Physical Description:

6 linear feet of manuscript materials in 16 boxes

Languages:

English

Dates:

1970-1990. Bulk 1977-1986

Repository:

Center for Popular Music, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN 37132,
(615) 898-2449

Access/Restrictions:

All materials in this collection are subject to standard national and international copyright laws. Center staff are able to assist with copyright questions for this material.

Preferred Citation: (Box Number, Folder Number/Name), D.F. Cusic Papers 86-001,
Center for Popular Music, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro,
Tennessee

Provenance and Acquisition Information: The D.F. Cusic Collection was donated to the Center for Popular Music by Don Cusic beginning in 1986 while he was a faculty member of the College of Mass Communications [now College of Media and Entertainment]

Subject/Index Terms:

Gospel Music Association (GMA)
Sandi Patti

Country Music Association (CMA)
Country Radio Seminar (CRS)
Gospel Music
Contemporary Christian Music

Agency History/Biographical Sketch: [as of 2022]

Don Cusic was born in St. Mary's County, Maryland. He attended St. Mary's College and the University of Maryland where he received a B.S. in Journalism. Cusic moved to Tennessee in 1972. His first job in the music industry was with the Country Music Association as a staff writer, then with *Record World*, a trade publication as Nashville editor. From there he joined Monument Records where he served as head of Artist Development and International Liaison (Monument was distributed by CBS International). After leaving Monument, Cusic and Dan Beck formed a management and public relations company where they managed Riders in the Sky and Dickie Lee. After the management/pr company Cusic became the first Nashville editor for *Contemporary Christian Music* magazine, then joined *Cashbox* as Country and Gospel Editor. During this period, he served for three years on the Gospel Music Association's Board of Directors.

Don Cusic joined the faculty at Middle Tennessee State University in 1982 teaching courses in the music business. He earned a Masters and Doctorate in English from MTSU. Since August, 1994 he has been Professor of Music Business at Belmont University and since 2006 has held the professorship of Curb Professor of Music Industry History, endowed by the Mike Curb Family Foundation.

Don Cusic has had over 500 articles published since he began writing. He has been the Country and Gospel Editor for *Record World* and *Cashbox*, a columnist for *Music City News*, editor of *The Western Way* (the quarterly publication of the Western Music Association), album reviewer and special correspondent for *Billboard* and book reviewer for *Music Row Magazine*.

Cusic is the author of twenty-five published books, including the biographies *Roger Miller: Dang Him*, *Elvis and Nashville*, *Eddy Arnold: I'll Hold You In My Heart*, *The Life and Career of Gene Autry*, *The Cowboy Way: Riders In The Sky*, *James Weldon Johnson: Songwriter and The Trials of Henry Flipper*. He wrote an encyclopedia of cowboys, *Cowboys and the Wild West: An A-Z Guide from the Chisholm Trail to the Silver Screen* and edited (and was the primary writer of) *The Encyclopedia of Contemporary Christian Music*. Other books include *Johnny Cash: The Songs*, *The Sound of Light: A History of Gospel and Christian Music* (republished as *Saved by Song*), *The Cowboy in Country Music*, *Music in the Market*, *Baseball and Country Music*, *Poet of the Common Man: Merle Haggard Lyrics*, *Willie Nelson: Lyrics 1959-1994*, *Hank Williams: The Complete Lyrics*, *Reba McEntire: Country Music's Queen*, *Randy Travis: King of the New Traditionalists*, *The Poet as Performer*, and *Sandi Patti: The Voice of Gospel*.

He has written liner notes for albums by Dolly Parton, Willie Nelson, Ray Stevens,

Bobby Bare, George Jones, Eddy Arnold, Sonny James, Gary Paxton, George Beverly Shea, Sheb Wooley, the Oak Ridge Boys, Lulu Belle and Scotty, Jimmy Long, Skeeter Davis, Lynn Anderson, Roy Drusky, Floyd Cramer and others.

As a scholar, Don Cusic has presented academic papers for the Popular Culture Association, the Popular Culture Association of the South, the American Studies Association, the International Association for the Study of Popular Music, the International Country Music Conference, the International Popular Culture Conference (in Oxford, England), the Tennessee Folklore Society, the Western Music Association, the Baseball Symposium, the International Association for the Study of Popular Music and the Music Educators Industry and Entertainment Association (MEIEA).

As a record producer, Cusic has produced albums on Jeannie Seely, Bobby Bare and Melinda Doolittle (with Mike Curb) and co-produced (with Cheetah Chrome) the Eddy Arnold Tribute album, *You Don't Know Me: Rediscovering Eddy Arnold*.

Cusic was a consultant on Ken Burns' documentary miniseries *Country Music*. Cusic appeared a number of times on CMT programs, including the "Controversy" series, "Greatest Patriotic Songs," "Waiting in the Wings: African-Americans in Country Music" and others; he appeared on a number of TNN shows, including "Life and Times of Eddy Arnold" and the A&E Biography Series on Hank Williams. He also appeared on the BBC series "Lost Highway: The History of Country Music" and "White Gospel." He has appeared in three films, *Country Gold*, *Wish Me Away*, the story of Chely Wright and *Country: Portrait of a Music*.

Cusic is a member of the Country Music Association (Lifetime), Western Music Association (Lifetime), the Gospel Music Association (Lifetime), the Recording Academy (formerly the National Association of Recording Arts and Sciences-NARAS), the International Bluegrass Music Association and the Music Educators Industry and Entertainment Association (MEIEA). Cusic is a Commissioner on the Metro Historical Commission in Nashville.

Scope and Content:

As much as they document his research interests, work as an entertainment journalist, and professional affiliation in the Gospel Music Association, the materials contained in the D. F. Cusic Papers document the subjects Cusic researched and the GMA itself. Included in the collection are business correspondence; magazine and newspaper articles, some of which were written by Cusic but most of which were used by him for research purposes; music industry related mailing lists; information on professional organizations; business records of the Gospel Music Association; and information pertaining to the yearly Gospel Music Association's week-long conventions and Dove Music Awards.

Arrangement:

The collection is divided into five series, Series one, general manuscript materials, contains materials primarily related to Cusic's journalism career and personal research,

while the second series, Gospel Music Association (GMA), is composed entirely of GMA materials. Series three, Sandi Patti, contains research materials Cusic used in writing a biography of contemporary Christian artist Sandi Patti, as well as two copies of the manuscript--one of which is marked for editing. Series four, Sound of Light, is a manuscript copy of what would become Sound and Light: A History of Gospel Music book along with a published version. Series five is photograph prints, mostly relating to gospel and Christian music with some relating to country music.

Series Description:

Series 1: General Manuscript Materials

3.5 l.f. (boxes 1-7)

Mostly clippings, concert announcements, correspondence, scattered issues of periodicals and other miscellaneous materials related to various topics Cusic researched and wrote about. Arranged alphabetically by title or subject.

Box 2 contains articles written by Cusic early in his career, most relating to contemporary Christian music. Box 6 contains past event programs of the Country Radio Seminar (CRS) and various reports, publications, and programs of the Country Music Association (CMA).

Series 2: Gospel Music Association (GMA)

1 l.f. (boxes 8-9)

Box 8 contains business agendas of board meeting in which Cusic sat for the Gospel Music Association as well as the GMA's newsletter and other clippings and items relating to the Association. Box 9 contains agendas and programs of the annual conference of the GMA organized by year.

Series 3: Sandi Patti

1 l.f. (boxes 10-12)

Clippings and related research materials for writing the book, Sandi Patti: The Voice of Gospel (1988). Box 12 contains the final draft of the book before sent to publishers.

Series 4: Sound of Light

.5 l.f. (box 13)

Final draft of the manuscript The Sound of Light: A History of Gospel Music (1990) along with a published copy of the 1990 publication of the book.

Series 5: Photographs

1.5 l.f. (boxes 14-18)

5 boxes of 981 photographic prints of various sizes mostly relating to gospel and Christian music with some relating to country music. Ask archivist for complete list of photographs.

Collection Contents (Folder/Box List):

All folder labels are original to collection; brackets indicate processor's labeling for ease of access.

Series 1: General Manuscript Materials

Box # Folder # Description

Box 1 General Manuscript Materials

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Folder 1 | General Correspondence |
| Folder 2 | Invitations / Christmas cards |
| Folder 3 | Mailing Lists |
| Folder 4 | Mailing Lists - Colleges |
| Folder 5 | Mailing Lists |
| Folder 6 | Miscellaneous materials |
| Folder 7 | General note scraps |
| Folder 8 | "A Preliminary list of proposed entries" |
| Folder 9 | National Music Publishers Association |
| Folder 10 | Delois Clemmons Music sheet music and booklet of lyrics/poems |
| Folder 11 | Student Papers |
| Folder 12 | Programs – National Quartet Convention 1986; Gospel Music Workshop of America 1977, 1978; Country Radio Seminar 1979 |
| Folder 13 | Clippings – General Music |

Box 2 Cusic Reviews and Articles – Research materials

| | |
|----------|--|
| Folder 1 | Cusic Reviews and Articles draft copies A-C |
| Folder 2 | Cusic Reviews and Articles draft copies D-H |
| Folder 3 | Cusic Reviews and Articles draft copies I-M |
| Folder 4 | Cusic Reviews and Articles draft copies N-P |
| Folder 5 | Cusic Reviews and Articles draft copies R-Z; misc. |
| Folder 6 | Research materials: Politics |

Box 3 Research materials – Religion [organized by title]

| | |
|----------|---|
| Folder 1 | Research Materials: Religion Jim Bakker |
| Folder 2 | Research Materials: Religion A-C |
| Folder 3 | Research Materials: Religion E-G |
| Folder 4 | Research Materials: Religion H-Pil |
| Folder 5 | Research Materials: Religion Pentecostalism |
| Folder 6 | Research Materials: Religion Powe- Reagan |
| Folder 7 | Research Materials: Religion Pat Robertson |
| Folder 8 | Research Materials: Religion Religion – Who |

Box 4 Research materials – Gospel Music [organized by title]

| | |
|----------|--------------------------------------|
| Folder 1 | Research Materials: Gospel Music A-C |
|----------|--------------------------------------|

- Folder 2 Research Materials: Gospel Music F-H
- Folder 3 Research Materials: Gospel Music L-R
- Folder 4 Research Materials: Gospel Music Jesus Christ Superstar
- Folder 5 Research Materials: Gospel Music S
- Folder 6 Research Materials: Gospel Music Sacred Music of Black Religion by Jon Michael Spencer
- Folder 7 Research Materials: Gospel Music T-W
- Folder 8 Research Materials: Gospel Music Misc. Music Reviews

Box 5 Jimmy Swaggart Ministries

- Folder 1 Research Materials: Jimmy Swaggart
- Folder 2 Jimmy Swaggart Ministries Mailers/Promo Undated-June 1987
- Folder 3 Jimmy Swaggart Ministries Mailers/Promo July 1987-April 1988
- Folder 4 Jimmy Swaggart Ministries Gift Catalogs and "The Evangelist"

Box 6 Country Radio Seminar & Country Music Association

- Folder 1 Country Radio Seminar (CRS) 1979 program
- Folder 2 Country Radio Seminar (CRS) 1985 program
- Folder 3 1982 CMA Listeners Report (Country Music Association)
- Folder 4 CMA Broadcast Handbook and Film Lists
- Folder 5 CMA Radio Stations and Fan Club lists
- Folder 6 CMA Award Programs
1984 program, Country Song Roundup Winter 1985
- Folder 7 A Survey of Country Radio Stations [undated]

Box 7 Serials and Catalogs

- Folder 1 Promotional Materials
- Folder 2 Serials – Misc.
 - Reader 9/19/1986 'Red, Hot, & Blues'
 - NFD Journal March 1984
 - World Evangelical Fellowship 1986 no 5
 - Sojourners Dec 1982
 - Towards Renewal of Church & Society no 18 Su 1979
 - National Entertainment Journalist Society Nov 2, 1985
 - Continental Ministries News & World Report
Nov 1983, Feb 1984
 - Living Sound International Report Vol 1 No 1 1977
 - NGRS Report Vol 1 Iss 4, Vol 2 Iss 1, Vol 2 Iss 3
 - Christian Research Report Special Issue April 1988
- Folder 3 Catalogs
 - Charismatic Renewal Services Winter 1978-79, May 1979
 - Epoch Universal Publications Christmas 1978
 - Credence Cassettes Fall 1984, Spring/Summer 1984
 - Pathway Press [press kit] Catalog 1980
- Folder 4 Oversize GMA Week 1985
- Folder 5 Oversize Cusic Articles

- Record World, Country Music 1973
- Record World Presents, A Special Section, Gospel Music: A Growing Market, 1 October 1977.
- Cashbox 16 April 1983
- Clipped Oversize Cusic Articles
- Folder 5 Saturday Evening Post, Issue on Christianity
- Folder 6 Record World Presents, Gospel Music: A New Decade
- Folder 7 Record World Presents, Gospel '82: Music to Believe In
- Folder 8 Christian Retailing serial, Family Bookstore magazine/catalogs

Series 2: Gospel Music Association (GMA)

Box # Folder # Description

Box 8 Gospel Music Association (GMA)

- Folder 1 GMA Business Binder 1977, 1978
- Folder 2 GMA Business 1977, 1978
- Folder 3 GMA Business 1979
- Folder 4 GMA Business 1980
- Folder 5 GMA Business 1983
- Folder 6 GMA Business 1985
- Folder 7 GMA Business 1987
- Folder 8 GMA Miscellaneous
- Folder 9 GMA Newspaper clippings
- Folder 10 GMA Good News newsletters
- Folder 11 GMA Dove Awards 1978 – 10th Anniversary

Box 9 Gospel Music Association GMA Week

- Folder 1 GMA Week 1981
- Folder 2 GMA Week 1982
- Folder 3 GMA Week 1983
- Folder 4 GMA Week 1984
- Folder 5 GMA Week 1985
- Folder 6 GMA Week 1986
- Folder 7 GMA Week 1987
- Folder 8 GMA Week 1988
- Folder 9 GMA 1977 Directory/Yearbook
- Folder 10 GMA 1978 Directory/Yearbook
- Folder 11 GMA 1979 Directory/Yearbook
- Folder 12 GMA 1981 Directory/Yearbook

Series 3: Sandi Patti

Box # Folder # Description

Box 10 Sandi Patti 1977-1990 [clippings and related research materials]

- Folder 1 1977
- Folder 2 1978
- Folder 3 1979
- Folder 4 1980

| | |
|-----------|-----------|
| Folder 5 | 1981 |
| Folder 6 | 1982 |
| Folder 7 | 1983 |
| Folder 8 | 1984 |
| Folder 9 | 1985 |
| Folder 10 | 1986 |
| Folder 11 | 1986 |
| Folder 12 | 1987 |
| Folder 13 | 1988 |
| Folder 14 | 1989-1990 |

Box 11 Sandi Patti [clippings and related research materials]

| | |
|-----------|---------------------------|
| Folder 1 | no date clippings |
| Folder 2 | Family |
| Folder 3 | Anderson College |
| Folder 4 | Miscellaneous |
| Folder 5 | Notes |
| Folder 6 | Anderson, Indiana |
| Folder 7 | Early Sandi |
| Folder 8 | Star Spangled Banner |
| Folder 9 | Honeymoon |
| Folder 10 | Sandi Patti |
| Folder 11 | Concert - Next To Last |
| Folder 12 | Early Morning Light |
| Folder 13 | Press Kits |
| Folder 14 | Edited Draft - Ch 1 - 14 |
| Folder 15 | Edited Draft - Ch 15 - 31 |
| Folder 16 | Edited Draft - Ch 32 - 42 |

Box 12 Sandi Patti Manuscript

| | |
|----------|-----------------------------|
| Folder 1 | Final Draft Chapter 1 - 13 |
| Folder 2 | Final Draft Chapter 14 - 27 |
| Folder 3 | Final Draft Chapter 28 - 42 |

Series 4: Sound of Light

Box # Folder # Description

Box 13 Sound of Light

| | |
|----------|---|
| Folder 1 | Sound of Light book manuscript |
| | Copy of published book: Cusic, Don. <i>The Sound of Light: A History of Gospel Music</i> . Bowling Green, Ohio: Bowling Green State University Popular Press, 1990. |

Series 5: Photographs

5 boxes of 981 photographic prints of various sizes mostly relating to gospel and Christian music with some relating to country music. Ask archivist for complete list of photographs.

Materials Cataloged Separately:

Per Center policy, certain formats are cataloged separately for accessibility, including commercial and manuscript sound recording materials. [For a complete list of separated materials, please contact the audio curator.]

Location:

All manuscript materials are located in the special collections storage area filed by accession number. Audio/visual materials are located in special collections storage area.

Related Materials:

Special collection press kits, performance documents, trade catalogs, photographs, sound recordings, rare books, and reading room materials related to the subjects of this collection and/or donated by Cusic are also held by the Center and searchable through the CPM website database or MTSU Walker Library catalog.

Oral histories, many of which relate to the subjects of this collection are located in the Center's audio collection, they have been digitized and are located on the internal server under the accession number 91-012, please contact the audio curator or archivist to accesses these recordings.

Note: *[It is unclear since the original processing of this collection where the student papers now located since vertical files and press kits have since been weeded and many press kits were separated by format.]*

Student papers for RIM 462, Merchandising of Recordings, and RIM 481, Topics in Recording Industry Management from Fall 1986 to Summer 1988 are primarily filed in vertical files by subject or performer. Because the press releases document their subjects more than they document Cusic, they are filed by subject in the vertical files.

Processed June 1991, Updated LPC August 2003.

Reprocessed and updated Olivia Beaudry, CA May 2022.