Indigenous Musicians in American Popular Music

Materials related to “Indigenous Musicians in American Popular Music” in the collections of the Center for Popular Music, Middle Tennessee State University

Compiled by: Olivia Beaudry, June 2020

Understanding this research guide

This research guide is to help you find more information and resources on musicians who are of Indigenous heritage. While the Center has items in the collection relating to the traditional musics of native tribes, as well as stereo-typed music of the American Indian, this guide focuses on American vernacular music created by those of Indigenous heritage. While this guide lists some artists, they are meant as starting points and is not a complete list of Indigenous heritage artists, musicians and bands. Please reach out to a member of the Center staff if you have questions relating to particular individual or band that you are looking to learn more about.

A note about terminology: Please identify and respect each artist/band in the way they wish to be identified. Most likely the individual will prefer to be identified by their tribe. CPM staff chose to use Indigenous as the blanket term in reference to the broader community due to the fact that some listed here are of what is present day Canadian First Nation heritage, while others are of present day US Native American heritage. Also note that some individuals prefer identifiers of Native American, American Indian, Indian, or First Nation People. When referring and researching, please seek how the individual wishes to be identified. Tribes listed here are in their native language then the English translation.

The Center for Popular Music offers deep gratitude to the ancestral land and water of the Tsalagi/Cherokee and Sawanwa/Shawnee peoples that support us in what is present day Murfreesboro, TN. We also recognize the indigenous peoples of our community that currently call this area their home.
“How do I search for these primary source materials?”

Online Searching:

Most of these primary source materials may be searched online through the Center’s website. Sound recordings may be searched in the Center’s Reading Room through the in-house database.

To search for these materials online, visit the CPM’s website. This catalog will search for materials in the following collection categories: Manuscript Collections, Rare Books and Scores; Sheet Music; Song Broadsides; Posters, Playbills, and Programs; Trade Catalogs; Photographs; and Periodicals: Secondary Collection.

For an overview of each of the major collections, see the detailed menu to the left of the screen under “Search Our Collections.”

You should search for individual titles, artists or songs in Quick Search or Advanced Search. If you do not have any specific names in mind, you should first examine secondary source materials. Searching for terms like “Native American,” “indigenous” or by genres like “rock” will yield long lists of items that may or may not directly correlate to the topics.

Click on the Advanced Search link to take you to a more detailed search screen. You may limit your search to a particular field or type of material.
At the Center (in-house searching only):

To search for Sound Recordings, please visit the Center and use our in-house database or email Rachel Morris Rachel.Morris@mtsu.edu or Martin Fisher Martin.Fisher@mtsu.edu.

Some photographic and manuscript materials will also require staff assistance to locate. Please contact Rachel Morris with questions.

“What secondary source materials do you have?”

To search for Secondary Source Materials available in the Center’s Reading Room– go to MTSU’s Walker Library catalog and use search terms like “Native American,” or “Bailey, Mildred.” If you need additional ideas for related search terms, Indiana University has provided a key based on the categories issued by The Library of Congress. You may also search for individual artists or genres. Materials include histories, song books and video.

If you are only interested in materials held at the CPM, click on “Library Catalog” at the bottom of the Search box.
Then select “Center for Popular Music (Mass Comm.)” under the “Collection” menu.

Indigenous Musicians in American Popular Music Bibliography

Indigenous Peoples in Music: general knowledge

Secondary Sources

Books


Call number: ML3557 I63 2016


Video Recording

Related Special Sub-Topics: Significant Cultural Figures

Mildred Bailey [Schitsu’umsh (Coeur d’Alene)]

Primary Sources

Sound Recordings
Rockin’ Chair / Love me Tonight. Mildred Bailey. 78 RPM. Victor 24117 (Black label (popular) 10-in. double-faced)

Squeeze Me / Down-hearted blues. Midred Bailey and her Alley Cats. 78 RPM Decca 18109 (10-in. double-faced)

I'll never be the same again / We just couldn't say good-bye. Mildred Bailey ; Paul Whiteman Orchestra. 78 RPM. Victor 24088 (Black label)

Sheet Music


Cornett, Alice, Eddie Asherman, Lee Kuhn, and Ray Anthony. *All That Glitters Is Not Gold / Lyric By Lee Kuhn; Music By Alice Cornett, Eddie Asherman*. New York, N.Y.: Robbins Music Corp., 1946. (Bailey on cover as performer) Call number: CPMSM-013140

**Books**


**Secondary Sources**

**Books**


**Blackfoot (band) [intertribal]**

**Primary Sources**

**Sound Recordings**


**Randy Castillo (Ozzy Osborne) [Shiewhibak (Isleta Pueblo) / Apache]**

**Primary Sources**

**Manuscript Material**

*Ozzy Osbourne Scrapbook*. CPM Accession Number: 92-012
Sound Recordings

Jesse Ed Davis [Ka'igwu/Kiowa / Nʉmʉnʉ/Comanche]
Primary Sources
Sound Recordings

Nokie Edwards [Tsalagi/Cherokee]
Primary Sources
Sound recordings
The Ventures Play Telstar, the Lonely Bull, and Others. Los Angeles: Dolton, 1963. Dolton Records -- BST-8019
The Fabulous Ventures. Los Angeles, CA.: Dolton Records. RDE 003383
Go With the Ventures. Dolton. Dolton Records -- BST-8045
Wayne Newton [Patawomeck]

Primary Sources

Archival materials
The American Diabetes Association Middle Tennessee Chapter Is Proud to Present Wayne Newton [program Book]. [Place of publication not identified]: [American Diabetes Association], [1985-1990]. 000275-PERFORM

Sheet Music

Sound Recordings

Newton, Wayne. Wayne Newton-- Now! [Hollywood, CA]: Capitol. CAPITOL RECORDS -- ST-2445


Note: Other sound recordings by Wayne Newton in our catalog.

Books

Video recordings
Rock and Roll Call Television Syndications, Inc: Television Syndications, Inc. [s.l.]: Video Late Show, 1986. VID Rock and roll call Includes Daddy don’t you walk so fast / Wayne Newton
Jim Pepper [Kanza/Kaw-Creek]

**Primary Sources**

**Sound Recordings**


Call number: RDE 000789

Redbone (band) [Yaqui/Shoshone]

**Primary Sources**

**Sound Recordings**


Epic Records -- KEG 33456


[This recording has Redbone as backing vocals and majority of songs are written by Lolly Vegas.]

Robbie Robertson [Kanien'keha::k (Mohawk)]

**Primary Sources**

**Books**


Call number: ML 394 .R6 R644 1972

*The Band*. s.l.: s.n., 1970. ML54.6.B36 B3

**Sheet Music**

Sound Recordings


Music From Big Pink / [the Band]. Hollywood, Calif.: Capitol, 1968. CAPITOL -- SKAO-2955


Cahoots / The Band. [Hollywood, Calif.]: Capitol, 1971. CAPITOL -- SMAS-651


Note: Other Band (musician group) recordings available.

Video Recording

Hall, Mark. The Band the Authorized Video Biography / Capital Cities ABC Video Publishing, Inc. ; Produced By Gregory Hall ; Directed By Mark Hall ; Written By Martin Melhuish & Mark Hall. Stamford, Ct.: Capital Cities/ABC Publishing Inc, 1995. VID BAND
Buffy Saint-Marie [iyiniwok (Cree)]

Primary Sources

Manuscript Material
Center for Popular Music Programs Collection: Buffy Saint-Marie program Sept 17, 2015. Digital Collections [contact archivist for access]

Books

Sound Recordings
MCA RECORDS -- MCA-405

MCA RECORDS -- MCA-451

Secondary Sources

Books

Taboo (Black Eyed Peas) [Shoshone]

Primary Sources

Books
ML420.T124 A3 2011

Link Wray [Sawanwa (Shawnee)]

Primary Sources

Sound Recordings
CBS SPECIAL PRODUCTS -- P 18927


**Secondary Sources**

**Books**


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**More Archival Resources**

**Other Databases and Online Repositories:**

- Encyclopedia of Popular Music, 4th Ed.
- Internet Archive
- Library of Congress
- Oxford Music Online
- Rock and Roll Hall of Fame
- Native American Music Awards
- National Museum of the American Indian - Smithsonian
- Woody Guthrie Center
- Artist websites

Other General Resources and Recommended Reading: