

- The ABA Research Center works to preserve the storied past, document the vibrant present, and contribute to the exciting future of this rich musical tradition, its communities, and its practitioners. Begin your exploration of the American Bandmasters Association research center below to with our two collections of ABA oral histories as well as a guide to navigating the collections of the Research Center.

1965 ABA Oral Histories



<https://go.umd.edu/ABA1965>

ABA Past President Oral Histories



<https://go.umd.edu/ABAhistory>

Guide to the ABA Research Center



<https://go.umd.edu/ABAresearch>

CONTACT US

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A cross-section of ABA holdings: scrapbooks, programs, photos, records, and a commemorative plate!

THE AMERICAN BANDMASTERS ASSOCIATION RESEARCH CENTER



Special Collections in
Performing Arts
Michelle Smith Performing
Arts Library
University of Maryland,
College Park, MD



UNIVERSITY
LIBRARIES

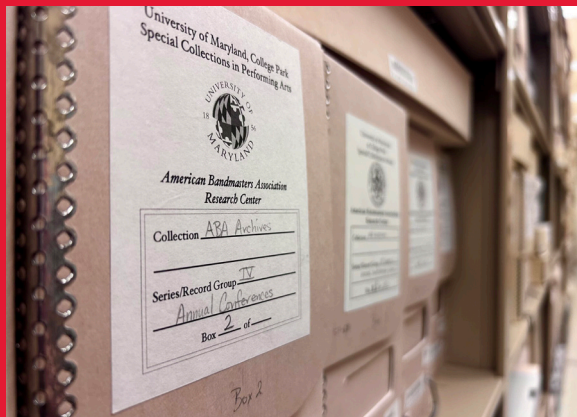
THE ABA AT SCPA



ABA Charter Members at the first meeting in 1929

- The Research Center was established in 1963 through a joint agreement between the ABA and the University of Maryland. Its earliest advocates were, among other ABA luminaries: Dr. Paul Yoder, the first Research Committee chairman; and Dr. Hubert Henderson, the Center's first director.
- The Research Center is a part of Special Collections in Performing Arts (SCPA) in the Michelle Smith Performing Arts Library within the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at the University of Maryland.
- Thanks to the ABA's ongoing investment in preserving its history, SCPA is able to sustain a dedicated project archivist position for the Research Center. The ABA project archivist works to sustain the mission of the research center, preserving and providing access to collections that tell the story of the wind band in the United States.

- The ABA Research Center includes the records of the American Bandmasters Association as well as 72 other collections on bands and bandleaders comprising over 320 linear feet of manuscripts, personal papers, photographs, scores, and over 4,500 recordings documenting the continued reach and impact of concert band conductors and composers.



Boxes of ABA records stored in our collections room

- The collections of the ABA Research Center have grown exponentially since they originally came to the University of Maryland in 1963 thanks to the generous support and donations of ABA members and the broader community. We actively collect personal papers, manuscripts, photographs, and more; interested donors should reach out to our curator (see contact information).

- The ABA Research Center is open to the public and available for use both in-person at SCPA and remotely through our reference services. The collections are used for a wide variety of projects ranging from histories of bandleaders and the concert band, to the creation of new works, researching family history, and even authoring children's books! The collections are used by researchers world-wide, and even if you can't make it to the archive, our staff is here to assist you with finding and accessing materials.
- One of the most publicly visible uses of ABA materials is via our exhibitions, both virtually and physically in our reading room. *Gladys Stone Wright: Promoting Women on the Band Podium* explored her far-reaching work and legacy as a trailblazing band director, conductor, and composer.



Gladys Stone Wright: Promoting Women on the Band Podium on display in our reading room