

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Reverend Dr. Dwight Andrews

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Andrews, Dwight
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Dr. Dwight Andrews,
Dates:	June 16, 2006
Bulk Dates:	2006
Physical Description:	6 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:37:51).
Abstract:	Music director, chaplain, and pastor Reverend Dr. Dwight Andrews (1951 -) composed the original musical scores for most of the August Wilson Broadway productions as the Yale Repertory's resident music director, in addition to scoring many other Broadway, television and film productions. He is an associate professor of music theory at Emory University, and serves as pastor of First Congregational Church in Atlanta, Georgia. Andrews was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on June 16, 2006, in Atlanta, Georgia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2006_093
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Musical theorist, composer and minister, the Reverend Dwight Douglas Andrews was born on September 24, 1951, in Detroit, Michigan, to city administrator James Wildrex Andrews and Lovetta Foster Andrews. He attended Longfellow Elementary School and Durphy Junior High School, where music instructor Andy White introduced him to live jazz performed by Yusef Lateef, Ramsey Lewis, the Jazz Crusaders and other greats. At Cass Technical High School, Andrews studied the classics and learned music theory from Marilyn Jones. He also led his own band called the Seven Sounds, which often opened for the group Parliament-Funkadelic. Earning a partial scholarship to the University of Michigan in 1969, Andrews played in the marching band at two Rose Bowls and participated in the Black Action Movement (BAM). Receiving his B.A. degree in 1973 and his M.A. degree in music, Andrews went on to Yale University to earn his Masters of Divinity degree in 1977 and his Ph.D. in music theory in 1993.

Ordained as a minister in 1978, Andrews served as associate pastor of Christ's Church as well as a faculty member of the Music Department and the Department of African American Studies. He served as the Yale University campus chaplain for ten years. At Yale University, Andrews met Lloyd Richards of the Yale Repertory Theatre and playwright, August Wilson. As the Yale Repertory's resident music director, Andrews would go on to compose the original musical scores for most of the August Wilson Broadway productions including *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, *The Piano Lesson* and *Seven Guitars*. Andrews also composed movie and television scores for *The Old Settler*, *W.E.B. DuBois: A Biography in Four Voices*, *In Her Own Words*, *Homecoming*, *Ms. Evers Boys* and *I'll Make Me A World*. He worked with Sean "P. Diddy" Combs and Phylicia Rashad on a new Broadway production of *A Raisin in the Sun*. Specializing in woodwinds, Andrews has served as a multi-instrumentalist on over twenty-five jazz and new music albums. He can be heard on Jay Hoggard's *The Right Track* with Hilton Ruiz and Jack Dejhonette.

Since 1994, at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, Andrews has served as an associate professor of music theory, where he teaches “The History of Jazz” and “Sacred Music in the United States.” He also serves as pastor of First Congregational Church, where Rev. Andrew Young is associate pastor. He was the first Quincy Jones Visiting Professor of African American Music at Harvard University in 1997. Andrews has received the Pew Trust/TCG Artist Residency Fellowship, a Mellon Fellowship and Emory University’s Distinguished Teacher Award.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Reverend Dr. Dwight Andrews was conducted by Larry Crowe on June 16, 2006, in Atlanta, Georgia, and was recorded on 6 Betacame SP videocassettes. Music director, chaplain, and pastor Reverend Dr. Dwight Andrews (1951 -) composed the original musical scores for most of the August Wilson Broadway productions as the Yale Repertory’s resident music director, in addition to scoring many other Broadway, television and film productions. He is an associate professor of music theory at Emory University, and serves as pastor of First Congregational Church in Atlanta, Georgia.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Persons:

Andrews, Dwight

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Andrews, Dwight--Interviews

Music theorists--Interviews

African American composers--Interviews

African American clergy--Georgia--Atlanta--Interviews

African American music teachers--Interviews

African American musicians--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Yale Repertory Theatre

Yale University

Occupations:

Music Director

Chaplain

Pastor

HistoryMakers® Category:

MusicMakers|ReligionMakers

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Dr. Dwight Andrews, June 16, 2006. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Dr. Dwight Andrews, Section A2006_093_001_001, TRT: 0:29:37 ?

Dwight Andrews was born on September 24, 1951 in Detroit, Michigan. His mother, Lovetta Foster Andrews, was born in Detroit, Michigan after her father, Grant Foster, moved from Georgia or Alabama in the 1910s or 1920s to work for Ford Motor Company. Foster was also an itinerant Baptist pastor. Andrews' maternal ancestors were slaves near Montgomery, Alabama and inherited several parcels of land after the Civil War. Andrews' mother attended Cleary College near Ypsilanti, Michigan. Andrews' father, James Wildrex Andrews, was born around October 25, 1921 in Detroit, Michigan. His mother, Estelle Andrews, was born in Grantville, Georgia and was a professional piano teacher and vocal coach. James Andrews worked in the sidewalks and permits division of the City of Detroit and also suffered from alcoholism. Andrews and his brother, Michael Eric Andrews, were raised in an integrated middle-class neighborhood in northwest Detroit.

Music theorists--Interviews.

African American composers--Georgia--Atlanta--Interviews.

African American clergy--Georgia--Atlanta--Interviews.

African American music teachers--Interviews.

African American musicians--Interviews.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Dr. Dwight Andrews, Section A2006_093_001_002, TRT: 0:28:48 ?

Dwight Andrews attended Longfellow Elementary School and Durfee Junior High School in Detroit, Michigan. At Durfee, Andrews studied percussion and clarinet, and played in a jazz band under Anderson White. Through Mr. White, Andrews met jazz players like Yusef Lateef, Freddie Hubbard, and HistoryMaker Ramsey Lewis. In addition to his musical education, Andrews' parents encouraged him to study Gaelic dance and visual art at the Detroit Institute of Arts. Andrews attended Cass Technical High School, where he

played in a band directed by Harold Arnoldi and learned music theory from Marilyn Jones. Andrews and his friend, Nick Hood, Jr., performed in a rock 'n' roll band named The Seven Sounds, which occasionally opened for Parliament-Funkadelic. Andrews graduated in 1969 and enrolled at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor under black dean of music Willis Patterson. At the University of Michigan, Andrews participated in the Black Action Movement and played in the marching band.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Dr. Dwight Andrews, Section A2006_093_001_003, TRT: 0:29:36 ?

Dwight Andrews attended the University of Michigan, where he played in the marching band and tried out for the football team. His professors included Richard Thomas and Harold Cruse. Andrews received his bachelor's degree in 1963 and his master's in music from the University of Michigan in 1964. Andrews then decided to pursue a career as a minister and enrolled at Yale Divinity School in New Haven, Connecticut in 1964, where his professors included Leon Watts, James Washington, Brevard Childs, and Bill Jones. Andrews received his M. Div degree in 1977 and began teaching music history and theory at Yale University. He then enrolled at Yale University to study music theory. While at Yale, Andrews played avant-garde jazz with Anthony Braxton and became music director of the Yale Repertory Theatre under director and HistoryMaker Lloyd Richards, where he worked closely with August Wilson and met other black intellectuals like Amiri Baraka, Toni Morrison, John Wesley Blassingame, Derek Walcott, and Ted Joans.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Dr. Dwight Andrews, Section A2006_093_001_004, TRT: 0:28:17 ?

Dwight Andrews composed the music for the first production of August Wilson's "The Piano Lesson," which premiered at the Yale Repertory Theatre in New Haven, Connecticut in 1987. The song he wrote for the production, "Berta, Berta," was later recorded by Branford Marsalis. He also composed for Wilson's plays "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom," "Joe Turner's Come and Gone," "Fences," and "Seven Guitars." Andrews played avant-garde jazz in New York City with musicians like Anthony Braxton, David Murray, and Sam Rivers. He also met and played with members of the Art Ensemble of Chicago and the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians like Douglas Ewart, Lester Bowie, Joseph Jarman, and HistoryMaker Famoudou Don Moye. Andrews shared his theological philosophy and reflected on his influences. While Andrews moved away from New Haven in 1986, he composed for theatrical productions like Phylicia Rashad and P. Diddy's production of "A Raisin in the Sun" and two plays for HistoryMaker Pearl Cleage.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Dr. Dwight Andrews, Section A2006_093_001_005, TRT: 0:30:34 ?

Dwight Andrews received a Mellon Fellowship in 1986 to continue work on his doctorate and to teach at the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University in Houston, Texas. In 1988, Andrews and his wife, Desiree Pedescleaux, moved to Atlanta, Georgia, where Andrews taught music theory at Emory University and his wife taught political science at Spelman College. Andrews became a part-time assistant minister at First Congregational Church in 1992 and was a candidate for senior minister after Reverend George Thomas left. Reverend Susan Newman became senior minister, but left in 1996. At the insistence of HistoryMaker Andrew Young, Andrews became coordinator of a team ministry in 1996. In 1999, Andrews was installed as the senior minister of the historic church. Andrews also reflects on his film compositions and his plans for future

artistic and academic work, including a book on spirituality in jazz. He also shares his critique of Ken Burns' "Jazz" and his hopes and concerns for the African American community.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Dr. Dwight Andrews, Section A2006_093_001_006,
TRT: 0:10:59 ?

Dwight Andrews continues to share his hopes and concerns for the African American community. He ends his interview by reflecting on what he would change about his life, his legacy, his wife, the future of conversations about race, and how he would like to be remembered.