INSTITUTIONAL HISTORY:

Founded in 1922, Chicago’s R. Nathaniel Dett Club of Music and Allied Arts is one of the oldest active branches of the National Association of Negro Musicians (NANM). The Dett Club has had a number of NANM luminaries in its roster. Among those have been: John E. Webb, Sydonia M. Brooks, Ruth Allen Fouche, and Ona B. Campbell. The Dett Club maintains an active concert and event schedule during the year, hosting a Black History Program, a summertime Garden Party, and an annual Scholarship Contest. A narrative history of the club by John E. Webb, *Whispers of Love*, published in 1987, is based on the records in the collection.

SCOPE NOTE:

The present collection has been arranged in two series, a series of records originating with the Dett Club and a series of records documenting interactions with the parent organization, NANM. The papers in both series include constitutions and bylaws, minutes and agendas from meetings, correspondence, programs from concerts, newsletters, and photographs. The NANM series includes materials relating to the national conventions and also to the NANM Central Region conferences.

Also of note in the Dett Club series is a sub-series of biographies of composers and performers used in the programs of various concerts. A few music scores received and shelved with the collection are cataloged in the CBMR Database, searchable from the CBMR website’s Library and Archives page: [http://www.colum.edu/CBMR/Library_and_Archives/](http://www.colum.edu/CBMR/Library_and_Archives/).
INVENTORY:
Series I, R. Nathaniel Dett Club records

Box #1–Constitutions, By-Laws, Minutes, Agendas and Correspondence.


Minutes:

Minutes: December 4, 1949.
Minutes: August 5, 1956.
Minutes: September 12, 1981.
Minutes: 1987. Minutes from meetings: September 27; October 25; November 22.
Minutes: 1988. Minutes from meetings: January 24; February 28; April 24; June 26; September 25; October 23; November 27.
Minutes: 1989. January 22; February 26; March 25; April 22; May 28; June 25.
Minutes: 1993. August 28; September 26; November 16; November 24; November 28.
Minutes: 1994. January 23; March 26; April 24; June 26; September 25; October 15; October 23; November 26.
Minutes: 1995. January 22; March 26; April 23; May 28; June 25; September 23; October 22.
Minutes: 1996. January 28; March 24 (three drafts); June 22; July 12; September 28 (two drafts);
November 23.

1997: March 23; April 27 (two drafts).
1998: February 8; September 27; October 25; November 22.

1999: January 24; May 23; September 26; November 28.
2000: September 24; October 22 (four drafts); November 18; November 26.
2001: March 6; April 16.

Agendas:


Incomplete Agendas: 1980. Agendas from meetings: March 15; March 29; April 12; April 27; September 14; October 26; November 23.

Incomplete Agendas: 1981. Agendas from meetings: January 25; March 22; April 26; May 24; June 28; August 1; September 27; October 25; November 22.

Incomplete Agendas: 1982. Agendas from meetings: January 24; February 28; March 28; April 25; May 23; June 27; September 26; October 24.

Incomplete Agendas: 1983–1984; 1986. Agendas from meetings: January 23; February 27; March 27; April 24; May 29; June 26; July 9; September 25; October 23 (includes Cadenza newsletter); November 27 (includes Cadenza newsletter). (1984): October 28 (includes Cadenza newsletter and Dett Club member roster). (1986): September 18.

Incomplete Agendas: 1990. Agendas from meetings: January 27; June 24 (includes Cadenza newsletter); July 22 (includes Cadenza newsletter); September 23 (with notes by Sydonia M. Brooks); October 20; November 25 (includes Dett Club Festival report and correspondence from Charles E. Cannon); December 23 (includes minutes).
Series I, R. Nathaniel Dett Club records
Box #1, Agendas, continued

Incomplete Agendas: 1991. Agendas from meetings: January 27; February 24; March 16; April 28 (includes 1991 NANM convention schedule); May 26 (includes 1991 NANM convention schedule); June 23.


Incomplete Agendas: 1995. Agendas from meetings: March 26 (includes letter from NANM board members, information concerning the 1995 NANM Central Region Conference, information concerning the 1996 Scholarship Voice Contest, Article on Leontyne Price, article on Opera Ebony); April 23; May 28 (includes article on Dett Club, advertisement and schedule for the Chicago Lyric Opera’s radio broadcasts); September 23; October 22 (includes article on prominent Chicago opera personalities, article on Georg Solti, schedule for the 1995 Chicago Humanities Festival); December 2.

Incomplete Agendas: 1996. Agendas from meetings: January 28 (two drafts); March 24 (includes information concerning the 1996 NANM Central Region Conference, information concerning the 1996 NANM Scholarship Contest for Voice); April 28 (list of contestants and schedule for the 1996 NANM Scholarship Contest for Voice); August 17; November 23 (with handwritten notes).

Incomplete Agendas: 1997. Agendas from meetings: January 26 (two drafts, one includes Yuletide Social Report and handwritten notes); March 23; April 27 (includes schedule for NANM national convention and schedule for the 1997 Strings Scholarship Contest); October 26 (includes letter announcement for Genesis Connection concert); November 23.


Complete Agendas: 1998. Spiral bound booklets; October 25 (two different editions).

Complete Agendas: 1999. Spiral bound booklets; January 25 (with handwritten notes by Sydonia M. Brooks); February 20 (with handwritten notes by Sydonia M. Brooks); March 21; June 27; October 24; November 28 (includes loose leaf notes from October 24 meeting).

Complete Agendas: 2000. Spiral bound booklets; January 19; February 19; March 26; April 30 (includes: (loose leaf) host and hostess list, committee rosters); May 21 (includes: (loose leaf) article on Kathleen Battle, flyer for Chicago Symphony Orchestra concert); June 25 (includes: (loose leaf) report of treasurer, flyer for Dett Juniors Benefit Banquet and Fashion Show); September 24; October 22; November 26 (not spiral bound).

Complete Agendas: 2001. Spiral bound booklets; January 28 (includes: (loose leaf) program for Mary Ellen Webb’s funeral); March 25; April 22.

Correspondence:

Correspondence: 1950s. Includes: (undated): letter advertising the 1954 Scholarship Benefit Concert.

Correspondence: 1960s. Includes: one letter from the Detroit Musicians’ Association; two letters from John E. Webb related to the NANM National Convention journal of 1968.

Correspondence: 1970s. (10 letters)

Correspondence: 1980  February 15–December 31 (20 letters)

Correspondence: 1981 January 9–November 1981 (19 letters)

Correspondence: 1982 February 16–November 1982 (18 letters)

Correspondence: January, 1983–August 25, 1983. (7 letters)
Series I, R. Nathaniel Dett Club records
Box #1, Correspondence, continued

Correspondence: December 20, 1985; April 1, 1986. Nine letters related to aid given to DeQuence Nelson.
Correspondence: 1987–1989. (7 letters and cards)
Correspondence: February 12, 1990–September 24, 1995. (7 letters)
Correspondence: April 15, 1996–March 20(?), 2000. (7 letters)

Series I, R. Nathaniel Dett Club records
Box #2, Administrative Materials

Financial Records and Reports:


Financial Reports to NANM. Official reports of membership with receipts to NANM for the years 1980–1982.
Receipts: 1934.
Receipts: 1968–2000. Includes receipts from NANM membership dues, receipts from various events put on by the Dett Club, various NANM membership cards, including J. Bernice Campbell’s lifetime membership card.
Checks Received, April–May 1990. Photocopies of checks received for ticket sales to an unknown event.
Miscellaneous Contracts for Advertisements in Various Programs. Contracts, ordering forms, list of prospective advertisers for a variety of Dett Club events.

Reports to the Central Region:

Annual Report to the Central Region: 1991. Includes: Treasurer’s report, survey of members

Dett Juniors Papers:

Betty Jackson King Alliance: Financial Reports. Official reports to the NANM of active members in the Central Region branch of the Betty Jackson King Alliance for the years 1987; 1988; 1990.

Miscellaneous Betty Jackson King Alliance Papers. List of members and auditioning pianists and organists; handwritten plan for a survey of members; election results in an undated Betty Jackson King Alliance/Dett Juniors election.


Miscellaneous Administrative Papers:

Election Papers. Results of Dett Club elections from 1981 and two undated years; Nominating Committee report (1997); official branch roster (sent to NANM); Nominating Committee for 1981-1982.

Membership Applications. Membership applications to the Dett Club from various years.
Series I, R. Nathaniel Dett Club records
Box #2, Administrative Materials

Group Host Lists. One undated list of the hosts and hostesses for each meeting of the Dett Club for that year; 1988/1989 schedule of meetings and activities.
Scholarship Contest Winners: Follow-Up Report (2000?). A comprehensive follow-up report on Dett Club scholarship winners and a typescript draft of the report.
Membership applications
Whispers of Love: Final. Published copy of John E. Webb’s history of the Dett Club.
Whispers of Love: Draft. Late draft of Whispers of Love.
Whispers of Love: Papers. Assorted papers related to Whispers of Love.
New York City Bus Trip. 1983. Various papers related to the 1983 Dett Club trip to the NANM National Convention in New York City; papers include: passenger lists, insurance receipts, hotel receipts, applications.

Series I, R. Nathaniel Dett Club records
Box #3: Programs, Flyers, Recordings, and Biographies


Programs:

Cavalleria Rusticana Opera: May 22, 1942. Program from the Dett Club production.
Scholarship Benefit Concert: May 22, 1966: Papers. Includes: one flyer; invitational letter from John E. Webb; advertisement order and contract form; ticket order form.
Dett Club Programs: 1950–1958. Concert programs from Dett Club events in the 1950s. Includes:
July 28, 1950: Bach Memorial Concert;
February 22, 1953: Scholarship Benefit Concert (featuring: Huel Gwin and James Benson);
May, 17 1953: Piano Contest;
July 26, 1953: Garden Party;
March 27, 1955: Scholarship Concert (featuring: Orrin Suthern II and Zolla McCullough);
July 31, 1955: Garden Party;
March 11, 1956: Annual Scholarship Benefit Concert (featuring: Marian Lewis and Dr. Mitchell Southall);
April 20, 1958: Music Showcase

Dett Club Programs: 1962–1969. Concert programs from Dett Club events in the 1960s. Includes:
June 24, 1962: Duo Recital, (featuring: Marion Lewis and Horace McAfee);
July 25, 1965: Annual Garden Party;
June 4, 1967: Scholarship Recital (featuring J. Bernice Brown and Joseph Drew);
July 23, 1967: Lawn Party;
Series I, R. Nathaniel Dett Club records
Box #3: Programs, Flyers, Recordings, and Biographies
Programs, continued

- May 15, 1970: “Souper et Danse de Printemps;”
- February 13, 1972: Dett Club Golden Jubilee;
- February 25, 1973: Negro History Program;

Dett Club Programs: 1976. Concert programs from Dett Club events in 1976. Includes:
- March 28: Bicentennial Salute to Black Composers and Arrangers of Chicago;
- June 27: Bicentennial Salute to Past Presidents;
- October 17: “The Atonement.”

- October 23, 1977: Music Showcase;

Dett Club Programs: 1980. Concert programs from Dett Club events in 1980. Includes:
- April 19: Church Music Workshop: Spirituals.

Dett Club Programs: 1981. Concert programs from Dett Club events in 1981. Includes:
- May 31: History Awards Spectacular;
- June 28: Scholarship Recital (featuring Joann Hawkins and Lawrence Robinson);
- October 11: “This is Your Life” (concert honoring Hortense Love) Includes: (loose leaf) two poems addressed to Hortense Love from J. Bernice Campbell, fact sheet).

Dett Club Programs: 1982. Concert programs from Dett Club events in 1982. Includes:
- February 18: Black History Program;
- February 21: Black History Program (draft);
- February 27: Negro History Program (three drafts);
- April 4: “The Last Seven Words of Christ;”
- May 23: John Henry Square Dinner Recital (2 drafts);
- August 7: Official Staff Breakfast;

Dett Club Programs: 1983. Concert programs from Dett Club events in 1983. Includes:
- February 10: Dett School Program;
- February 20: Annual Black History Program;
- May 22: A Colossal Youth Festival Benefit (with one ticket);
- July 31: “The Detts Go to the Opera;”
- August 17: The Hinds Sister Trio with Joseph Joubert.

Dett Club Programs: 1984. Concert programs from Dett Club events in 1984. Includes:
- February 16: Black History Program.

Dett Club Programs: 1985. Concert programs from Dett Club events in 1985. Includes:
- May 26: Bach, Handel Scarlatti Tricentennial;
- November 23: Student Recital.


Dett Club Programs: 1987. Concert programs from Dett Club events in 1987. Includes:
- February 28: Annual Black History Program (two drafts);

Dett Club Programs: 1988. Concert programs from Dett Club events in 1988. Includes:
- February 27: Black History Program;
Dett Club Programs: 1989. Concert programs from Dett Club events in 1989. Includes:
   January 8: Holiday Banquet;
   February 25: Black History Program;
   April 9: Duo Concert (featuring Anita Berry and Stan Ford).

Dett Club Programs: 1990. Concert programs from Dett Club events in 1990. Includes:
   February 18: Black History Program;
   April 28: Spring Music Banquet/Raffle;
   May 20: Musical Memoirs: Recognition Awards;
   October 27: Dett Festival: Featuring the Solo works of Robert Nathaniel Dett (two drafts).

   February 23: Gospel, Spirituals, Classical by Black Composers (two drafts),

   May 24: 70th Anniversary featuring Music by Black American Women Composers;
   July 26: “County Time in the Garden.”

Dett Club Programs: 1993. Concert programs from Dett Club events in 1993. Includes:
   February 28: Black History Program.

   February 26: Black History Program (seven drafts).

Dett Club Programs: 1995. Concert programs from Dett Club events in 1995. Includes:
   February 25: “Lift Every Voice and Sing: Negro Spirituals;”
   February 25: Black History Program;
   March 26: Organ Recital (featuring Dr. Herman D. Taylor);
   May 7: Gala Concert;

Dett Club Programs: 1996. Concert programs from Dett Club events in 1996. Includes:
   February 24: Annual Black History Program (3 drafts);
   February 25: Annual Black History Program (5 drafts);
   May 26: Dett Ladies on Parade: special guest: Betty Stalling (three drafts);
   July 28: Annual Garden Party.

Dett Club Programs: 1997. Concert programs from Dett Club events in 1997. Includes:
   February 22: Annual Black History Program (2 drafts);
   May 25: Annual Music Festival (2 drafts);
   July 27: Annual Garden Party;

Dett Club Programs: 1998. Concert programs from Dett Club events in 1998. Includes:
   February 28: “Patterns in Black Music;”
   March 21: Duo- Piano Concert Featuring Stan Ford and Joseph Joubert;
   October 17: Children’s Choir Music Workshop;
   December 26: “Christmas Jamboree.”

Dett Club Programs: 1999. Concert programs from Dett Club events in 1999. Includes:
   February 27: The Year of the Spiritual (spiral bound book);

Dett Club Programs: 2000. Concert programs from Dett Club events in 2000. Includes:
   February 26: Black History in This Millennium;
   July 23: The Millennium Garden Party Program;
   December 28: Christmas Party.
Series I, R. Nathaniel Dett Club records
Box #3: Programs, Flyers, Recordings, and Biographies

Programs, continued

February 10: Black History Program (two drafts, spiral bound books);

Miscellaneous Dett Club Programs:
“Rolling Along in Negro Song”: Script Draft. Undated script for a concert (Black History Program?) with
handwritten notes.

Roland Hayes Concert: Financial Report. Financial report from ticket sales for the Roland Hayes Concert of
1970; flyer for the event.

Shirley Verrett Concert: Papers. Various papers related to the March 1, 1980 concert held at the Auditorium
Theater in Chicago. Papers include: 1 ticket; list of attending Dett Club members; cover of a program; and
various receipts.

Flyers and Invitations:


Programs and Concerts:
Not NANM or Dett Club. Assorted programs from various concerts not related to the Dett Club.

1939 Edition of Hi-Jinx. Program from the Du Sable High School production, presented by Capt. Walter Henri
Dyett.

“This is Negro Music”: May 3, 1963: Program and Papers. Program from the NANM sponsored event; invitational letter from John E. Webb.


La Julia Rhea 50th Anniversary Celebration: Program and Papers. Program and papers from the Du Sable
Museum’s celebration of La Julia Rhea’s holding of the title role in Aida. Includes: souvenir folder; history of
Mme. Rhea’s operatic career.

Hymn Concert. Lyric sheet for an undated concert.

Non-Dett Club Programs: 1970s. (3 items)
Non-Dett Club Programs: 1980s. (12 items)
Non-Dett Club Programs: 1990s. (7 items)
Miscellaneous Programs.

Non Dett Club Flyers and Invitations:


Miscellaneous Flyers, Announcements, Promotional Materials. Includes: Howard A. Roberts concert, Muntu
Dance Theater concert, Honorarium for Rev. Jesse Jackson, various advertisements.


Biographies: Joseph Joubert. Two page biography of Joseph Joubert.

Biographies: Betty Jackson King. Flyer listing Ms. King’s qualifications and work experience.

Biographies: Horace T. McAfee. Brief biography of Horace T. McAfee and roster of the Chancel Choir (text is highlighted).

Biographies: Mable Renee Morrison. Photograph and short biography most likely from a press kit.


Biographies: Miscellaneous. Includes: brief, single paragraph biographies of Frederick Douglas Hall, J. Rosamond Johnson, Edward Margetson, Florence Price, John Wesley Work III from a 1961(?) publication; single paragraph biography of Eugene W. Hancock with Mr. Hancock’s comments on a collection of Negro Spirituals he transcribed for organ, from a 1979(?) publication; single page biographies of Marcus Garvey and Desmond Mpilo Tutu from Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia (1997?).
Memorials and Funerals: Austin G. Campbell. Includes: letter to J. Bernice Campbell from Loretta; Resolution for Austin G. Campbell.

Memorials and Funerals: Marchita Jennings. Includes: resolution for Marchita Jennings.

Memorials and Funerals: Kelsie George Albert Keeys, Jr. Includes: program from memorial service.


Memorials and Funerals: Dr. Wilbert Earl McGruder. Includes: program from the memorial service.

Memorials and Funerals: Alice Martin Meine Nichols. Includes: draft of a letter of sympathy to the family of Alice Martin Meine Nichols from Sydonia M. Brooks.

Memorials and Funerals: Blanche Thompson. Includes: resolution for Blanche Thompson.

Memorials and Funerals: Kathryn Mitchell Watts. Includes: program from the memorial service.

Memorials and Funerals: Louise Oberall Weber-Smother. Includes: program from memorial service.

Memorials and Funerals: Helen R. White. Includes: program from the memorial service (photocopy).


Memorials and Funerals: Thank You Notes and Sympathy Cards. Includes: various cards to the Dett Club from the families of the deceased (9 items).

Music:


Music: Miscellaneous Fragments. Fragments of pieces from a variety of composers and arrangers.

Music: Music Instruction and Inspirational. Various papers related to music instruction, mostly of an inspirational nature.

Essays:


Essays: “Book Review: I Wouldn’t Take Nothin’ for My Journey.” Article (unpublished?) by Larry Murphy, Ph.D. reviewing the book by Leonidas H. Berry, M.D.

Series I, R. Nathaniel Dett Club records
Box #4: Photographs, Memorials, and General Resources

Essays, continued


Today’s African American Chronicle: January 26, 1996–February 8, 1996.

Miscellaneous Papers:

Inspirational Items. Eighteen items, mostly prayers, religious poetry and parables.

Dett Club Miscellaneous Papers.

General Miscellaneous Papers.

Series II, NAM records
Box #5: Administrative Materials


NANM, Duties and Responsibilities of Youth Branch Sponsors. Official NANM guidelines for sponsoring a youth division of NANM (see also Dett Juniors).


NANM, Financial Statements – 1981

NANM, Financial Statements – 1982

NANM, Financial Statements – 1983

NANM, Financial Statements – 1985
Series II, NANM records
Box #5: Administrative Materials, continued

NANM, Financial Statements – 1986

NANM, Financial Statements – 1987

NANM, Manual on Election Procedure.

NANM, Membership Directory – 1996.

NANM, Suggestions to the NANM. Undated: suggestions for administrative and program changes in the NANM (pre-1980).

Surveys and Questionnaires. Includes: Central Region Questionnaire from 1979; undated NANM Survey.

NANM National Convention Programs and Papers:

1965  Program from Annual Luncheon and Fashion Extravaganza of the Life Member Guild from the 1965 national convention;


NANM National Convention – 1982. Various papers related to the NANM National Convention of 1982 in Chicago. Includes: one flyer for the event, transcript of the presidential speech, report from the evaluation committee, records of ticket sales, financial records, program from the memorial service, copy of the Southern Region’s position paper on the convention, miscellaneous papers.


NANM National Convention – 1985. Various papers from the 1985 NANM National Convention in Southfield, Mi. Includes: program from the memorial service, minutes from three general sessions.

NANM National Convention - 1986. Various papers from the 1986 NANM National Convention in Chicago. Includes: seating plan for the banquet, pre-registered members list, minutes from four general sessions, program from the Annual Luncheon and Fashion Extravaganza of the Life Member Guild.


Series II, NANM records
Box #5: Administrative Materials
NANM National Convention Programs and Papers, continued


NANM National Convention – 1995. Various papers from the 1995 NANM National Convention in Oakland, California. Includes: pre-registration list, on-site registration list, registration packet, minutes from two general sessions, miscellaneous papers.

NANM National Convention – 2000. Various papers from the 2000 NANM National Convention in Atlanta. Includes: proposed schedule, standing committee roster, NANM Newsletter (with handwritten notes), program for the memorial service (with handwritten notes), miscellaneous papers.

NANM, Miscellaneous National Convention Information. Various registration forms, program for a breakfast mixer, hotel information, member survey.

NANM Regional Conferences: Programs and Papers

NANM, Central Region Constitution. 1979 Central Region Constitution.


NANM, Central Region Conference – 2000. Various papers related to the 2000 Central Region Annual Conference. Includes: conference schedule, Central Region annual newsletter, meeting minutes, treasury report, receipts, miscellaneous papers.


NANM, Central Region Membership Roster. Includes: complete roster of members, addresses of regional presidents.

NANM, Central Region Membership Questionnaire: 1979.

NANM, Eastern Region Annual Conference – 1981. Includes various flyers, message from Regional Director.

NANM, Scholarship Information. Rules and registration forms for the annual scholarship contest in various disciplines from various years.

NANM Newsletters:


Series II, NANM records
Box #5: Administrative Materials
NANM Newsletters, continued


NANM, Youth Newsletters – April, 1974; 1982. Newsletters of the Youth Division of the NANM distributed at the annual conventions.

NANM: Miscellaneous Papers

NANM, Letterhead.