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SPILLER, Isabele Taliaferro

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ISABELE TALIAFERRO SPILLER

Collection 93-1 to 93-7

Prepared by Denise Harbin
June 1980

Revised by Greta S. Wilson
January 1981

Scope Note

The Isabele Taliaferro Spiller collection consists of a combination

of manuscript material of Isabele Spiller, Director of the Spiller School

of Music, New York City, and her husband, William N. Spiller, founder of

the school.

The collection contains biographical material on the Taliaferro and

Spiller families, correspondence, photographs, organizational material,

and a large volume of material relating to the Spiller School of Music

and the Musical Spillers.

The Musical Spillers were a unique musical group organized by William

N. and Isabele T. Spiller in 1906 in Chicago, Illinois. The group performed

all over the United States, Europe, South America and Africa. There are

broadsides, playbills, programs, clippings, and photographs publicizing

the exciting musical career of these famous black musicians during the

years 1906-1940. There are also a number of individual profiles of

members of the group.

Mrs. Spiller provides her own personal notes and reminiscences to

many of the materials, particularly the photographs, giving an added

dimension to this collection. Her holographic notes are either attached

on important to or written directly on the materials, and they focus
Federal Music periods in her life such as her involvements with the

- 2 -

School, and the Spiller Project, the Harlem Evening School, Wadleigh High

School of Music.

installments from Mrs. Spiller The acquisition of this collection was in

linear feet. from 1952-1960. The collection size is approximately 3

Biographical Sketch

<p>1888 March 18 Taliaferro and Taliaferro, Abington, Va.</p> <p>1894 Philadelphia; taught to play parents. Conservatory of Music. professionals including Carl Charlton, Boston Symphony.</p> <p>1906-1926 of the Musical along with co-organizer and Spiller.</p> <p>1926 School in New York City,</p> <p>1929 Band; Brooklyn, N.Y. Y.W.C.A., New York.</p> <p>1934-39 Project, New York City.</p> <p>1936-37 Wawayanda, New York.</p> <p>1938 Hill Center, N.Y.C.</p> <p>1938 music.</p> <p>1939 World's Fair.</p>	<p>Bona to Josephine Benjamin Outlaw Rev. Granville, L.A.</p> <p>Moved with parents to all instruments by Educated at New England Studied with numerous Gardiner and Melville</p> <p>One of the organizers and members Spillers in Chicago husband William N.</p> <p>Organized Musical Spiller</p> <p>Conductor of Excelsior Temple</p> <p>Director of Ashland Place</p> <p>Supervisor of Federal Music</p> <p>Consultant, Breeze Bill School</p> <p>Music supervisor in Columbus</p> <p>Supervised the instrumental Program for the New York</p>
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Fair, supervised for musical
Hospital, New York City.

1938-1940
Y.M.C.A. ;

1942
High School which was
school for Girls in New York City.

1944 Sept. 2

1948 Nov. 5

1952-58
High School, New York

Following the World's
therapy at Bellvue

Orchestra Director, Moorland Branch
Plainsfield, New Jersey.

Member Music Dept. Wadleigh
the 1st. academic high

William N. Spiller died.

Elected to Honor Society, "Arista",

Music Director, Harlem Evening
City.

Series Description

Series A	Isabele Taliaferro Stiller
93-1 Taliaferro family, documents and	Biographical material on the correspondence, photographs,
to	materials related to Isabele T.
93-2 Spiller's organi-	zational involvements.
Series B	William N. Spiller
Box 93-2 photographs of William N. Isabele T. Spiller and founder	Biographical data and Spiller, husband of of the Musical Spillers.
Series C	The Musical Spillers
Box 93-2 contract, correspondence, to newspaper clippings, 93-3 of individual members	The Musical Spiller's programs, publicity items, sheet music and photographs of the group.
Series D	The Spiller School of Music
Box 93-3 photographs of teachers to specific programs	Business cards, programs, and students, documenting presented by the school.
93-4	
Series E	Photographs
Box 93-4 William N. Spiller and to to 1937, Mrs. Isabele 93-5 students.	Oversized Photographs of the Musical Spillers from 1908 T. Spiller and many of her
Series F	Restricted Items

Box 93-6
broad­sides and to
Spillers. Photo-
interfiled in Item 93-7

NOT CIRCULATE

Fragile items, primarily
playbills of the Musical
copies of these items are
the collection. FRAGILE - DO

Container List

	A	Isabele Taliaferro Spiller	
Box 93-1			Taliaferro Family
family biographies			1 Taliaferro
Correspondence, General			
Taliaferro Spiller -			2 Isabele
Correspondence, 1930, 1941			
Isabele Taliaferro Spiller			3 Photographs Photograph,
Organizational Affiliations			
Hill, Wawayanda, N.Y.			4 Coop Breeze
Temple Band - Photograph			5 Excelsior
Project - Correspond-			6 Federal Music
Project - notes by			7 Federal Music
Spiller(holographs)			Isabele
Project - Photographs -			8 Federal Music
Music Project - Photographs-			9 Federal 1934,1939
Project - Programs			10 Federal Music 1938
Project - Y.W.C.A.			11 Federal Music
High School - Clippings			12 Harlem Evening
High School - Programs			13 Harlem Evening
High School -			14 Harlem Evening
Publications			

High School -	15	Harlem Evening
Photographs		
Orchestra	16	Polish
Settlement	17	Union
Conference, Moorland Branch,	18	Y.M.C.A.
		N.J.
Box 93-2	19	Y.M.C.A. Ashland
Place		
Raid Warden - Isabele	20	Volunteer Air
Spiller		T.
School - Clippings	21	Wadleigh High
School - Correspondence	22	Wadleigh High
School - Notes by	23	Wadleigh High
T. Spiller		Isabele
School - Programs	24	Wadleigh High
School - Publication -	25	Wadleigh High
Wadleigh Owl, 1947		The

A Isabele Taliaferro Spiller cont'd

Organizational

Affiliations
 Box 93-2
 Photographs,

26 Wadleigh High School -
 1946

B William N. Spiller

biographical
 photographs
 notes)

27 William N. Spiller -
 data
 28 William N. Spiller -
 (with explanatory

C The Musical Spillers

contract

29 The Musical Spillers'
 30 Correspondence
 31 Bennett, Walter (Jock)
 32 Boco, Abson
 33 Lewis, Willie
 34 Taylor, George (Fake)
 35 Hackley, E. Azalia
 36 Cook, Will Marion
 37 Scrapbook of newspaper

clippings
 Spillers, 1906-
 Originals in
 93-6)

on the Musical
 1911 (Xeroxes Only,

only;

38 Publicity, 1907
 39 Publicity, 1911 (Xeroxes
 originals in Box

93-6)

only;

40 Publicity, 1912 (Xeroxes
 originals in Box

93-6)

Box 93-3
 London,

41 Publicity - Musical Spillers,
 Alhambra Theatre,

only;

England, 1912 (Xerox

6)

-1920

only;

93-6)

(Xeroxes only;

93-7)

n.d.

Weldon

Rosamond -

and Sing"

Scott -

originals in

original in Box 93-

42 Publicity, 1913

43 Publicity - "Peek-A-Boo"

44 Publicity, 1921 (Xeroxes

originals in Box

45 Publicity, 1926

46 Publicity, 1930

47 Publicity, 1940

originals in Box

48 Publicity "Giggles",

49 Programs Johnson, James

and Johnson, J.

"Lift Every Voice

50 Programs - various

51 Sheet Music - Joplin,

(Xerox only;

Box 93-6)

D The Spiller School of Music

<p>Box 93-3</p> <p>Spiller School Extension Center - Spiller Music Extension</p> <p>Box 93-4 Spillers</p> <p>Bessie Taliaferro, the Spiller School Teachers, Harold Bessie Taliaferro Bennett, William Spiller School of Music Brisbane, Thomas Spiller School of Music Duke, Fred Spiller School of Music Edwards, Dicky Spiller School of Music Holder, Louise Spiller School of Music Programs - Hudson, York Music Week</p>	<p>52 Business cards 53 Programs 54 Beulah Church - of Music 55 Columbus Hill School of 56 Photograph - Musical School 57 Photograph - Teacher in of Music 58 Photograph - Rogers and 59 Photograph - Student, 60 Photograph - Student, 61 Photograph - Student; 62 Photograph - Student, 63 Photograph - Student, 64 Photographs, Lawrence 65 Photographs - New Contest</p>
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Music Education League
National Association of
Musicians, Inc. 53rd.
Celebration

66 Photographs -
67 Program -
Negro
Anniversary

E Photographs

Box 93-5
Isabele
Spiller, Teacher 1930

68 Drum & Bugle Corps -
Taliaferro

Bugle Corps -
Taliaferro Spiller -

69 Concord Drum &
Isabele
Teacher 1930

Brooklyn Scout Troop,
Bugle

70 Concord Church,
1929 - Drum &

[Quintet]

71 Cal[vin] Bateman

Jean Bedini to have
of each show taken
of the season circa 1941
Spiller, circa 1924

72 The Custom of
the picture
at the end

73 Ten Musical
(2 copies)

E Photographs cont'd

Box 93-5	74	Spiller & His	
Level Jazz Band &			
Entertainers at the Every			circa
1908			
Musical Spillers	75	Seven	
copies) 1921			(2
Musical Spillers - Clever	76	Six	
Entertainers at the Every			circa
1908			
Musical Spillers	77	Six	
Voyage Dinner given by Norma &	78	Bon	
Constance Tamadge to their			
friends - Castle Cove -			Aug. 7,
1920			
Musical Spiller	79	Six	
Spillers - Dancing Circus,	80	Five	
Man Band			One
Spillers "This Act Was	81	Musical	
to Europe About 1930"			Taken
Spiller & the Rellips	82	Musical	
Sisters (Spiller spelled backwards)			
Rellips	83	Sisters	
Spillers - 1930-1937	84	Musical	
School Contest Pupils	85	Spiller	
			1933
Spillers	86	Six Musical	
