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1994-12-05

### Letter from Michael Meckna to Louise Tobin, 1994-12-05

Michael Meckna

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Department of Music

December 5, 1994

Louise T. Hucko  
2108 Northwood Terrace  
Denton, TX 76201

Dear Mrs. Hucko:

I recently spoke with your son Tim concerning a book about Harry James which I'm writing for the Smithsonian Institution Press. He gave me your address and urged me to get in touch with you. Would you be so kind as to speak with me sometime? I'd be most grateful. While I intend to write basically a scholarly book about James, I feel strongly that it could benefit greatly from personal interviews with those who knew him well.

For example, many sources say that Harry discovered Frank Sinatra, but I have an idea that it was you who did so. Perhaps you could confirm or correct the record on several other points as well. A Smithsonian book about a famous American should be definitive, and I would be most grateful for your contribution. Later this month I plan to talk with Tex Beneke, and eventually I hope to speak with Leon Breeden, Chris Griffin, Jake Hanna, Earl Warren, and several others. I would also be grateful for your suggestions about people whom I might interview.

Tim also gave me your phone number, so I'll call in a few days. Perhaps we might get together after the holidays. In the meantime, I hope this letter finds you well.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Meckna".

Michael Meckna  
Associate Prof.  
Music History & Musicology

P.S. It's a very happy coincidence that I am now associated with Tim's alma mater. Did you ever know his classmate Curt Wilson? He's now our director of Jazz Studies and in fact the one who urged me to get in touch with James's relatives and associates.