
Urbana-Champaign
Local Music Preservation Project

Sousa Archives and Center for American Music
University Library
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
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Why preserve our local music scene?

The Urbana-Champaign community has long supported a dynamic popular music scene. Musical establishments such as the Blind Pig, Mabel’s, Trito’s Uptown, Cowboy Monkey, and The Highdive have attracted a diverse group of talented musicians to our community over the years. In addition, an amazing array of local recording studios, record stores, record labels, music festivals, booking agents, and independent media outlets have helped our community nurture this remarkable music scene. As a result, performers such as REO Speedwagon, Head East, Starcastle, Adrian Belew, the Elvis Brothers, Alison Krauss, and Hum were able to call our community home during significant parts of their national and international careers.

The University Library’s Sousa Archives and Center for American Music (SACAM) has initiated a new preservation project to document our community’s vital local music heritage. Working in collaboration with the Champaign County Historical Archives and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Library and Archives, SACAM’s new initiative seeks to identify, acquire, and preserve the historical records and artifacts of Urbana-Champaign’s vibrant popular music scene.

These new historical collections will be made available to researchers and the general public through exhibitions, educational programs, and public performances hosted by SACAM.

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About the Center for American Music

Since 1994, the Sousa Archives and Center for American Music has acquired and preserved significant archival records and historical artifacts in multiple media formats that document America’s diverse cultures. SACAM makes its collections accessible in support of scholarship, exhibitions, publications, public engagement, and education. It ensures free and open access to its collections, and strives to provide the highest quality service to its users and the general public. SACAM actively pursues alliances inside and outside the University of Illinois community to support the continued preservation of America’s music history.

For Further Information:

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The Bears at Mabel’s, Champaign, IL. February 23, 1986.
(l-r): Chris Arduser, Adrian Belew, Rob Fetters, Bob Nyswonger.
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