



The Wittliff Collections

Guide to the Bobby Bridger Accessions 1944–2018 (Bulk dates: 1963–2003)

Collection UPWC-18087

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Bridger, Bobby
Title:	Guide to the Bobby Bridger Accessions
Dates:	1944–2018 (Bulk dates: 1963–2003)
Abstract:	Archival materials relating to the career and personal life of musician, playwright, and author, Bobby Bridger from 1944-2018. Included are photographs (including a photo of Bridger with Lady Bird Johnson); promotional material for A Ballad of the West; handwritten lyrics such as Heal in the Wisdom; and Bridger's vinyl records of Merging of our Minds, And I Wanted to Sing for the People, and Heal in the Wisdom.
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Biographical Note

Bobby Bridger began his professional recording career in Nashville, 1967, with Monument and Nugget Records. In 1970, Bridger signed with RCA Records and recorded two albums of original material (*Merging of Our Minds*, and *And I Wanted to Sing for the People*) before parting ways in 1973. Bridger launched his own Golden Egg Records in 1980 and released *Heal in the Wisdom* (1981), the four-disc boxed set, *A Ballad of the West* (2000), *Songs from A Ballad of the West* (2003), and Bridger's seventh studio album and current release, *Vagabond Heart* (2015).

Bridger has performed twice on PBS's *Austin City Limits* as well as other programs. Bridger's songs have been recorded by a diverse range of artists from pop (Bobby Goldboro) to country (Claude Gray), even to rock (The Lost Gonzo Band). His song, *Heal in the Wisdom*, has been the official anthem of the Kerrville Folk Festival since 1979.

A Ballad of the West, Bridger's trilogy of historical epic ballads, has been highly-acclaimed by renowned screenwriters and playwrights, western American historians, organizations, universities and institutions since its debut in the early 1970s. Bridger was the very first artist-in-residence at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, Wyoming and the John G. Neihardt Center in Nebraska, and at Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. His 1990 theatrical company was the first professional theater troupe to ever tour Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. The production was invited to return for an encore in 1991. He also remains the only ever "Balladeer-in-Residence" at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center in Waterford, Connecticut.

Bridger toured internationally from 1975-2011 performing *A Ballad of the West* as a one-man show and acting in Dale Wasserman's *Shakespeare and the Indians* and Christopher Sergel's stage adaptation of *Black Elk Speaks*. Full company productions of Bridger's *Seekers of the Fleece* ran from 1988-1994 in Cody, Wyoming. Bridger continues to perform his ballad *Lakota* but has retired live performances of ballads *Seekers of the Fleece* and *Pahaska*.

Bridger is the author of *A Ballad of the West*, the award-winning *Buffalo Bill and Sitting Bull: Inventing the Wild West*, *Bridger* (autobiography), and *Where the Tall Grass Grow: Becoming*

Indigenous and the Mythological Legacy of the American West. He resides in Houston, TX, with his wife Melissa and son Gabriel.

- From artist's website

Scope and Contents

Archival materials relating to the career and personal life of musician/playwright/author, Bobby Bridger from 1944-2018. Included are photographs (including a photo of Bridger with Lady Bird Johnson); promotional material for *A Ballad of the West*; handwritten lyrics such as *Heal in the Wisdom*; and Bridger's vinyl records of *Merging of our Minds*, *And I Wanted to Sing for the People*, and *Heal in the Wisdom*. Also, included in the collection is a screenplay for *Shakespeare and the Indians*.

Administrative Information

Physical Location

Materials may be stored off-site. Advance notice is required for use: .
<https://www.thewittliffcollections.txstate.edu/research/makearesearchappointment.html>.

Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open for research.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Bobby Bridger, 2018

Preferred Citation

Bobby Bridger Accessions, The Wittliff Collections, Texas State University.

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<https://www.thewittliffcollections.txstate.edu/research/visit/policies/publication.html>

Controlled Access Headings

- Country music
- Music -- Texas
- Musicians -- Texas

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Accession 2018-087

Box	Folder	
2828	1	Script for Max Evans, "The Wheel", letters and reviews; includes a small tape recording, 1971 - 1972
2828	2	Slide show of still photos by Dewey Vanderhoff of A Ballad of the West, 1988 - 1993
2828	3	Photo of Bridger with David Amram and Hondo Crouch, Kerrville, 1976
2828	4	Working copy of "Black Elk Speaks" script, Bridger played W.M. Bent and John Finnerty, undated
2828	5	Working script 'Shakespeare and the Indians' by Dale Wasserman, 1982
2828	6	Coyote Dreamtime", second draft unpublished manuscript, June 2003
2828	7	"Over You", "Shelter of my Mind", "The World is Turning On", three 45 vinyl records
2828	8	Map of The Bozeman Trail, undated
2828	9	Where the Tall Grass Grows, notebook, undated
2828	10	"Stages" with lyric by Rob Preston, music by Allan Jay Friedman; "Part of the Plan" lyric Rob Preston, music AJ Friedman, sheet music
2828	11	"Shakespeare and the Indians" screenplay, Revision 8A, January 1984
2828	12	Country Top 50 Charts, lists Bridger as a "Newcomer Pick", March 9, 1968
2828	13	Film footage of Bridger busking in New Orleans & Little Rock (DVD), 1968
2828	14	Bridger Documentary Film Promo "Quest of An Epic Balladeer;" DVD plus the final editing script, March 2006
2828	15	Very early newspaper features and reviews; Photocopies of newspaper clippings and photos, 1964 - 1968
2828	16	Monument and Nugget Records Releases & Early Covers of Bridger Songs (CD), 1967 - 1969
2828	17	Four Winds, journal including The Navajo Hopi Land Dispute, Summer-Autumn 1981
2828	18	Four Winds, journal including The Navajo Hopi Land Dispute, Winter/Spring 1981
2828	19	Seekers of the Fleece and Vagabond Heart (CDs)
2828	20	Bobby Bridger's CD titled Heal in the Wisdom, 1981
2828	21	The Epic Trilogy, A Ballad of the West by Bobby Bridger, collection of 3 DVDs
2828	22	Columbia High School-Columbia, Louisiana; "; Photocopy of photograph of Bridger from high school, 1962
2828	23	"A Chronology"; Timeline of Bridger's career, 1963 - 1999
2828	24	Copy of photo 1968 demo sessions with manager and sound engineers, one CD with title Merging of our Minds, 1969
2828	25	"And I wanted to sing for the people"; copy of album art and CD
2828	26	Photocopies of photos of Bridger with Fred Carter, Jr., Charlie McCoy, Pete Drake, Paul Simon, Bob Dylan, 1968
2828	27	RCA Publicity Photos, undated

2828	28	Promo Shot, 1967 - 1968
2828	29	Merging of our Minds Promotional tour, 1972
2828	30	RCA-E.H. Morris, Merging of our Minds-Musicians release forms, July 26, 1972
2828	31	"Miscellaneous early song demos and first mixes from master sessions"; CD and notes about session, 1963 - 1970
2828	32	A Ballad of the West, Epic Trilogy synopsis
2828	33	Fred Carter, Jr., Photos
2828	34	American Airlines In-Flight Magazine-Seekers of the Fleece, July 15, 1988
2828	35	"Debut of Pahaska in Cody, plus shows in spearfish, S.D. etc.", October 29, 1998
2828	36	Photographs of Pahaska and A Ballad of the West, July 8- August 2, [1995]
2828	37	Buffalo Bill and Sitting Bull, Review-Fort Worth Star Telegram, True West, 2003
2828	38	"Indian Country Today Interview"; Where the Tall Grass Grows", January 23, 2012
2828	39	Sedona Monthly, Bridger Feature, November 2008
2828	40	"Act One "Alderbaran and the Falling Star" & Six Songs from the Piece, featuring Leonard Cohen's Band, Austin based "Passenger" and Jennifer Warnes"; 2 CDs
2829	1	Alderbaran & the Falling Star, complete script, 1973 - 1985
2829	2	Lakota, featuring John Inmon
2829	3	'A Ballad of the West', Recording Sessions, 'Seekers of the Fleece', color photos of Bridger, The Lost Gonzo Band, and Slim Pickens, 1975
2829	4	"Pahaska"; Complete script, 1996
2829	5	"Greater Tuna" playbill signed by Joe Sears
2829	6	A Ballad of the West in repertory with Gabriel Bridger, 1999 - 2004
2829	7	Original Handwritten Lyrics 'Heal in the Wisdom' plus Michael Eakin story of Murder
2829	8	Austin Chronicle, definitive 'Progressive Country Albums'
2829	9	New Times Magazine, rare Austin Early Music Scene"; Includes an article about Jerry Jeff Walker's influence in Austin music, June 25, 1976
2829	10	U.N. Global Survival Forum, Oxford University, March 10, 1988
2829	11	The Longest Walk II Washington D.C.", July 2008
2829	12	Country Music; U.K.'s Country Music Magazine, August 2001
2829	13	Healing Spirit Essay by Vine Deloria, Jr.
2829	14	Black and white photographs from 'Bridger, An Autobiography', 1944 - 1991
2829	15	Miscellaneous Photos"; Photos including Bridger performing, general promo photos and a photo of performance for Lady Bird Johnson, 1963 - 2011
2829	16	Seekers of the Fleece, Live Oak Theatre, Austin, 1988
2829	17	Eugene O'Neil Theater Center, National Theater Institute"; catalog , 1985 - 1986
2829	18	American Heroes-Western Film Festival based on A Ballet of the West, Robinson Film Center, Shreveport, LA.
2829	19	Western Writers of America. Finalist award, Silver Spur documentary script, 2009
2829	20	Playbill, A Ballad of the West, Green River, Wyoming
2829	21	One Man Show in Reparatory Old Trail Town, Cody, Wyoming
2829	22	Promotional Materials Trilogy in Repertory, 1999 - 2003
2829	23	Heal in the Wisdom Sheet Music, 1981
2829	24	Wild West Magazine: 'The Showman and the Shaman', December 2004

2829	25	Texas Monthly, Joe Nick Patoski Reviews for A Ballad of the West, March 2001
2829	26	Praise for A Ballad of the West
2829	27	True West Magazine, July 2011
2829	28	John Williams Performing Arts Center-Tulsa, Black Elk Speaks, 1983
2829	29	A Ballad of the West, Pahaska AD in True West Magazine
2829	30	Leo Biga's Comprehensive Feature, 'Omaha Reader', April 25, 2018
2829	31	Rod Kennedy's 80th Birthday Tribute Program, February 2, 2010
2829	32	Official Release of 'Vagabond Heart', 2015
2829	33	Praise for Heal in the Wisdom"; this song is the official anthem of the Kerrville Folk Festival, 1981 - 1998
2829	34	Texas/ Soviet Union 1987, photographs by Butch Hancock, 1987
2829	35	Research for Alfred Jacob Miller Paintings, 1976
2829	36	Austin Vinyl Release of Heal in the Wisdom, 1981
2829	37	'Buffalo Bill and Sitting Bull', Review Western Writers of America: Roundup Magazine, April 2003
2829	38	Fort Worth Star Telegram, Jeff Guinn, June 21, 1998
2829	39	Austin City Limits"; includes a copy of a photo of Bridger on Season One of Austin City Limits, 1976
2829	40	Seekers of the Fleece and Ballad of the West photographs, Cody, Wyoming
2829	41	Centennial Colorado Town Journal"; Ballad of the West article, March 2003
2829	42	Poster Breakaway Movie, undated
2829	43	'Pahaska' Debut Buffalo Bill Historical Center, July 8-August 2, 1965
2829	44	Omaha Reader-Buffalo Bill and Sitting Bull Review, February 20, 2003
2829	45	Buffalo Bill and Sitting Bull, Omaha World Herald, January 12, 2003
2829	46	Press Adelaide, South Australia, June 25-July 24, 1986
2829	47	Coyote Dreamtime, Bridger writes for Austin American Statesman about South Australian tour, May 17, 1987
2829	48-50	'Hoka Hey!', Quarterly Newspaper created/edited by Bridger, 1984 - 1994
2829	51	Word Sender Award, November 13, 2016
2829	52	Snapshots of various productions of Seekers of the Fleece, A Ballad of the West copies of photographs, undated
2829	53	Attaway Fellowship, Centenary College of Louisiana, 2013
2829	54	Ave Bonar Photoshoot contact sheets, sculpture and paintings are Bridger's work, 1986
2829	55	A Ballad of the West, Season Cody Enterprise Feature, 1991
2829	56	"Shakespeare and the Indians"; black and white photo, 1983
2829	57	Photos and flyer for the Cowboys for Indians concert, including photos of Charlie Hill, Kris Kristofferson, Bobby Bridger, and Rambling Jack Elliot, 1987
2829	58	Poster from Bridger's appearance on American Experience, PBS, February 25, 2008
2829	59	"Black Elk Speaks, photographs" including photos of David Carradine, 1984
2829	60	Feature Monroe New Star, Monroe Louisiana, undated
2829	61	USA Today article on Bridger's Buffalo Bill performance, February 8, 2001
2829	62	Buffalo Bill and Sitting Bull Press, 2003
2829	63	A Ballad of the West, Feature in the Houston Press, April 26-May 2, 2001
2829	64	Songs from a Ballad of the West, Review American Cowboy, January/February 2004

2829	65	Feature Country Music magazine, London, U.K, August 2001
2829	66	Kerr Cultural Center, Arizona State University, March 8-12, 2002
2829	67	Buffalo Bill and Sitting Bull, Gold Award Winner, 2002
2829	68	Letters from Lady Bird Johnson" includes photograph of Bridger and Johnson, June 16, 1982
2829	69	Louisiana Folklife Festival, undated
2829	70	Pahaska Review, Omaha Reader, Leo Biga, undated
2829	71	High Plains Heritage Center, Spearfish, S.D., ."; October 29, 1998
2829	72	Lakota, John T. Davis Review, January 28, 1993
2829	73	Photos and flyer from Desert Dance, 1979
2829	74	Folkwax Magazine, London, U.K., Buffalo Bill and Sitting Bull, August 20, 2003
2829	75	Photos from when Bridger worked a month each year as a cowboy at High Island Ranch, Wyoming, 1992 - 2002
2829	76	Miscellaneous photos, promo A Ballad of the West, 1991
2829	77	Marlon Brando Mailgram Endorsement, February 26, 1976
2829	78	Rare Neihardt Conference Poster, Bridger and William Least Heat Moon, April 26, 1986
2829	79	Rod Kennedy's Farewell Concert, August 22, 2002
2829	80	Kerrville Folk Festival Awards and ticket for Bridger, Fromholz at Cactus Café, 1994
2829	81	Shakespeare and the Indians, photos, playbill, and feature, 1982
2829	82	Literary Horses, Spring/Summer 2002
2829	83	Reviews of Buffalo Bill and Sitting Bull, Inventing the Wild West, undated
2829	84	Ballad ticket stub copy, November 16, 1996
2829	85	DVD Log, May 4-9, 2004
2829	86	Brief Bio, True West Magazine, June 2011
2829	87	Screen credit, film score, Breakaway, undated
2829	88	Negatives for cassette tape of Seekers of the Fleece, 1975
2829	89	Promo Sheet"; A Ballad of the West, undated
2829	90	Wharton County Junior College Lecture pamphlet, October 6, 2005
2829	91	A lovely letter from the first lady to see The Seekers Musical, July 27, 1988
2829	92	Digital transfer log for Seekers of the Fleece, 2016
2829	93	Grand Theater, Galveston Season Program, 2004 - 2005
2829	94	Client list of attorney, Leonard M. Marks, Bridger's Lawyer and a letter about Bridger's Painting, July 12, 1994
2829	95	Heal in the Wisdom praise, undated
2829	96	Where the Tall Grass Grows, production schedule, undated
2829	97	Music Journeys, Niobrabra River, Nebraska, April 27, 1986
2829	98	Review of Kerrville Road Show by Houston's Legendary music critic Bob Claypool, undated
2829	99	Ballad returns to Cody, newspaper clipping, undated
2829	100	Groundwork for Yellowstone, Grand Teton Tour featuring Lady Bird Johnson's endorsements, 1989
2829	101	Joslyn Museum, Omaha, Nebraska, August 6, 1987
2829	102	Seekers of the Fleece, Cody Debut, First Review, 1988

2829	103	Classics Department, Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska, undated
2829	104	A Classicist's Perspective"; Panel on Bridger at Creighton University, April 9, 1991
2829	105	Native American Conference and symposium, June 15-17 2018
2830	1	A Ballad of the West posters, 1993 - 1995
2830	2	Bridger's vinyl records Merging of our Minds, And I Wanted to Sing for the People, and Heal in the Wisdom, 1972 - 1981
2830	3	Shakespeare and the Indians set photo on wood plaque, November 2, 1982
Map-case 3	Drawer	Wild Basin Wilderness presents the Christopher Cross Party, Keep Austin Weird poster, April 18, 1982
Map-case 3	Drawer	A Ballad of the West poster on poster board
Map-case 3	Drawer	The State of Texas names Bridger as a Honorary Texas Citizen, September 30, 1982