

# Reel, Tom

Tom Reel Papers  
1986-2018, undated



## Title Statement

Reel, Tom A Guide to the Tom Reel Papers MG 124

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## Profile Description

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## Descriptive Summary

**Unit ID**

MG 124

**Unit ID**

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**Unit Date**

1986-2018, undated

**Unit Date**

Date acquired: 03/26/2012

**Language**

English

**Abstract**

Tom Reel is a bassist and active member in the Virginia Symphony Orchestra and became a leading proponent for the musicians during the strike in 1988. This collection outlines the strike and its aftermath and includes a scrapbook, newspaper articles, correspondence, and newsletters.

**Extent**

1.50 Linear Feet

**Extent**

1 Hollinger document case, 1 archival notebook, and 1 oversized box boxes

**Repository**

ODU Community Collections

## Administrative Information

**Conditions Governing Access**

Open to researchers without restriction.

**Conditions Governing Use**

Before publishing quotations or excerpts from any materials, permission must be obtained from Special Collections and University Archives, and the holder of the copyright, if not Old Dominion University Libraries.

**Source of Acquisition**

Thomas P. Reel

**Method of Acquisition**

Gift.

**Processing Information**

The collection was processed by Melissa Erlandson, Special Collections and University Archives Student Assistant, in 2016.

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Box [insert number], Folder [insert number and title], Tom Reel Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

## Biographical or Historical Information

Tom Reel is an active member in the Virginia Symphony Orchestra and became a leading proponent for the musicians during the strike in 1988. After graduating from the Air Force Academy in 1970, Tom received two degrees in music from the University of Kansas and joined the Virginia Symphony in 1984, as a double bassist. Quickly filling a role in the Symphony, he was among the first musicians to join the Symphony Board in 1989. He became the Secretary-Treasurer for the Local Musicians' Union in 1989 and served briefly as Vice-President and President. Tom Reel was a large part of the Virginia Symphony and his role in the bettering of the organization cannot be overstated.

Beginning in 1965, the Virginia Symphony quickly became a cultural landmark in the Hampton Roads area. It serviced multiple cities with its performances and became the thirty-third ranked symphony in the nation, yet the musicians of the symphony were some of the least compensated in the industry. In spring of 1988, the musicians of the Virginia Symphony advocated for more benefits and better wages which, with little success, resulted in a six-week long strike starting in late September. Tom Reel became the president of the musicians' organization and worked with the Symphony Board to come to an agreement. Much of the issue was caused by the Symphony's financial strife, which lasted much of the 1980's and the 1990's, as they directed majority of their funds towards marketing instead of the players. The six-week strike gained a large communal backing and in November of 1988 the Symphony settled on a small increase in wages and benefits.

Note written by Joe Smith

## Scope and Contents

This collection contains material collected and created by Tom Reel concerning the Virginia Symphony

Orchestra strike in 1988 and its aftermath. Included in the collection are a scrapbook, newspaper articles, correspondence between the musicians and the Board of the Virginia Symphony Orchestra, and newsletters concerning the symphony.

## Related Materials

Virginia Symphy Orchestra Records (MG 81-A)

## Keywords

Orchestral musicians--Virginia  
Strikes and lockouts--United States--Orchestras  
Virginia Symphony  
Reel, Thomas P.

## Arrangement Note

The collection is organized into four series: Series I: The Musicians' Strike; Series II: Aftermath and Symphony Legacy; Series III: Scrapbook; and Series IV: Artifacts.

## Description of Subordinate Components

### Series I: The Musicians' Strike

**Unit ID** Series I

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/24072

**Unit Date** 1986-2004

#### Scope and Contents

This series contains material related to the 1988 Virginia Symphony Orchestra musicians strike. Included in the series are musician wage scales, correspondence, programs, and strikes from other symphonies.

#### Box 1

**Unit ID** Box 1

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/24073

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

#### Folder 1: Musicians Wage Scales

**Unit ID** Folder 1

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/24074

**Unit Date** 1986-2004

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 1 (folder)

#### Preferred Citation

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 1, Musicians Wage Scales, 1986-2004, Tom Reel Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

#### Folder 2: Musician's Strike Newspaper Articles

**Unit ID** Folder 2

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/24080

**Unit Date** 1988-1989

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 2 (folder)

#### Preferred Citation

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 2, Musician's Strike Newspaper Articles, 1988-1989, Tom Reel Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

**Folder 3: Tom Reel Correspondence**

**Unit ID** Folder 3

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/24081

**Unit Date** 1988-2001

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 3 (folder)

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 3, Tom Reel Correspondence, 1988-2001, Tom Reel Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

**Folder 4: Letters to the Virginia Symphony Orchestra Board**

**Unit ID** Folder 4

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/24082

**Unit Date** 1988

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 4 (folder)

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 4, Letters to the Virginia Symphony Orchestra Board, 1988, Tom Reel Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

**Folder 5: Organ of the Species Newsletter**

**Unit ID** Folder 5

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/24093

**Unit Date** 1988

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 5 (folder)

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 5, Organ of the Species Newsletter, 1988, Tom Reel Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

**Folder 6: Musician and Board Correspondence**

**Unit ID** Folder 6

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/24094

**Unit Date** 1988

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 6 (folder)

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 6, Musician and Board Correspondence, 1988, Tom Reel Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

**Folder 7: Picketing Information**

**Unit ID** Folder 7

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/24095

**Unit Date** 1988

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 7 (folder)

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 7, Picketing Information, 1988, Tom Reel Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

## **Folder 8: Strikes of Other Symphonies**

**Unit ID** Folder 8

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/24096

**Unit Date** 1988-1989

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 8 (folder)

### **Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 8, Strikes of Other Symphonies, 1988-1989, Tom Reel Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

## **Folder 9: Programs and Brochures in Support of Musicians**

**Unit ID** Folder 9

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/24099

**Unit Date** 1988-1998

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 9 (folder)

### **Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 9, Programs and Brochures in Support of Musicians, 1988-1998, Tom Reel Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

## **Series II: Aftermath and Symphony Legacy**

**Unit ID** Series II

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/24075

**Unit Date** 1988-2018, undated

### **Scope and Contents**

This series includes material related to the aftermath of the 1988 Virginia Symphony Orchestra musicians strike. Included in the series are newspaper articles, copies of the Lines and Spaces newsletter, and a biography of Joann Falletta.

### **Box 1**

**Unit ID** Box 1

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/24076

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

## **Folder 10: Symphony Miscellaneous**

**Unit ID** Folder 10

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/24077

**Unit Date** 1988-1989

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 10 (folder)

### **Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 10, Symphony Miscellaneous, 1988-1989, Tom Reel Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

## **Folder 11: Benefit Concert with David Ogden Stiers**

**Unit ID** Folder 11

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/24078

**Unit Date** 1988

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 11 (folder)

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 11, Benefit Concert with David Ogden Stiers, 1988, Tom Reel Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

**Folder 12: Newspaper Articles**

**Unit ID** Folder 12

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/24079

**Unit Date** 1989-1997

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 12 (folder)

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 12, Newspaper Articles, 1989-1997, Tom Reel Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

**Folder 13: Lines and Spaces Newsletter**

**Unit ID** Folder 13

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/24086

**Unit Date** 1992-2005

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 13 (folder)

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 13, Lines and Spaces Newsletter, 1992-2005, Tom Reel Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

**Folder 14: Articles**

**Unit ID** Folder 14

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/24087

**Unit Date** 2000-2010

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 14 (folder)

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 14, Articles, 2000-2010, Tom Reel Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

**Folder 15: Biography on Joann Falletta**

**Unit ID** Folder 15

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/24088

**Unit Date** undated

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 15 (folder)

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 15, Biography on Joann Falletta, undated, Tom Reel Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

**Folder 16: Tribute to David Ogden Stiers**

**Unit ID** Folder 16

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/24092

**Unit Date** 2018

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 16 (folder)

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item and date], Box 1, Folder 16, Tribute to David Ogden Stiers, 2018, Tom Reel Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

**Series III: Scrapbook**

**Unit ID** Series III

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/24083

**Unit Date** 1988-1989

**Scope and Contents**

This series consists of a scrapbook of newspaper articles related to the 1988 Virginia Symphony Orchestra musicians strike.

**Box 2**

**Unit ID** Box 2

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/24084

**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**Strike Newspaper Scrapbook**

**Unit ID** Item 1

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/24085

**Unit Date** 1988-1989

**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**Preferred Citation**

Strike Newspaper Scrapbook, 1988-1989, Box 2, Tom Reel Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

**Series IV: Artifacts**

**Unit ID** Series IV

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/24089

**Unit Date** circa 1988-1994, undated

**Scope and Contents**

This series includes Virginia Symphony Orchestra t-shirts, including those specifically designed for the 1988 Virginia Symphony Orchestra musicians strike.

**Oversize Box 3**

**Unit ID** Oversize Box 3

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/24090

**Mixed Materials** 3 (Oversize Box)

**Supporting the Arts Means Supporting the Artists T-shirt**

**Unit ID** Item 1

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/24091

**Unit Date** circa 1988

**Realia** 3 (Oversize Box)

**Preferred Citation**

Supporting the Arts Means Supporting the Artists T-shirt, circa 1988, Oversize Box 3, Tom Reel Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

**Stand Up for Your Symphony T-shirt**

**Unit ID** Item 2

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/24097

**Unit Date** circa 1988

**Realia** 3 (Oversize Box)

**Preferred Citation**

Stand Up for Your Symphony T-shirt, circa 1988, Oversize Box 3, Tom Reel Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

**Virginia Symphony T-shirt (Black)**

**Unit ID** Item 3

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/24098

**Unit Date** 1994

**Realia** 3 (Oversize Box)

**Preferred Citation**

Virginia Symphony T-shirt (Black), 1994, Oversize Box 3, Tom Reel Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

**Virginia Symphony T-shirt (White)**

**Unit ID** Item 4

**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival\_objects/24100

**Unit Date** undated

**Realia** 3 (Oversize Box)

**Preferred Citation**

Virginia Symphony T-shirt (White), undated, Oversize Box 3, Tom Reel Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.