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**Guide to the Oscar Brown Jr. Papers
DCAAP.0064**

**Moorland-Spingarn Research Center,
Howard University Collection Number 254**

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December 09, 2016

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

DC Africana Archives Project
Gelman Library
Special Collections, Suite 704
2130 H Street NW
Washington DC, 20052

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|---|
| <u>Summary Information</u> | 3 |
| <u>Biographical/Historical note</u> | 4 |
| <u>Scope and Contents note</u> | 4 |
| <u>Arrangement note</u> | 4 |
| <u>Administrative Information</u> | 5 |
| <u>Collection Inventory</u> | 6 |

Summary Information

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Repository | DC Africana Archives Project |
| Title | Oscar Brown Jr. Papers |
| Date | 1936-1996 |
| Extent | 16.25 Cubic feet |
| Location note | This collection is part of the holdings of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center at Howard University, 500 Howard Place, NW, Washington, DC 20059. Please contact them for information on accessing these materials. |
| Language | English |
| Abstract | Oscar Brown Jr. was a singer, songwriter, playwright, poet, civil rights activist, and actor. Files include correspondence (both personal and professional), writings by Brown as well as writings about Brown, photographs, contracts, business and finance files, scrapbooks, clippings, poems, and recordings, including reel-to-reel tapes. |

Biographical/Historical note

Oscar Brown, Jr. was born in Chicago, Illinois to Helen and Oscar C. Brown Sr. Brown and was raised in both the Episcopal and Baptist traditions. Brown attended Willard Elementary School and Englewood High School. Attracted to radio broadcasting, Brown became involved in children's radio programs at an early age. In high school, Brown worked on the radio show, "Secret City," making a significant amount of money for a young black teenager in Chicago. In an effort to please the desires of his father, a lawyer and activist, Brown enrolled in several universities, but realized he wanted to pursue creative writing, broadcasting and the arts. In addition to returning to radio, Brown became an activist in Chicago. He turned his attention back to the arts and performance, signing with Columbia Records in 1960. His first album, "Sin and Soul," was released to critical acclaim, and in 1961 he made his debut at the Village Vanguard in New York and presented excerpts from "Kicks & Co.," a musical for which he wrote the book, music and lyrics. Brown reached Broadway in 1969 when Muhammad Ali starred in "Buck White," his musical adaptation of "Big Time Buck White," Joseph Dolan Tuotti's play about a black militant leader. In the 1970s, Brown served as artist-in-residence at Howard University, as well as at other institutions. While at Howard University, he directed his productions at the school. Brown wrote and debuted "Slave Song," in Washington, D.C. which was underwritten by Howard University. By 1975, Brown had recorded 10 albums and composed over 1000 songs. After an absence of 20 years, Brown again released albums in the 1990s including "Then and Now," and "Sin and Soul...and Then Some." Brown passed away on May 29, 2005.

Scope and Contents note

The Oscar Brown Jr. papers document his life and work. Files include correspondence (both personal and professional), writings by Brown as well as writings about Brown, photographs, contracts, business and finance files, scrapbooks, clippings, poems, and recordings, including reel-to-reel tapes.

Arrangement note

This collection is arranged alphabetically by folder title.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

DC Africana Archives Project

Conditions Governing Access note

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use note

Some material may be copyrighted or restricted. It is the patron's obligation to determine and satisfy copyright or other case restrictions when publishing or otherwise distributing materials found in the collections.

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Gift of Oscar Brown Jr., 1985 and 1987.

Collection Inventory

| | Box | Folder |
|---|------------|---------------|
| 49th State Compass 1936 | 7 | 64 |
| 49th State Compass 1936 | 10 | 10 |
| 855 Drexel Condos 1984-1988 | 12 | 21 |
| A Merry-Go-Minstrel Show 1977 | 9 | 20 |
| A Step Toward Freedom undated | 8 | 36 |
| A Stone Thing undated | 12 | 36 |
| A Year 1974 | 9 | 22 |
| Advertising undated | 10 | 12 |
| Advertising and Promotional Expenses 1966 | 9 | 11 |
| Advertising Posters undated | 13 | 20 |
| Advertising Receipts 1977 | 7 | 12 |
| Advertsing 1945-1955 | 8 | 7 |

| | | |
|---|----|----|
| Afro Blue undated | 8 | 33 |
| Afro Blue undated | 9 | 5 |
| Agreements 1967 | 1 | 84 |
| Air Freight 1964-1966 | 4 | 7 |
| Airlines/Travel 1989 | 12 | 4 |
| Alley Theatre Benefit Committee 1967 | 8 | 34 |
| Alley Theatre Workshop Proposal 1967 | 1 | 13 |
| Allied Electronics Corporation 1967 | 10 | 17 |
| Amalgamated Publishers,Inc. 1990 | 12 | 27 |
| American Civil Liberties Union 1967 | 1 | 33 |
| American Federation of Musicians 1962-1963 | 12 | 18 |
| American Federation of Television and Radio Artists 1962-1967 | 10 | 23 |
| American Federation of Television and Radio Artists 1989-1990 | 11 | 9 |
| American Guild of Variety Artistis 1967 | 10 | 27 |

| | | |
|---|----|----|
| American Guild of Variety Artists 1967 | 1 | 53 |
| Answered Fan Mail Letters 1966 | 3 | 7 |
| Appraisal Report - Valuation Analysis 1984 | 11 | 8 |
| Articles undated | 11 | 2 |
| Attendance Promotion (B.F. Maize) undated | 1 | 8 |
| Attorney Bill Wood 1966 | 1 | 35 |
| Auditions of Oscar Brown, Jr. undated | 3 | 45 |
| Automobile Payments 1967 | 1 | 42 |
| Aznavour, Charles - Plays, Poems and Songs 1962 | 1 | 44 |
| Backers Audition undated | 7 | 7 |
| Bank Deposit Slips 1967 | 1 | 27 |
| Bank Statements, Medical History, Bills 1960s-80s | 3 | 39 |
| Barnett's Sports Inc. undated | 7 | 1 |
| The Beat undated | 8 | 22 |

| | | |
|--|----|----|
| Becker and London 1961-1963 | 4 | 51 |
| Becker and London 1962 | 12 | 8 |
| Becker&London 1961-1966 | 1 | 17 |
| Benefits 1967 | 6 | 51 |
| Benefits Done 1967 | 1 | 60 |
| Bills 1988-1989 | 12 | 20 |
| Bills 1977 | 4 | 57 |
| Bills-Deductible 1966 | 1 | 43 |
| Biographical 1966 | 12 | 31 |
| Biography undated | 6 | 3 |
| Black Stars 1975 | 9 | 24 |
| Black Student Alliance of Frostburg State College Appreciation Citation 1981 | 7 | 65 |
| Black Student Union Confirmation Letters 1968 | 3 | 30 |

| | | |
|--|----|----|
| Blackstone Castle undated | 8 | 42 |
| The Blackstone Rangers Inc. undated | 8 | 21 |
| Book Report 1951-1953 | 8 | 20 |
| Bookeeping 1966-1967 | 1 | 62 |
| Bookstrap Operation undated | 4 | 4 |
| Bowlful of Blues Artist Pass - Ojai California undated | 5 | 37 |
| Box Office Reports 1976-1977 | 7 | 20 |
| Box Office Statement and Checks 1966 | 1 | 48 |
| Box Office Statements Meadow Club 1966-1967 | 1 | 14 |
| Branton, Leo Jr. 1964-1967 | 4 | 64 |
| Brewster Place 1990 | 12 | 7 |
| Bright Moments - News Paper 1986 | 6 | 55 |
| Broadcast Music, Inc. 1965-1968 | 1 | 41 |
| Broadcast Music, Inc. 1971 | 7 | 16 |

| | | |
|---|----|----|
| Broadcast Music, Inc. 1980-1986 | 7 | 17 |
| Broadcast Music, Inc. 1977 | 7 | 21 |
| Brody, Bernard S. 1967 | 4 | 63 |
| Brown, Joan 1967 | 4 | 58 |
| Brown, Oscar Jr. 1967 | 1 | 12 |
| Browns 1967 | 6 | 40 |
| Bryden Music, Inc. 1959 | 4 | 19 |
| "Buck White" 1971 | 7 | 25 |
| Buck White undated | 9 | 27 |
| Buck White 1969 | 8 | 26 |
| Buck White Theatre Company 1970-1971 | 4 | 8 |
| Burrell Advertising, Inc. 1989-1990 | 12 | 16 |
| Business Envelope Manufacturers undated | 1 | 6 |
| Business Letters 1965-67 | 3 | 12 |

| | | |
|---|----|----|
| By a Thread 1983 | 10 | 11 |
| “By a Thread” Autobiography Performance 1983 | 12 | 34 |
| Cafe Au Go Go 1967 | 1 | 19 |
| Cafe Au Go Go 1967 | 4 | 41 |
| Cancelled Checks 1977 | 6 | 19 |
| Cash Statement Book 1966 | 1 | 68 |
| CBS Earnings Statements 1960s-80s | 3 | 34 |
| The Central City Citizens Committee 1967 | 10 | 18 |
| Certificate of Appreciation - Black Activities Group Aug. 9, 1975 | 2 | 5 |
| Certificates 1926-1983 | 8 | 4 |
| Cetificates 1976-1982 | 10 | 16 |
| Check Stubs 1966 | 1 | 51 |
| Checkmate 1967 | 4 | 26 |
| Checks 1977 | 7 | 19 |

| | | |
|--|---|----|
| Checks 1970-1971 | 7 | 33 |
| Checks and Receipts 1967 | 1 | 38 |
| Chicago 1970-1985 | 8 | 11 |
| Chicago Compressed Gas Company 1971 | 7 | 27 |
| Chicago Debts 1967 | 6 | 50 |
| Chicago Federatio of Musicians 1963-1964 | 4 | 50 |
| Chicago Public Schools - Division of Music 1966-1967 | 4 | 12 |
| Chicago State University Documents 1980s | 3 | 44 |
| Chicago Tribune - Heritage Relived Thru Music 1967 | 4 | 55 |
| Children's Televison Workshop 1975 | 8 | 5 |
| Chuck Rice Advertising 1971 | 7 | 18 |
| Columbia Records 1959-1960 | 4 | 6 |
| Columbia Records - Promotional Record Orders 1962-1967 | 6 | 49 |
| Commercials - Country Club Pearl Brewing Company 1965 | 7 | 4 |

| | | |
|---|----|----|
| Complementary 1966 | 1 | 28 |
| Confirmation Letter 1966 | 1 | 10 |
| Confirmation of Engagement 1967 | 1 | 32 |
| Conic Major 1967 | 7 | 30 |
| Contacts undated | 10 | 26 |
| Contract - " One Foot in the Gutter" 1963 | 1 | 78 |
| Contract - Blackwell, Robert A. - Westwood Artists 1963 | 1 | 80 |
| Contract - CBS Christmas Show 1966 | 1 | 72 |
| Contract - Chicago Federation of Musicians 1966 | 4 | 23 |
| Contract - Enterprise Music Corporation 1960 | 4 | 18 |
| Contract - International Ballroom 1967 | 1 | 83 |
| Contracts 1961-1987 | 1 | 69 |
| Contracts 1956-1988 | 8 | 12 |
| Contracts 1951-1989 | 12 | 14 |

| | | |
|---|---|----|
| Contracts 1984 | 4 | 71 |
| Contracts - "In de Beginnin'" 1977 | 1 | 77 |
| Contracts - "Summer In The City" 1966-1967 | 1 | 74 |
| Contracts - General Artists Corporation 1962-1963 | 1 | 76 |
| Contracts - Harold Productions 1966 | 1 | 73 |
| Contracts - Musician 1962-1963 | 1 | 75 |
| Contracts and Proposals 1984 | 6 | 18 |
| Contracts for Theatre Parties 1970-1971 | 4 | 16 |
| Contracts Musicians Union 1966-1988 | 1 | 71 |
| Copyright Office undated | 1 | 64 |
| Correspondence 1966-1980 | 9 | 19 |
| Correspondence - 1966 Only 1966 | 3 | 11 |
| Correspondence - Becker & London (Finances) 1962-67 | 3 | 14 |

| | | |
|--|---|----|
| Correspondence - Coordinating Council of Community Organizations Dec. 1966 | 3 | 1 |
| Correspondence - Everett Tretbar 1964 | 3 | 27 |
| Correspondence - Maggie Small, Secretary 1967 | 3 | 10 |
| Correspondence - Music, Arts, Creations, Inc. 1967 | 3 | 2 |
| Correspondence - Writers Guild of America, East, Inc. 1967 | 3 | 3 |
| Correspondence - Yale Upper Grade Center 1967 | 3 | 13 |
| Correspondence 1970s-80s 1970s-80s | 3 | 38 |
| Correspondence File Copy 1968 | 6 | 43 |
| Correspondence From Oscar Brown Jr. 1967-1971 | 4 | 60 |
| Correspondence from Oscar Brown, Jr. 1967 | 6 | 35 |
| Correspondence with Dan 1961 | 3 | 29 |
| Correspondences 1957-1966 | 4 | 52 |
| Court Summons 1967 | 4 | 37 |

| | | |
|---|----|----|
| Court Summons 1971 October 7 | 8 | 15 |
| Crenshaw Neighbors, Inc. 1965-1967 | 4 | 42 |
| Current Lyrics 1964 | 9 | 4 |
| Dance and Sport Workshop - Italy 1984 | 8 | 6 |
| Davis, Osie 1963 | 6 | 37 |
| DeBlasio, Ron 1970 | 8 | 13 |
| Delsener, Ron 1966 | 1 | 21 |
| Department of the Army 1955 | 3 | 32 |
| Desk pad 1961 | 13 | 12 |
| Destination Freedom Addresses 1966 | 1 | 11 |
| "Destination Freedom" Series undated | 6 | 44 |
| El Chicos undated | 10 | 22 |
| Employee's Withholding Exemption 1966 | 1 | 15 |
| Encore Magazine and Personal Papers 1974-1976 | 6 | 15 |

| | | |
|--|----|----|
| Engagement Contracts 1988-1989 | 12 | 15 |
| Essay, Christian 1962 | 4 | 22 |
| Evolution of the Blues 1975 | 3 | 17 |
| Family Photos undated | 12 | 38 |
| Fan Mail 1961-1963 | 4 | 54 |
| Fan Mail 1963 | 7 | 22 |
| FBI Documents 1950-1967 | 6 | 4 |
| Feature Script Submission Directory 1988 | 12 | 30 |
| Fellman, Irwin (Tax Attorney) 1966 | 1 | 54 |
| Ferrari, Inc. 1970-1971 | 6 | 53 |
| Film Review undated | 1 | 56 |
| First National Bank of Chicago 1989 | 12 | 13 |
| Fleming, Maxine 1941 | 8 | 25 |
| Fliers 1986-1988 | 4 | 69 |

| | | |
|--|----|----|
| Fliers and Playbills undated | 6 | 25 |
| Fliers and Posters undated | 6 | 22 |
| Follow Up 1968 | 7 | 29 |
| Freedom Theatre 1987 | 10 | 8 |
| From my Window undated | 10 | 21 |
| Furnitue/Shipments 1967-1968 | 4 | 44 |
| General Artists Corporation 1962 | 12 | 22 |
| God's Judgement of White America 1963 December 4 | 6 | 12 |
| Grand Stage Lighting Company 1971 | 7 | 26 |
| "Great Nitty Gritty" undated | 8 | 2 |
| "The Great Nitty Gritty" 1982-1984 | 6 | 7 |
| "The Great Nitty Gritty" 1982 | 4 | 66 |
| The Great Nitty Gritty 1991 | 12 | 25 |
| The Great Nitty Gritty undated | 10 | 19 |

| | | |
|---|----|----|
| “The Great Nitty Gritty” Sketch undated | 13 | 4 |
| Health and Retirement 1990-1991 | 12 | 3 |
| Henrique, Luiz 1966 | 1 | 63 |
| High Join the Conqueror’s Sonnets of the ’70's 1970’s | 9 | 23 |
| Hill, Robert 1956-1971 | 4 | 48 |
| Hold for "Alley Theatre Workshop" undated | 1 | 30 |
| Horne, Lena 1967 | 6 | 38 |
| Hyper Park Bank 1971 | 4 | 20 |
| Illinois Arts Council Budget Request 1967-1969 | 9 | 10 |
| Illinois Department of Revenue 1989-1990 | 12 | 11 |
| In de Beginnin' 1977 | 7 | 61 |
| In De Beginnin' Musical 1977 | 3 | 24 |
| In De Beginnin’ 1978 | 9 | 25 |
| Income Tax Information 1964-1967 | 4 | 29 |

| | | |
|---|---|----|
| Incoming Correspondence 1965-70 | 3 | 4 |
| Incoming Correspondence 1950s-64 1950s-64 | 3 | 35 |
| "In de Beginnin'" Bills 1977 | 7 | 11 |
| Insight 1962 | 7 | 59 |
| Insurance undated | 4 | 56 |
| Insurance Companies 1967 | 1 | 82 |
| Insurance Policies 1967 | 4 | 27 |
| Inventory - Meadows Club 1966 | 1 | 22 |
| Invitations/Greetings 1966-1967 | 4 | 28 |
| Invoice Paid 1967 | 4 | 32 |
| Jeanette Rouselle Information 1985 | 7 | 2 |
| Jeff Wald (Expenses) 1967 | 3 | 37 |
| Jet 1966-1967 | 7 | 51 |
| Johnson, Harold - Director undated | 1 | 50 |

| | | |
|--|----|----|
| The Journey Through Forever undated | 6 | 17 |
| Joy 1966 | 7 | 54 |
| Joy 1970 | 7 | 55 |
| “Joy” Advertising Poster 1966 | 13 | 14 |
| “Joy” Musical 1975 August 1 | 9 | 12 |
| "Joy" Sheet Music undated | 9 | 30 |
| Jump Ober D' Broom Sheet Music undated | 9 | 33 |
| Jumpstreet 1980 | 6 | 26 |
| Jumpstreet 1979-1980 | 7 | 34 |
| Jumpstreet 1980 | 9 | 35 |
| Jumpstreet Humanities Project undated | 9 | 34 |
| June Commitments - completed 1967 | 1 | 29 |
| Kicks and Company undated | 9 | 28 |
| Kicks and Company 1961-1982 | 7 | 50 |

| | | |
|--|----|----|
| Kicks and Company 1961-1963 | 7 | 70 |
| Kicks and Company 1961 | 8 | 9 |
| Kicks and Company 1961-1963 | 8 | 30 |
| Kicks and Company Los Angeles undated | 7 | 8 |
| Kicks and Company Operating Budget undated | 12 | 35 |
| Kitty's Dress Shop/Business 1965 | 3 | 28 |
| Langston Hughes Poems undated | 9 | 3 |
| Legal Agreement 1966 | 1 | 23 |
| Letters 1977 | 7 | 15 |
| Letters 1963-1984 | 12 | 6 |
| Letters to the Editor 1958-62 | 3 | 19 |
| Libby Clark Associates 1967 | 7 | 31 |
| Liberty Records 1967 | 10 | 28 |
| Liberty Records - Oliver, Richards 1967 | 6 | 47 |

| | | |
|--|---|----|
| List of Poems undated | 7 | 49 |
| Litigations 1966-1967 | 4 | 33 |
| Loesser, Frank 1960 | 4 | 11 |
| London 1963 | 7 | 60 |
| Look up and Live - The World of Oscar Brown, Jr. undated | 9 | 13 |
| Lyrics undated | 4 | 49 |
| Lyrics 1966 | 1 | 40 |
| Lyrics - "Like A Flower" & "Berimbau" & Others 1966 | 3 | 6 |
| Lyrics and Eulogy 1986-1987 | 6 | 8 |
| Magazines and News Clippings 1964-1980 | 6 | 13 |
| May 1966 Auditions May 1966 | 3 | 5 |
| McCoy, Sid - Productions 1958 | 7 | 3 |
| Meadows Club c. 1966 | 3 | 33 |
| Meadows Club 1966-1967 | 1 | 47 |

| | | |
|--|----|----|
| Memo - Alley Theatre Workshop June 1967 | 3 | 21 |
| Memorandum from: J.P. Brown undated | 1 | 57 |
| Memorial Services 1969-1982 | 12 | 33 |
| Military Service 1955 | 6 | 5 |
| Miscellaneous Articles 1960s-80s | 3 | 42 |
| Miscellaneous Bills 1964-1965 | 1 | 5 |
| Miscellaneous Events 1960s-80s | 3 | 41 |
| Miscellaneous Notes undated | 3 | 40 |
| Moore, George A. 1965 | 1 | 67 |
| Music Arts Creation 1962-1965 | 1 | 4 |
| Music Arts Creations, Inc. 1958 | 12 | 10 |
| "Music is My Life Politics My Mistress" - Tape undated | 1 | 31 |
| Music Shows 1964-1988 | 1 | 2 |
| National Labor Relations 1978 | 9 | 26 |

| | | |
|------------------------------------|----|----|
| News Clippings 1977 | 6 | 27 |
| News Clippings 1966-1977 | 6 | 28 |
| News Clippings 1969 | 6 | 31 |
| News Company Correspondence 1967 | 3 | 20 |
| News Release 1985 | 4 | 15 |
| News Releases and Photos 1966-1967 | 9 | 14 |
| Newsclippings 1979-1980 | 7 | 56 |
| Newsclippings 1968-1979 | 7 | 57 |
| Newsclippings 1964-1978 | 7 | 58 |
| Newsclippings 1970-1973 | 7 | 63 |
| Newsclippings 1970 | 7 | 72 |
| Newsclippings 1986 | 8 | 14 |
| Newsclippings 1966-1976 | 8 | 41 |
| Newsclippings 1961-1985 | 12 | 45 |

| | | |
|--|----|----|
| Newsletter, Workshop Proposal and News Clippings 1967-1977 | 6 | 11 |
| Newspaper Articles and Class Outlines 1957-1964 | 6 | 10 |
| Newspaper Clippings 1967 | 1 | 37 |
| Newspaper Clippings 1962-1967 | 6 | 33 |
| Newspaper Clippings 1961-1982 | 6 | 20 |
| Newspaper Clippings 1961-1977 | 6 | 23 |
| Newspaper Clippings and Pamphlets 1959-1985 | 6 | 16 |
| Newspaper Clippings and Song lyrics 1967-1984 | 6 | 2 |
| Newspaper Clippings and Song lyrics 1960-1984 | 6 | 14 |
| Newspaper Magazines 1967-1973 | 6 | 1 |
| Newspapers 1994-1996 | 12 | 23 |
| Norman, Curtis 1960-1963 | 4 | 31 |
| Note Music and Lyrics undated | 6 | 30 |
| Notebook - Lyrics and Notes 1968 | 5 | 1 |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|----|
| Notebook - Lyrics and Notes Nov. 1968 | 5 | 3 |
| Notebook - Lyrics and Notes 1972 | 5 | 9 |
| Notebook - Lyrics and Notes 1972 | 5 | 10 |
| Notebook - Lyrics and Notes 1972 | 5 | 11 |
| Notebook - Lyrics and Notes 1974 | 5 | 15 |
| Notebook - Lyrics and Notes 1975 | 5 | 19 |
| Notebook - Lyrics and Notes 1975 | 5 | 20 |
| Notebook - Lyrics and Notes 1975 | 5 | 22 |
| Notebook - Lyrics and Notes 1980 | 5 | 26 |
| Notebook - Lyrics and Notes 1981 | 5 | 28 |
| Notebook - Lyrics and Notes 1983 | 5 | 32 |
| Notebook - Lyrics and Notes 1987 | 5 | 36 |
| Notebook - Lyrics and Script 1981 | 5 | 27 |
| Notebook - Lyrics and Script 1981 | 5 | 29 |

| | | |
|--|---|----|
| Notebook - Lyrics, Notes, & Contacts 1985 | 5 | 33 |
| Notebook - Lyrics, Notes, & Contacts 1986-86 | 5 | 35 |
| Notebook - Lyrics, Notes, & Drawings 1968 | 5 | 2 |
| Notebook - Lyrics, Notes, & Drawings Nov. 1968 | 5 | 4 |
| Notebook - Lyrics, Notes, & Drawings 1961 | 5 | 5 |
| Notebook - Lyrics, Notes, & Drawings 1969 | 5 | 6 |
| Notebook - Lyrics, Notes, & Drawings 1972 | 5 | 8 |
| Notebook - Lyrics, Notes, & Drawings 1974 | 5 | 16 |
| Notebook - Lyrics, Notes, & Drawings 1975 | 5 | 21 |
| Notebook - Lyrics, Notes, & Drawings 1976 | 5 | 23 |
| Notebooks - Lyrics and Notes 1970-71 | 5 | 7 |
| Notebooks - Lyrics and Notes 1972-73 | 5 | 12 |
| Notebooks - Lyrics and Notes 1973 | 5 | 13 |
| Notebooks - Lyrics and Notes 1974 | 5 | 14 |

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|----|----|
| Notebooks - Lyrics and Notes 1974 | 5 | 17 |
| Notebooks - Lyrics and Notes 1974 | 5 | 18 |
| Notebooks - Lyrics and Notes 1976 | 5 | 24 |
| Notebooks - Lyrics and Notes 1976 | 5 | 25 |
| Notebooks - Lyrics and Notes 1981 | 5 | 30 |
| Notebooks - Lyrics and Notes 1981-82 | 5 | 31 |
| Notebooks - Lyrics and Notes 1986 | 5 | 34 |
| Notebooks - Poems 1987 | 11 | 3 |
| Notebooks - Poems 1976-1977 | 11 | 5 |
| Notebooks - Poems 1988-1989 | 11 | 6 |
| Notebooks - Poems 1990 | 11 | 7 |
| Notebooks - Poems undated | 11 | 4 |
| Notes and Poems undated | 7 | 67 |
| Notes on Paul Laurence Dunbar 1967 | 4 | 17 |

| | | |
|---|----|----|
| Now is Our Chance undated | 10 | 20 |
| Obituary - Tiller, Limmie undated | 1 | 61 |
| Office Suplies/Rentals 1967 | 4 | 34 |
| On Life and Death undated | 9 | 31 |
| One Life Sheet Music undated | 10 | 2 |
| Opportunity Past Due Bills 1967 | 6 | 46 |
| Opportunity Please Knock undated | 8 | 31 |
| Opportunity Please Knock - Business/Statement/Clothes and Costumes 1967 | 4 | 53 |
| “Opportunity Please Knock” 1967 | 9 | 8 |
| "Opportunity, Please Knock" Budget 1967 | 1 | 34 |
| Orchestra Hall Benefit - Nov. 1966 Nov. 1966 | 3 | 25 |
| Original Reciepts 1967-171 | 4 | 10 |
| Oscar Brown Bibiography Sketch undated | 8 | 39 |

| | | |
|---|----|----|
| Oscar Brown Bibliography and History 1966 | 8 | 27 |
| Oscar Brown Records 1971 | 7 | 71 |
| Oscar Brown Shows 1970 | 6 | 24 |
| Oscar Brown, Jr. and Jean Pace Folder undated | 13 | 16 |
| Oscar Brown, Jr. Photos undated | 10 | 32 |
| Oscar Brown, Jr. Poster undated | 13 | 17 |
| Oscar Taping Rates undated | 1 | 20 |
| Outgoing Correspondence 1965-70 | 3 | 16 |
| Outgoing Correspondence 1950s-64 1950s-64 | 3 | 36 |
| Outgoing Correspondence 1985 1985 | 3 | 31 |
| Oversized Photo of Oscar Brown, Jr. undated | 13 | 13 |
| Pace, Jean 1967-1968 | 4 | 21 |
| Page "3" Music Arts Creations, Inc. undated | 9 | 6 |
| Paid Bills 1966-1967 | 1 | 85 |

| | | |
|---|----|----|
| Pamphlets 1985-1989 | 12 | 37 |
| "Parade" Presents A Gallery of Oscar Brown, Jr. 1964 | 3 | 26 |
| Passport Application 1965 | 10 | 25 |
| Past Invoices 1958-1967 | 4 | 35 |
| Past Performance Contract 1967 February 27 | 1 | 65 |
| Past Statements - Music Arts Creation, Inc. 1966 | 1 | 18 |
| Payment Correspondence 1967 | 4 | 24 |
| Payroll/Expenses Loans 1966-1968 | 4 | 25 |
| Performance Budgets undated | 10 | 29 |
| Performing Arts Society of L.A. 1967 | 4 | 43 |
| Personal Correspondence to Oscar Brownk, Jr 1963-1966 | 6 | 52 |
| Personal Files 1962-1967 | 7 | 10 |
| Personal Files 1959-1988 | 10 | 24 |
| Personal Files 1960-1986 | 8 | 1 |

| | | |
|---|----|----|
| Personal Files 1918-1987 | 12 | 32 |
| Personal Finances undated | 1 | 66 |
| Personal Insurance 1966-1967 | 1 | 26 |
| Personal Mail 1970s-80s | 3 | 43 |
| Personal Papers 1959-1984 | 4 | 70 |
| Personal Papers 1967 | 9 | 36 |
| Personal Papers 1966-1975 | 1 | 25 |
| Personal Papers 1959-1984 | 6 | 32 |
| Photo with Martin Luther King Jr. undated | 12 | 40 |
| Photos undated | 12 | 44 |
| Photos undated | 13 | 1 |
| Photos undated | 13 | 2 |
| Photos undated | 13 | 3 |
| Photos undated | 13 | 5 |

| | | |
|---|----|----|
| Photos undated | 13 | 7 |
| Photos undated | 13 | 9 |
| Photos undated | 13 | 10 |
| Photos undated | 4 | 68 |
| Photos 1967 | 10 | 33 |
| Photos undated | 12 | 24 |
| Photos undated | 12 | 39 |
| Photos undated | 12 | 41 |
| Photos undated | 12 | 43 |
| Photos undated | 13 | 6 |
| Photos undated | 13 | 8 |
| Photos undated | 13 | 11 |
| Photos - Oscar Brown Jr and Oscar Brown III and wife 1950 | 4 | 1 |
| Photos of Oscar Brown, Jr. undated | 13 | 15 |

| | | |
|---|----|----|
| Photos of Oscar Brown, Jr. undated | 12 | 1 |
| Photos of Oscar Brown, Jr. Performing undated | 6 | 41 |
| Photos of Oscar Brown, Jr., son, Maggie Brown, and children undated | 10 | 30 |
| Photos Postcards 1967 | 12 | 42 |
| Plaque - Chicago Urban League Award of Merit Oct. 14, 1962 | 2 | 1 |
| Plaque - Citizens Schools Committee Oct. 13, 1983 | 2 | 4 |
| Plaque - National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences 1970 | 2 | 2 |
| Plaque - Women for Conyers Committee (Man of the Year) 1967 | 2 | 3 |
| Play Scenes undated | 6 | 29 |
| Playbills undated | 10 | 9 |
| Playbills undated | 4 | 14 |
| Plays undated | 9 | 18 |
| Poems 1957 | 1 | 39 |
| Poems undated | 7 | 35 |

| | | |
|---------------|---|----|
| Poems undated | 7 | 36 |
| Poems undated | 7 | 37 |
| Poems undated | 7 | 38 |
| Poems undated | 7 | 39 |
| Poems undated | 7 | 40 |
| Poems undated | 7 | 41 |
| Poems undated | 7 | 42 |
| Poems undated | 7 | 43 |
| Poems undated | 7 | 44 |
| Poems undated | 7 | 45 |
| Poems undated | 7 | 46 |
| Poems undated | 7 | 47 |
| Poems undated | 7 | 48 |
| Poems undated | 7 | 68 |

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|-------------------------------------|----|----|
| Poems undated | 7 | 69 |
| Poems undated | 8 | 23 |
| Poems undated | 8 | 28 |
| Poems undated | 9 | 1 |
| Poems undated | 10 | 1 |
| Poems undated | 12 | 28 |
| Poems and Play Scenes undated | 12 | 26 |
| Poems and Songs 1961-1987 | 8 | 3 |
| Politic Articles undated | 1 | 46 |
| Post Magazines 1961 | 13 | 18 |
| Poster 1987 | 4 | 46 |
| Poster and Newspaper Magazines 1966 | 1 | 45 |
| Posters undated | 4 | 65 |
| The Power of Love undated | 8 | 38 |

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| Press Release 1967-1970 | 8 | 16 |
| Press Releases 1966 | 1 | 49 |
| Prince Charles Theatre London 1963 | 8 | 10 |
| Production Costs 1971 | 7 | 32 |
| Production Equipment and Contact Lists undated | 6 | 21 |
| Programs 1973 | 9 | 9 |
| Programs and Newsclippings 1979 | 7 | 62 |
| Project Requests 1967 | 1 | 59 |
| Promotion -Chuck, Rice 1966-1970 | 4 | 2 |
| Promotional Material for Music 1965-1986 | 1 | 1 |
| Proposal undated | 9 | 2 |
| Publications 1966-1967 | 6 | 36 |
| Publicity 1966 | 1 | 24 |
| Raisin Cain 1980 | 9 | 21 |

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|---|----|----|
| Receipts 1966-1967 | 1 | 3 |
| Receipts 1967-1985 | 4 | 67 |
| Receipts 1970-1971 | 6 | 42 |
| Receipts 1967 | 10 | 13 |
| Receipts 1970-1971 | 6 | 45 |
| Receipts 1977 | 7 | 14 |
| Receipts and Bills 1965-1985 | 8 | 8 |
| Receipts and Stubs 1966 | 1 | 7 |
| Record - Creation Records, Jean Pace: "Laia Ladaia" & "Like A Flower" undated | 2 | 6 |
| Record - Olé Records Co., Otis Brown: "I've Got Another" & "Southside Chicago" undated | 2 | 8 |
| Record - Olé Records Co., Otis Brown: "What Would You Do" & "Will You Wait" undated | 2 | 9 |
| Record - RCA Victor: "The Snake", Oscar Brown Jr. & "Any Way That You Want Me", Chip Taylor undated | 2 | 7 |

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| Record Comapanies 1968 | 7 | 24 |
| Recording Agreements 1958-1967 | 6 | 34 |
| Register of Copyrights/General Information 1957 | 4 | 30 |
| Rehearsal Schedule undated | 9 | 7 |
| Rex Edison 1969 | 9 | 32 |
| Roach, Max 1966-1967 | 12 | 19 |
| Roster of Letters Mailed undated | 4 | 13 |
| Sancuk, Sandra 1967 | 6 | 48 |
| Scrapbook of Newsclippings 1960-1962 | 10 | 6 |
| Scrapbook of Newsclippings 1961-1974 | 10 | 7 |
| Screen Actors Guild - Producers Health Plan 1987-1989 | 12 | 5 |
| Select Talent Entertainment Medium, Inc. 1982 | 11 | 10 |
| Sheet Music undated | 8 | 17 |
| Sheet Music undated | 8 | 18 |

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| Sheet Music undated | 8 | 19 |
| Sheet Music undated | 8 | 24 |
| Sheet Music undated | 8 | 29 |
| Sheet Music undated | 8 | 32 |
| Sheet Music undated | 8 | 37 |
| Sheet Music undated | 9 | 16 |
| Sheet Music undated | 9 | 17 |
| Sheet Music undated | 10 | 3 |
| Sheet Music undated | 10 | 4 |
| Sheet Music undated | 11 | 1 |
| Sherman, Paul 1967 | 4 | 61 |
| Sherman, Paul (Attorney) 1966-1967 | 1 | 79 |
| Short Stories undated | 9 | 29 |
| Show Schedules 1967 | 10 | 15 |

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| “Sin and Soul” Oscar Brown, Jr. undated | 13 | 19 |
| Sketchbook undated | 10 | 5 |
| Sketches undated | 4 | 45 |
| Sketches and Photographs undated | 7 | 66 |
| Slave Song 1972 | 7 | 53 |
| Smith David 1959 | 6 | 54 |
| Song Lists undated | 12 | 29 |
| The Songs of Kics & Co. 1981 | 6 | 6 |
| Songs and Poems undated | 9 | 15 |
| Songwriters' Protective Association 1957-1958 | 7 | 5 |
| Sony Video Tape - Oscar Brown Jr. Papers Mar. 27, 1989 | 2 | 10 |
| South Side Bank Cancelled Checks 1967 | 4 | 38 |
| Stationary undated | 7 | 13 |
| Student Program 1967 | 1 | 86 |

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|---|----|----|
| Summer Expenses 1966 | 1 | 9 |
| "Summer in the City" 1966 | 1 | 36 |
| "Summer in the City" undated | 8 | 40 |
| Summer in the City 1966 | 7 | 52 |
| Summer in the City Photos 1966 | 10 | 31 |
| Summer in the City Photos undated | 12 | 2 |
| "Sunshine and Shadows" undated | 6 | 9 |
| Sweden 1964 | 6 | 39 |
| Telegrams 1967 | 3 | 9 |
| Telegrams 1960-1961 | 4 | 47 |
| Telemark Magazine Cover 1965 | 4 | 3 |
| Testimonial Letters on Oscar Brown, Jr. 1958 | 3 | 22 |
| Thank You Letters 1966-67 | 3 | 8 |
| Time Sheets for Music Arts Creation, Inc. undated | 1 | 52 |

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| Troubadour Contract and State 1967 | 4 | 62 |
| TV Theory undated | 1 | 81 |
| Unidentified Photo undated | 1 | 58 |
| UniWorld Group, Inc. 1987 | 12 | 12 |
| Unpaid Bills | 1 | 87 |
| UPWA Membership undated | 4 | 9 |
| Urban Life Center 1970 | 4 | 59 |
| Urban Life Center 1970-1971 | 7 | 23 |
| V.I.P. List undated | 7 | 28 |
| Vehicle Registration 1968 | 10 | 14 |
| Video Tape - "Look Up & Live", Oscar Brown Jr. undated | 2 | 11 |
| Vignette Films 1967 | 3 | 23 |
| Wald, Jeff 1967 | 1 | 16 |
| "The Watermelon Man" Musical Review undated | 7 | 9 |

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| Watts Expenses 1967 | 4 | 36 |
| Watts Happening Coffee House undated | 4 | 39 |
| Watts Summer Festival 1967 | 4 | 40 |
| WBBM-TV, CBS, Inc. 1967-1989 | 12 | 17 |
| Weigh Tickets 1966 | 4 | 5 |
| Welfare Council 1967 | 3 | 15 |
| William Morris Agency 1964-1966 | 1 | 55 |
| Word Conjurors 1990 | 12 | 9 |
| Writer's Agreement undated | 1 | 70 |
| Writings undated | 8 | 35 |
| Y Boosters 1967 | 3 | 18 |
| Young-Brothers/Robinson, John - Loans, Pensions California 1967 | 7 | 6 |