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

TRAVIS STIMELING COLLECTION **19-028**

Creator:
Stimeling, Travis D. (April 7, 1980 - November 14, 2023)

Type of Material:
Digital Audio Recordings, Digital Manuscript Transcripts

Physical Description:
24 digital Microsoft Documents (1.173 MB) and 27 digital Waveform audio files (10.5715 GB).

Dates:
July 2014- June 2017

ACCESS AND RESTRICTIONS:
This collection is open for research use. Materials are open for in-house access. Please contact the Center Archivist for questions about off-site access. 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.

Provenance and Acquisition Information:
This collection was donated to the Center by Travis D. Stimeling in March 2020. This collection was acquired digitally through DropBox.

Arrangement:
This collection is organized alphabetically by interviewee's first name, then sub-foldered into audio files and transcripts.

Subject/Index Terms:
Stimeling, Travis D.
Nashville Sound
Nashville Cats
Nashville A Team
Oral History

Agency History/Biographical Sketch:

Travis Stimeling received their B.A. at West Virginia Wesleyan College, their M.M. in Music History at West Virginia University, and finally, Ph.D. in Musicology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Stimeling served as an assistant professor at Millikin University and, at their passing, associate professor of musicology and director of West Virginia University Bluegrass and Old-Time Bands. Stimeling additionally served as the Senior Editor for *The Grove Dictionary of American Music* (2013), is a book review editor for the *Journal of the Society for American Music*, served as a series editor for West Virginia Press's "Sounding Appalachia" series, and was on the board of the West Virginia Music Hall of Fame. Their research focuses on commercial country, Appalachian traditional music, and music history pedagogy, authoring books such as, *Songwriting in Contemporary West Virginia: Profiles and Reflections* (2018), *Fifty Cents and a Box Top: The Creating Life of Nashville Session Musician Charlie McCoy* (2017), *The Oxford Handbook of Country Music* (2017), *The Country Music Reader* (2015), and *Cosmic Cowboys and New Hicks: The Countercultural Sounds of Austin's Progressive Country Music Scene* (2011).

Their most recent book, *Nashville Cats: Record Production in Nashville, 1945-1975* (2020) was supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the WVU Faculty Senate, the West Virginia Humanities Council, and the Case Western Reserve University Center for Popular Music Studies. This book was inspired by their desire to understand how records were made during the Nashville Sound era from the perspectives of the musicians who made them and reveal the stories that were still waiting to be told. They began conducting interviews with many of the people who were in the studio during the Nashville Sound era, learning about the ways they developed their craft, their attitudes about music and their roles in it, and the lives they led outside the studio. As the project unfolded, they were surprised to find that their training in classical music and jazz were almost as important as their knowledge of country music, because so many of those they interviewed had similar training. They believe it's one of the things that makes the book stand out: the way they shows how complex these musicians' musical backgrounds were. Stimeling had been a country music fan for most of their life, and they have always had an interest in the people who are behind the scenes. They would read the liner notes and see who played what, or what studios were used for different albums. They were always intrigued by all the connections between session musicians, songwriters, and producers.

Scope and Content:

This collection consists of Stimeling's digital audio recordings and transcripts of interviews related to the book, *Nashville Cats: Record Production in Music City* (Oxford University Press, 2020). These original interviews are between Stimeling and the musicians or relatives of musicians who played a significant role in establishing "the Nashville Sound."

Collections Contents (Folder/Folder/List):

Digital Folder #	Description
Digital	**Interviews and Digital Transcripts**
STIME-001	Bergen White interview (telephone 9.5.2014).wav Bergen White interview transcript.docx
STIME-002	Bill McElhiney, Jr. interview (telephone 8.7.2014).wav

Bill McElhiney, Jr. interview transcript.docx

STIME-003 Buddy Spicher interview (Nashville TN 7.29.2014).wav
Buddy Spicher interview transcript (draft).docx

STIME-004 Byron T. (Ted) Bach, Jr. interview (telephone 8.29.2014).wav [2 copies]
Byron T. (Ted) Bach, Jr. interview transcript (draft).docx [2 copies]

STIME-005 Carole Ann Bach interview (telephone 8.29.2014).wav
Carole Ann Bach interview transcript (final).docx

STIME-006 Cathy B(ach) Guenther interview (telephone 9.26.2014).wav
Cathy B(ach) Guenther interview transcript (final).docx

STIME-007 Charlie McCoy interview (Nashville TN 7.30.2014).wav
Charlie McCoy interview transcript (draft).docx

STIME-008 Gary Robble interview (Nashville TN 5.23.2017).wav
Gary Robble interview transcript.docx

STIME-009 Harold Bradley interview (Nashville TN 8.1.2014).wav
Harold Bradley interview transcript (draft).docx

STIME-010 Justin Croft interview (Nashville TN 5.26.2017).wav
Justin Croft interview transcript.docx

STIME-011 Kent Blanton interview (telephone 9.8.2014).wav
Kent Blanton interview transcript.docx

STIME-012 Leonard Morton-Fletcher Moon interview (Nashville TN 5.18.15).wav [2 copies]
Leonard Morton-Fletcher Moon interview transcript.docx

STIME-013 Pat McCoy interview (Nashville TN 5.28.2017).wav
Interview with Pat McCoy –Complete.docx [transcript]

STIME-014 Ray and Polly Edenton interview (Gallatin TN 8.3.2014).wav
Ray and Polly Edenton interview transcript (final).docx

STIME-015 Ray Stevens interview (telephone 12.17.2014).wav [2 copies]
Ray Stevens interview transcript.docx

STIME-016 Ronnie Dean interview (telephone 8.21.2014).wav
Ronnie Dean interview transcript.docx

STIME-017 Rose Drake and Fred Cannon interview (Murfreesboro TN 5.29.2017).wav [2 copies]
Rose Drake and Fred Cannon interview transcript.docx

STIME-018 Solie Fott interview (telephone 2.10.2016).wav [3 copies]
Solie Fott interview transcript.docx [2 copies]

STIME-019 Suzi Burgher Payne interview (telephone 2.3.2015).wav [2 copies]
Suzi Burgher Payne interview transcript.docx [2 copies]

STIME-020 Wayne Moss interview (Madison TN 6.2.2017).wav
Wayne Moss interview transcript.docx

Location:
These digital files are located in the CPM server (CPM_DC>>Digital Collections>>Travis Stimeling 19-028)

Related Materials:
Other related materials in the CPM collection include Music Row Collection (16-052), Sonny James Collection (18-026), Charles K. Wolfe Audio Collection (05-023), and CPM Programs: An Evening with Charlie McCoy. The Center holds other material such as sound recordings, books, and serials related to country music in Nashville, TN, and Music Row.

West Virginia University's *West Virginia and Regional History Center* also houses a collection created by Stimeling entitled "Travis Stimeling, Music Professor, West Virginia Song Writer Oral Histories." This collection consists of oral history interviews with West Virginia songwriters, including audio and transcripts of the interviews, used in Stimeling's book *Songwriting in Contemporary West Virginia* (West Virginia University Press, 2018).

Processed by Sarah F. Robles, January 2021-May 2021. Updated by Rachel K. Morris, June 2021. Updated by Olivia M. Beaudry, November 2023. November 2026.