

New York Folklore Society
2002-03 Documentary Heritage Program Project
Documenting Hip Hop

Collection creator:

DJ Mecca (Jasmin Genevieve Thames)

Title:

Hip Hop record collection

Dates:

Late 1960s – [ongoing]

Extent:

6,500 12 inch vinyl records

Organization and arrangement:

Records are arranged alphabetically by artist's first name

Biographical/historical note:

DJ Mecca was born Jasmin Genevieve Thames in Yonkers, New York, and collected records at young age, with an interest in becoming a disc jockey. She started working in radio at a community station, WNWK, located at 449 Broadway in Manhattan, where she co-hosted with Kevin Keith and the Dirty Dozen from 1992 to 1997. The varied programming at this multicultural station covered everything from Hindu music to Rap, and airtime was paid for by individual broadcasters, rather than by advertisers. In 1994, Mecca hosted her own radio show at WHCR (Harlem Community Radio), a station of the City College of New York. In 1996, when 88 Hip Hop expanded from a 900 phone number, where callers could listen to the latest Hip Hop music from coast to coast and hear interviews, to a full-service internet radio station dedicated to Hip Hop (www.88hiphop.com), Mecca was asked to co-host. She developed the "Queendom" segment of the 88hiphip show, focusing on women in the entertainment business, especially radio and hip hop. "Queendom" was cutting edge, even in the late 1990s, and was extremely popular in the United States and abroad.

Scope and content:

The 6,500 twelve-inch vinyl recordings in this collection are stored in their original jackets, and were collected by DJ Mecca, reflecting her interest in and work involving Hip Hop music. The collection is significant for its depth and chronological breadth, and includes recordings by Nina Simone and by The Last Poets, a socially-conscious group who recorded starting in the late 1960s, as well as by a wide range of Hip Hop artists. DJ Mecca used this collection during her various radio and internet broadcasts, and continues to add to it.

Finding aid note:

There is no finding aid for this material. Information on this collection was gathered by Chic Smith of Urban Think Tank in the Spring of 2003.

Location:

This collection is held by DJ Mecca, New York, NY.

Restrictions on Access:

Researchers interested in using this material should contact Urban Think Tank; P.O. Box 1476, New York, NY 10185; telephone 718-679-3739; fax 718-596-1228; Email, urbanthinktank@usa.net.

Indexing terms:*Personal names:*

Keith, Kevin
Simone, Nina

Corporate/organizational names:

88 Hip Hop (900 phone number)
Last Poets (Musical group)
WHCR (Radio station)
WNWK (Radio station)
www.88hiphop.com (Website)

Subject terms:

Hip-hop
Rap (music) - Discography
Sound recordings

Geographical coverage:

New York, N.Y. – Social life and customs

Occupation:

Disc-jockeys

Form and genre/Form of material:

Phonograph records

Date of interview and survey: Spring 2003

Interview and survey by: Chic Smith

This summary written by: Nancy Johnson with information provided by Chic Smith.