

**Theodore Charles Stone Papers**  
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**Finding aid prepared by T.J. Szafranski and Dominique Fuqua**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Center for Black Music Research, Columbia College Chicago  
10/18/2012

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Center for Black Music Research, Columbia College Chicago
<b>Title</b>	Theodore Charles Stone Papers
<b>Date</b>	1929-2001
<b>Extent</b>	44.0 Linear feet
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>Theodore Charles Stone (1912-1998) was a Chicago-based opera singer and journalist who served as president of both the National Association of Negro Musicians and Chicago Music Association. The Theodore Charles Stone papers span from 1929-2001 and provide insight into the African American operatic music scene throughout the 20th century. Material includes programs, flyers, invitations to concerts and performances, subject and research files on musicians and organizations, funeral programs and obituaries for Chicago musicians, articles written by Stone, material originating from the National Association of Negro Musicians and the Chicago Music Association, photographs, and sheet music.</p>

## **Biographical/Historical note**

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Theodore Charles Stone (1912-1998) was a Chicago-based performer and journalist who worked with the National Association of Negro Musicians and Chicago Music Association to provide opportunities for African American musicians to perform. Stone was born on November 18, 1912 in Gainesville, Texas, and attended Samuel Huston College in Houston, Texas, before relocating to Chicago to attend the Chicago Musical College. Following this, Stone was awarded a scholarship to the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, Finland, and as the first African American to study there, he earned a certificate in Performing Arts and Opera, Concert Repertoire. Stone spent much of the 1940s and 1950s giving recitals across the United States before beginning a career as a music journalist. He wrote for the Chicago Bee, the Pittsburgh Courier, the Chicago Defender, the Metropolitan Post, and the Chicago Crusader. Stone served as president of the National Association of Negro Musicians (NANM) from 1968-1975, and as president of the Chicago Music Association, the first branch of the NANM, from 1954-1996.

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## **Scope and Contents note**

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The Theodore Charles Stone papers span from 1929-2001 and includes programs, flyers, invitations to concerts and performances, subject and research files on musicians and organizations, funeral programs and obituaries for Chicago musicians, articles written by Stone, material originating from the National Association of Negro Musicians and the Chicago Music Association, photographs, and sheet music. The papers are arranged into six series, "Theodore Charles Stone Personal Papers," "National Association of Negro Musicians," "Chicago Music Association," "Photographs," "Sheet Music," and "Realia."

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

Center for Black Music Research, Columbia College Chicago 10/18/2012

## Controlled Access Headings

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### Personal Name(s)

- Stone, Theodore Charles, 1912-1998

### Subject(s)

- Chicago Bee Newspaper
- Chicago Crusader
- Chicago Music Association
- Chicago Symphony Orchestra
- National Association of Negro Musicians (U.S.)
- Opera--United States--20th century.
- The Chicago Defender

## Series I: Theodore Charles Stone Personal Papers

## Collection Inventory

### Series I: Theodore Charles Stone Personal Papers 1934-1998

#### Scope and Contents note

The bulk of material throughout this series relates to Stone's musical interests as a performer, organizer, and journalist. This series is arranged into six subseries, "Correspondence," "Writings," "Theodore Charles Stone Performances," "Subject Files," "Programs," and "Media Publications."

#### Subseries 1: Correspondence 1937-1997

#### Scope and Contents note

"Correspondence" contains personal and professional letters regarding Stone's musical and journalistic career, his involvement in Chicago's African American operatic and musical community, and his interest in national and local music associations. This subseries is arranged chronologically.

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
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Correspondence, 1937-1997	1-6	1-143
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#### Subseries 2: Writings 1969-1994

#### Scope and Contents note

"Writings" includes copies of Stone's column, "World of Music" from the Chicago Crusader, drafts of his articles and reviews, handwritten notes, and name files, which contain directories, registration lists, and mailing addresses. This subseries is arranged by type of material.

**Subseries 3: Theodore Charles Stone Performances**

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Handwritten notes, undated	8	158-164
Name files, undated	9	165-176

**Subseries 3: Theodore Charles Stone Performances 1944-1995****Scope and Contents note**

This subseries includes flyers and programs from events that featured Stone as a performer, and is arranged chronologically.

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Stone Performances, 1944-1995	10	177-181

**Subseries 4: Subject Files circa 1960-1994****Scope and Contents note**

"Subject Files" includes material from organizations and documents regarding specific individuals. The subseries is ordered by type of file, and arranged alphabetically. "Organizations" files include clippings and articles pertaining to musical, business, and political organizations. "People" files include publicity and research concerning individuals, most of whom were musicians. "Obituaries" are primarily those of local Chicago musicians and public figures. "Religious" files include material from religious organizations.

**Subseries 4: Subject Files**

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Religious (S-V),	20	261-267
Religious (W-Z and unnamed),	21	268-271

**Subseries 5: Concerts and Programs 1961-1998****Scope and Contents note**

This subseries contains flyers, programs, and invitations from events and performances. It includes documents from individual concert venues, such as Grant Park and Ravinia, and from individual performing acts, such as the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Lyric Opera of Chicago. This material is arranged alphabetically by the name of the venue or group. Other musical material from various venues and performers, and material from non-musical events is arranged chronologically.

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Chicago Children's Choir, 1979-1987	22	273
Chicago Sinfonietta, 1987-1998	22	274-277
Chicago Symphony Orchestra, 1961-1979	22	278-280
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## Subseries 5: Concerts and Programs

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**Subseries 5: Concerts and Programs**

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Programs, 1982-1985	33	367-380
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Programs, 1994-1998	37	416-427
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Non-music Programs, 1977-1983	42	460-469
Non-music Programs, 1984-1990	43	470-478
Non-music Programs, 1990-1998	44	479-486
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**Subseries 6: Media Publications****Subseries 6: Media Publications 1934-1997****Scope and Contents note**

“Media Publications” includes journal articles, newsletters, press releases, magazine articles, and newspaper clippings that reflect Theodore Charles Stone’s musical interests and involvement with different music festivals, operas, and symphonies in Chicago.

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**Subseries 7: Personal undated**

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Personal, undated	55-56	648-661

**Series II: National Association of Negro Musicians 1929-1997****Scope and Contents note**

The National Association of Negro Musicians (NANM) was founded in Chicago in 1919 to advance the education and careers of African-American musicians. Since its inception, the NANM has sponsored scholarship contests for performers. The NANM has regional branches across the United States, as well as local and student chapters. Annual conferences are held each summer in a major city. This series contains documents regarding the NANM's founding, correspondence, meetings reports, conventions programs, and membership and financial records. This series is arranged by type of material.

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
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## Series II: National Association of Negro Musicians

Articles of Incorporation, 1968	57	662
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**Series III: Chicago Music Association**

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Convention Programs, 1939-1971	63	772-773
Convention Programs, 1972-1997	64	774-779
<b>Series III: Chicago Music Association 1942-2001</b>		
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>		
<p>The Chicago Music Association (CMA) was founded in 1919 to provide performance opportunities for classically trained African American musicians. The CMA and a group of musicians from Washington, D. C. formed the National Association of Negro Musicians (NANM), with CMA becoming its first branch. This series contains correspondence, administrative records, newsletters, membership information, financial documents, and material from concerts and events put on by the CMA. This series is arranged by type of material.</p>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
History, undated	65	780

**Series IV: Photographs**

Correspondence and Administrative Documents, 1945-1990	65	781-821
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**Series IV: Photographs undated****Scope and Contents note**

Photographs in this series depict Stone's personal life, performances, and National Association of Negro Musicians and Chicago Music Association events. Photographs of other musicians and friends are included and are arranged alphabetically. Also included in this series are scrapbooks, which include photographs and newspaper clippings.

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
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**Series V: Sheet Music**

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<b>Series V: Sheet Music undated</b>		
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>		

**Series VI: Realia**

This series contains Stone's personal collection of sheet music.

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
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Sheet music – unidentified, undated	87-93	2132-2328
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Oversized sheet music - unidentified, undated	97	2345-2347

**Series VI: Realia undated****Scope and Contents note**

This series contains plaques and awards that Stone received from the National Association of Negro Musicians, the Chicago Music Association, and other organizations.

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