



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

JAMES C. FREE COLLECTION

21-006; 22-026

Creator:

Free, James C. (January 17, 1947 -)

Type of Material:

Manuscript Materials, programs, invitations, passes, photographs, commercial audio/visual materials.

Physical Description:

2.8 linear foot of manuscript material, manuscript papers, programs, passes, invitations, photographs, and commercial audio/visual material including:

.2 linear foot of audio/visual materials including

1 VHS tapes

15 DVDs

14 commercial CDs

Languages:

English

Dates:

1987-2022, bulk 2000-2018

Abstract (Descriptive Summary):

The collection consists of manuscript papers, programs, passes, invitations, photographs, and commercial audio/visual material relating to James Free's work and philanthropy in and around the music industry. The materials were collected and created by James Free from about 1987 to 2022.

Repository:

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

Access/Restrictions:

The collection is open for research use. *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), James C. Free Collection 21-006, Center for Popular Music, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Provenance and Acquisition Information:

This collection was donated to the Center for Popular in person from James Free on August 6, 2021, a second smaller amount was mailed to the Center on October 18, 2012 and a third on November 28, 2022. Free collected and generated these materials throughout many years of working with and around the music industry.

Subjects/Index Terms:

Country Music Association (US) (CMA)
CMA Awards
Kennedy Center Honors
Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song
Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Inductions
Broadcast Music Inc. (BMI)

Agency History/Biographical Sketch:

James "Jim" Free was born January 17, 1947 in Columbia, TN. James C. Free attended Middle Tennessee State University where he received a bachelor's degree in Economics (1969) and a master's degree in Public Administration (1972).

Free served in the Tennessee office of Governor Ned McWherter and Tennessee House of Representatives. In 1976, Free worked on Jimmy Carter's presidential campaign as southern regional coordinator. After Carter's election to the presidency, Free served as a special assistant to the president for Congressional Affairs and supported President Carter's programs before Congress.

In 1995, Free co-founded the Smith-Free Group, a bipartisan government affairs firm. Previously he was vice-chair of Walker-Free Associates. He represented American businesses in areas of entertainment, communications, and intellectual property, among others.

Free has served on the Board of the Country Music Association and the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum. He and his wife, Ann, are generous supporters of the arts and humanities including The Kennedy Center, the Nashville Public Library, and many others.

Scope and Content:

This collection is comprised of 3 linear feet of materials. The materials relate to James Free's work and philanthropy in and around the music industry, mostly in Washington, DC and Nashville, TN. Free collected manuscript papers, programs, passes, invitations, photographs, and commercial audio/visual material relating to his work, especially the

Country Music Association and The Kennedy Center. The bulk of this collection are programs, invitations and passes to events related to these institutions.

Arrangement:

There was little to no original arrangement, archivist created organization order for ease of access and preservation.

Collection Contents (Box/Folder List):

Box # Folder # Title / Description

Box 1 CMA Award Programs
1991 – 25th Annual Award Show
1998 – 32nd Annual Award Show
2000 – 34th Annual Award Show
2001 – 35th Annual Award Show
2002 – 36th Annual Award Show
2003 – 37th Annual Award Show
2005 – 39th Annual Award Show
2006 – 40th Annual Award Show
2007 – 41st Annual Award Show
2008 – 42nd Annual Award Show
2009 - 43rd Annual Award Show
2010 – 44th Annual Award Show
2011 – 45th Annual Award Show
2012 – 46th Annual Award Show
2017 – 51st Annual Award Show

Box 2 Kennedy Center Honors and Gershwin Prize Programs

Kennedy Center Honors Programs
2011, 2012; 2015 – 2019

Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song

2013 – Carole King
2014 – Billy Joel
2016 – Smokey Robinson
2017 – Tony Bennett
2019 – Emilio & Gloria Estefan
2020 – Garth Brooks

Box 3 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Programs, GRAMMYs & other programs

Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Programs

1990 – 5th
1993 – 8th
1994 – 9th
1995 – 10th

1997 – 12th

The GRAMMYs
1991 – 33rd

Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz 1997 Jazz Gala Celebration
65th Academy Awards – Oscars - 1993
Centennial Olympic Games program – Atlanta 1996

- Box 4** Programs, tickets, and manuscript materials
- Folder 1 Kennedy Center Honors Invitations & Tickets
 - Folder 2 Invitations: Gershwin Prize for Popular Music 2012-2014
 - Folder 3 Invitations: Gershwin Prize of Popular Song 2015-2020
 - Folder 4 Programs: Christmas in Washington 2009
 - Folder 5 Programs: BMI Country Awards
 - Folder 6 Programs: CMA Songwriters Series
 - Folder 7 CMA Awards Tickets – Program guide
 - Folder 8 Programs: Country Music Hall of Fame Induction and invite 2022
 - Folder 9 Programs: ASCAP “We Write Songs” 2013-2014; 2017-2018
 - Folder 10 Programs & Invitations misc
 - Folder 11 Concerts from the Library of Congress on Radio correspondence
 - Folder 12 2019 CMA/BIM Nashville travel itinerary
 - Folder 13 Orrin Hatch music – correspondence and tape
 - Folder 14 Photographs
 - Folder 15 Clippings
- Box 5** Passes & artifacts
- Folder 1 2008 42nd CMA Awards – Guest CMA Board backstage lanyard
 - Folder 2 2011 45th CMA Awards – James Free and Guest backstage lanyard
 - Folder 3 2013 – 47th CMA Awards James Free All Access, Guest All Access lanyard
 - Folder 4 2013 CMA Songwriters Series All Access lanyard
 - Folder 5 2014 – 48th CMA Awards Jim Free, Guest All Access lanyard
 - Folder 6 2019 Middleburg Film Festival Special Guest lanyard
 - Folder 7 2019 – 53rd CMA Awards Jim Free Guest lanyard
 - Folder 8 Park City Ski Area Jim Free BMI
 - Sub box CMA Awards apple paperweight – New York 2005
- Box 6** Audio visual materials
- 46th CMA Awards DVD
 - 47th CMA Awards DVD
 - 48th CMA Awards DVD
 - 50th CMA Awards DVD
 - 51st CMA Awards DVD
 - 2010 CMA Music Festival DVD
 - 2012 CMA Music Festival DVD

2013 CMA Music Festival DVD
2015 CMA Music Festival DVD
2011 CMA Country Christmas DVD
2012 CMA Country Christmas DVD
2017 CMA Country Christmas DVD
November 3, 2014 Countdown to the CMA Awards with Robin Roberts
November 16, 2011 Country Music Association at the Library of Congress
39th CMA Awards Music by Nominated Artists CD
40th CMA Awards Music by Nominated Artists CD
35th CMA Awards Music by Nominated Artists CD
36th CMA Awards Music by Nominated Artists CD
38th CMA Awards Music by Nominated Artists CD
CMA 40th Anniversary: A Celebration VHS
2007 BMI Film & TV Music Awards DVD
ASCAP Presents Holiday CD
The Blues Foundation Presents W.C. Handy Nominees Vol 1 CD
1996 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Dinner CD
1997 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Dinner CD
1998 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Dinner CD
2000 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Dinner CD
A Very Special Christmas 1992 Special Olympics CD
A Very Special Christmas 2 19992 Special Olympics CD
Roy Orbison Black & White Night CD/DVD set Legacy 88985404832

Box 7 Oversize materials

Hollywood Reporter Sep 16, 2011
Song of the Century Official Ballot
Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum Souvenir book 1995
Proclamation certificate naming June 19, 1988 as first date of Tennessee Film,
Entertainment and Music Commission Meeting by Knox County Executive Dwight
Kessell
Framed Elvis Stamp from Shreveport LA 1993 – commemorative stamp release
Framed photograph of James Free with Barry Manilow
Framed two photographs 1999 The Vinny Pro-Celebrity Invitational [Golf
Tournament]
Foam-core plaque NSAI honor for Jim Free for “ I Fought the Law, and The Law
Won” 2016
Framed certificate from Tennessee State Capitol [Governor Ned McWherter]
commissioning James C. Free to the Tennessee Film, Entertainment and Music
Commission 1987
Framed Gold Record plaque Honorary Award from RIAA to Jim Free “For living
18,250 days and for keeping the world save for sex, drugs, rock ‘n’ roll, the
copyright law and everything else that matters” 1997.

Map Drawer Oversize items

Barbara Streisand cardboard cup out

Ken Burns Country Music documentary poster

Materials Cataloged Separately:

Commercial sound recordings [compact discs] donated with this collection have been cataloged separately and can be found in the catalog by accession number.

Location:

These materials are located in the manuscripts section of the archival stacks, filed chronologically by accession number.

Related Materials:

Other related materials in the Center collections include photographs of some of the CMA related events in the Alan L. Mayor Collection. Other programs of music related events, vertical files and reading room books are searchable in the CPM catalog.

James C. Free also donated collections to the Albert Gore Research Center, James E. Walker Library and the College of Media and Entertainment on the campus of Middle Tennessee State University.

Collection processed and finding aid written by Olivia Beaudry, CA January 2023.