



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D. C. 20535

Subject of Request: Ella Fitzgerald

FOIPA NO.

Dear Requester:

Enclosed are copies of documents from FBI records. Excisions have been made to protect information exempt from disclosure pursuant to Title 5, United States Code, Section 552 (Freedom of Information Act) and/or Section 552a (Privacy Act). In addition, where excisions were made, the appropriate exempting subsections have been cited opposite the deletions. Where pages have been withheld in their entirety, a deleted page information sheet has been substituted showing the reasons or basis for the deletion. The subsections cited for withholding information from the enclosed documents are marked below:

Section 552

Section 552a

(b)(1)

(b)(2)

(b)(3)

(b)(4)

(b)(5)

(b)(6)

(b)(7)(A)

(b)(7)(B)

(b)(7)(C)

(b)(7)(D)

(b)(7)(E)

(b)(7)(F)

(b)(8)

(b)(9)

(d)(5)

(j)(2)

(k)(1)

(k)(2)

(k)(3)

(k)(4)

(k)(5)

(k)(6)

(k)(7)

(See Form OPCA-16a, enclosed, for an explanation of these exemptions.)

Pursuant to your request, **8** preprocessed pages are being released.

The documents responsive to your request were previously processed for another requester. In order to provide the information you requested as soon as possible, we have released the FBI information as it was originally processed. We have not contacted other government agencies concerning their information in FBI files.

MVF:mvf

- ☒ If you desire, you may appeal any denials contained herein. Appeals should be directed in writing to the Co-Director, Office of Information and Privacy, U.S. Department of Justice, Flag Building, Suite 570, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001 within sixty days from receipt of this letter. The envelope and the letter should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Appeal" or "Information Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA number assigned to your request so that it may be easily identified.
- ☒ See additional information which follows.

A search of the general indices to the central records system did not reveal that the subject of your request has been the subject of an FBI investigation by this office. However, enclosed are cross references which are identifiable with the subject of your request. A cross-reference is defined as a mention of the subject of your request in a file on another individual, organization, event, activity, or the like. In processing the cross-references, the pages considered for possible release included only those pages which mention the subject of your request and any additional pages showing the context in which the subject of your request was mentioned.

Sincerely yours,

John M. Kelso, Jr.,
Section Chief
Freedom of Information-
Privacy Acts Section
Office of Public and
Congressional Affairs

Enclosures (2)

Note: Brownouts are located 190-HQ-1267617 EBF 3

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION
COVER SHEET

SUBJECT: ELLA FITZGERALD



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
American Embassy
Rome, Italy

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Date: June 19, 1957
To: Director, FBI (100-422788)
From: Legat, Rome (100-60)
Subject: [REDACTED] b7C
SM - C

The information in the attached memo was furnished
b7C by [REDACTED] on 6/19/57. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
b7D

3 - Bureau (Enc. 5)
1 - Rome
AAC:BMc

9

2cc - let
2cc - Encl
AGENCY
REQ. REC'D
DATE FORW. 7/2/57
HOW FORW. 0-25
BY [REDACTED]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
11/27/98 60267/NLS/BCE/KSB
413098

100-422788-21

RECORDED - 91 JUN 24 1957
INDEXED - 91

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
b7C

Classified by 6855 DML/df
Exempt from GDS Category 1
Date of Declassification Indefinite
9-12-77

57 JUL 2 1957



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

June 19, 1957

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

b7C [REDACTED]

The following information was furnished by a confidential source abroad on June 19, 1957. 4

b7C ~~X~~ [REDACTED] and his musical orchestra, known as "Jazz at the Philharmonic," performed in Rome, Italy from May 25 to June 6, 1957. The orchestra was composed of nine musicians, among whom was the singer, ELLA FITZGERALD. C

b7C No information was received indicating that [REDACTED] engaged in any political activities while in Italy. 4

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP(S) OF CLASSIFICATION DATE 9-14-77 DML/RCC

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classified by 6855 DML/dg
Exempt from GDS Category 1
Date of Declassification Indefinite

9-12-77

COPIES DESTROYED
11 OCT 24 1963

100-422788-21

ENCLOSURE

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-185087)

DATE: 1/14/58

R 09

FROM : SAC, CHICAGO (100-33370)

SUBJECT: SIXTH WORLD FESTIVAL OF
YOUTH AND STUDENTS
IS-C

W The photograph of ~~ELLA FITZGERALD~~, the *U*
Negro singer, which was furnished by Washington Field,
was displayed on November 27, 1957, to ~~_____~~ *62/67D*
Informant advised that she did not see FITZGERALD at
the Festival and did not believe that she had attended.

- 2-Bureau (REGISTERED)
- 1-WFO (REGISTERED) *X*
- 1-Chicago

GJPR:NCS
(4)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/27/98 BY 60321 NLS/BCE/KSP

#413018

RECORDED - 83

FBI INDEXED - 83

RECEIVED
JAN 20 1958
EX-117

100-185087-1043

JAN 20 1958

INT. SEC.

63 JAN 23 1958

7375

69C

bc

February 18, 1970

BY LIAISON

Honorable Alexander P. Butterfield
Deputy Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Butterfield:

Reference is made to your ^oname check request concerning Ella Fitzgerald, [REDACTED]

The central files of the FBI reveal no pertinent information concerning [REDACTED]

The fingerprint files of the Identification Division of the FBI contain no arrest data identifiable with [REDACTED] based upon background information submitted in connection with this name check request.

Attached are separate memoranda concerning Ella Fitzgerald and [REDACTED]

Sincerely yours,

CC TO: *White House*
REQ. REC'D *7-12-74*
SEP 16 1974
ANS. BY: *CJK*

ENCLOSURE

RECEIVED
DATE *11/27/98*
#*413098*
WOLNLS/BOE/USB

Enclosures (2)

Mr. DeLoach (sent direct)
Mr. Gale (sent direct)

REC-33 62-5-35583

mcb mcb

17 FEB 20 1970

1970 623

TELETYPE UNIT

b7C

February 18, 1970

ELLA FITZGERALD

SUMMARY

Ella Fitzgerald, who was born on April 25, 1918, at Newport News, Virginia, has not been the subject of an investigation conducted by the FBI. However, our files reveal the following information concerning her.

b7c

In June, 1957, it was reported that one [redacted] and his musical orchestra performed in Rome, Italy, from May 25 to June 6, 1957. This orchestra was reportedly composed of nine musicians and Ella Fitzgerald, a singer. [redacted] was allegedly a member of the Communist Party in the early 1940's. He was interviewed by representatives of the FBI in 1956 and displayed a cooperative attitude. (100-422788-21)

A newspaper article in January, 1957, indicated that Fitzgerald and three other members of her staff had accepted out-of-court settlements on four damage suits they brought against a major air line charging racial discrimination.

(62-101087-A-26)

The fingerprint files of the Identification Division of the FBI contain no arrest data identifiable with captioned individual based upon background information submitted in connection with this name check request.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 11/27/98

#413098

62267 NLS/BCE/KSB

M

- Tolson _____
- DeLoach _____
- Walters _____
- Mohr _____
- Bishop _____
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- Felt _____
- Gale _____
- Rosen _____
- Sullivan _____
- Tavel _____
- Soyars _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

NOTE: Per request of Alexander P. Butterfield, Deputy Assistant to the President.

ALA/mcb:mnb (7)

W

62-5-35583

ENCLOSURE

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR ADD. DISSEMINATION

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM : SAC, WFO (100-34373)

DATE: 11/7/57

GIR 18

SUBJECT: ELLA FITZGERALD (Sixth World Youth Festival)
SECURITY MATTER - C

Rebulet 10/22/57, captioned "Sixth World Festival of Youth and Students, IS-C", which sets forth the name of "ELLA FITZGERALD, Los Angeles," as being among those individuals named by [redacted] as having attended the Sixth World Youth Festival.

ba/b7D

Re Los Angeles letter 10/22/57 captioned [redacted] SM-C; b7C
ELLA FITZGERALD, SM-C" requesting passport check.

On 11/4/57, [redacted], Legal Section, Passport Office, Department of State, made available to SA [redacted] the passport file of the publicly known vocalist ELLA FITZGERALD as being the only ELLA FITZGERALD she could locate who presently is in possession of a valid passport. A review of that file disclosed the following information:

Birth affidavit executed on 4/16/48 by [redacted] Secretary, [redacted] N. Y. attesting that she is the cousin of ELLA FITZGERALD BROWN, who resides at 104-47 Ditmas Boulevard, E. Elmhurst, Long Island, N. Y., and to the best of her knowledge and belief she was born 4/25/18 at Newport News, Virginia.

Passport number 266295 was issued to ELLA BROWN on 8/25/48. In her application for that passport, she stated she was born 4/25/18 at Newport News, Virginia, and maintains permanent residence at 104-47 Ditmas Boulevard, E. Elmhurst, L.I., N. Y. She listed her father as WILLIAM FITZGERALD, possibly born in Virginia, and her mother as TEMPLE FITZGERALD, possibly born in Virginia. She indicated that her parents are deceased. She stated she was married on 12/10/47 to [redacted] who was born [redacted] at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. ELLA BROWN indicated that she planned to depart from New York City on 9/15/48, for a proposed length of stay abroad of five weeks in order to visit London, England, for a performance at the London Palladium.

The following description of ELLA FITZGERALD BROWN was set forth in the above mentioned passport application:

- 2 - Bureau
- 1 - Chicago (Info.) (RM)
- 2 - Los Angeles (RM)
- 2 - New York (RM)
- 1 - WFO

WGS:jab
(8)

67 NOV 1957

RECORDED - 61
INDEXED - 61

18 NOV 8 1957

SUBV. CONTROL

b7C

100-427416-2X1

Height: 5' 5 1/2"
 Hair: Black
 Eyes: Brown
 Occupation: Vocalist

Passport number 266295 was renewed on 3/21/52, and in her renewal application, ELLA BROWN stated she intended to depart from New York City on 3/28/52 for a proposed length of stay abroad of two weeks in order to visit Scandanavian countries, France, Switzerland, Belgium, and Germany for the purpose of performing at jazz concerts.

b7C

New York Series passport number 1112 was issued on 2/5/53 to ELLA BROWN, known professionally as ELLA FITZGERALD. In her application for that passport, she indicated she resides at 179-07 Murdock Avenue, St. Albans, L.I., N. Y. She stated her husband, [REDACTED] was residing at [REDACTED] N. Y. She stated her maiden name was ELLA FITZGERALD; that she was previously married to [REDACTED] in 1941 at [REDACTED] Missouri, and that this marriage was annulled in 1942. ELLA BROWN stated she would depart from the United States on 2/14/53, for a proposed length of stay abroad of from six to eight weeks in order to visit Sweden, Holland, Belgium, France, Italy, and Denmark for the purpose of performance at concerts.

On 1/20/55, passport number 521063 was issued to "ELLA BROWN, known professionally as ELLA FITZGERALD". In Her application for that passport, she stated her marriage to [REDACTED] was terminated by divorce on 8/13/53. She stated her permanent residence was at 179-07 Murdock Avenue, St. Albans, L.I., N. Y. She indicated she would depart from the United States on 2/5/55 for a proposed length of stay abroad of six weeks in order to visit Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Germany, France, and England for the purpose of concert tour with Jazz at the Philharmonic, Inc.

Her passport was renewed on 1/15/57, and in her renewal application she stated she intended to leave the United States on 2/9/57, for a proposed length of stay abroad until April, 1957, in order to visit Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Italy, Germany, and France for the purpose of entertaining.

There was no additional pertinent information set forth in her file.

WFO will forward copies of ELLA FITZGERALD BROWN's passport application photograph to New York. Copies will also be furnished to Chicago for display to [REDACTED] to ascertain if informant can identify same. P.

b2/b7D
 Not believed ident
 w/ captioned subject
 DLS