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Creator: Siglin, Dave.
Title: Dave Siglin papers.
Inclusive dates: 1968-2008
Extent: 2 linear feet and 2 oversized volumes.
Call number: 2009115 Aa 2

Language: Material is in English
Acquisition: The papers were first donated by Dave Siglin (donor no. 10045) in 2008.
Accruals: Periodic additions to the collection are expected.
Access: The collection is open without restriction.
Copyright: Copyright is not held by the Regents of the University of Michigan.
Processed By: Rachael Dreyer, 2009.

Abstract

Program Director at the Ark, Ann Arbor, Michigan music club; administrative records relating to the management of the Ark, including artists' contracts and financial records, printed materials such as concert calendars, flyers, and posters, and photographs of Ark performances, informal snapshots and publicity photos of performers.

Biography

Dave Siglin served as Program Director for the Ark, an Ann Arbor music venue from 1968 until his retirement in March of 2008.

The Ark was established in 1965 as an outreach ministry—a coffeehouse—by five local churches: Northside Presbyterian Church, First Presbyterian Church, Calvary Presbyterian Church, Campus Chapel, and Presbyterian Campus Center. Though the Ark began as a partnership between religious organizations, the purpose of the Ark was not evangelism. Rather, the Ark founders wanted to provide university students with a safe, substance-free space where music, discussion, and artistic expression could thrive, and a respite from the turbulent campus climate of the mid 1960s. The Ark's mission statement is as follows: *“The Ark is a non-profit organization dedicated to the enrichment of the human spirit through the presentation, preservation and encouragement of folk, roots and ethnic music and related arts. The Ark provides a safe and welcoming atmosphere for all people to listen to, learn about, perform and share music.”*

Under Siglin's management, the Ark became a folk music institution, with many of the major folk artists of the 1960s-2000s performing at the Ark. Folk music continues to be one of the many musical styles presented at the Ark. Since its inception in 1965, the Ark has had three different homes: the first at the former Adams House at 1421 Hill Street. During the late 1970s, funding from the Ark's founding churches was discontinued and the Ark was reorganized as 501(c)(3) non-profit organization; shortly after the reorganization, the Ark moved to its second site at 637 ½ S. Main Street. The Ark opened at its the current location at 316 S. Main Street in 1996.

The Ark continues to provide public music events as a non-profit organization. Anya Siglin, Dave and Linda Siglin's daughter is currently the Ark's Program Director.

Scope and Content Note

The Dave Siglin papers date from 1968-2008 and primarily document Siglin's management role at the Ark, an Ann Arbor music club. The papers have been arranged into three series:

Administrative Records contain artists' contracts for musicians who performed at the Ark, financial records, and a 1976 contract between the City of Ann Arbor and Dave Siglin that addresses the Ark's newly acquired non-profit status. The series also includes correspondence addressed to Dave and Linda Siglin. Financial records are part of this series and are most comprehensive for 1969 until the early 1970s, though scattered dates are represented in the collection. An oversized financial ledger also comprises part of this series.

Printed Materials contain monthly concert calendars from 1969-1982, bi-monthly event calendars from 1984-2008, concert flyers from 1969, 1972-1976, a news clipping file with various articles about the Ark, and miscellaneous printed matter. An outsized volume contains concert posters and flyers from 1978-1986.

Photographs contain images of performers and audiences during Ark concerts. Candid shots are included as well. There are two folders of photographs depicting Dave and Linda Siglin. Separate from photographs taken at the Ark are the publicity photos produced by performers' publicists and distributed for use in press and publicity materials. Photographs are alphabetically arranged and have been kept in the order in which they were received. The bulk of the photographs date from the early 1970s until the late 1980s.

Box No. Description

Administrative Records

Box 1

Ann Arbor Comprehensive Employment Program, Ark Coffeehouse
and City of Ann Arbor, 1976
Ark Financial Records, 1972-1986 (scattered dates)

Out. Vol.

Ark Financial Ledger, Jan. 1969-Aug. 1972 (outside vol.)

Box 1

Artists' Contracts, A-Z (2 folders)
Correspondence (Incoming correspondence to Dave and Linda Siglin)

Printed Materials

Ark Concert Flyers
1969, 1972-1976

Out. Vol.

Ark Concert Posters and Flyers, 1978-1986 (outside volume)

Box 1

Ark Monthly Concert Calendars
1969-1982
Ark Bimonthly Calendar of Events, Oct. 1984-Dec. 2004
Ark Bimonthly Calendar of Events, 2005-2008 (scattered dates)
Patrons of the Ark and list of benefit performers July 1977-April 1981
News clipping file
Miscellaneous

Photographs

Box 2

Dave and Linda Siglin (2 folders)
Ark Performers and Audiences (arranged alphabetically) (10 folders)
Publicity photos (arranged alphabetically) (5 folders)
Miscellaneous