

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Sugar Blue

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Sugar Blue
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Sugar Blue,
<b>Dates:</b>	June 10, 2018
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2018
<b>Physical Description:</b>	8 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:58:55).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Blues musician Sugar Blue (? - ) Blue was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on June 10, 2018, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2018_116
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Blues musician Sugar Blue was born on December 16, 1949 in New York City to Maisey Savage and Jimmy Jones. Blue was given his first harmonica as a child and taught himself to play by listening to the music of Stevie Wonder and Bob Dylan. He attended Herron High School, but left without receiving his diploma. By the age of eighteen, Blue was performing on the streets of New York and sitting in on sessions with blues and jazz legends like Muddy Waters, Sun Ra, Roosevelt Sykes and Brownie McGhee.

In 1977, Blue played on Johnny Shines' album *Too Wet to Plow* before moving to Paris, France on the advice of blues pianist Memphis Slim, where he was discovered by The Rolling Stones' lead singer, Mick Jagger, who asked him play with the band as a session player. Over the next few years, Blue recorded the harmonica parts for three The Rolling Stones' albums: *Some Girls* in 1978; *Emotional Rescue* in 1980; and *Tattoo You* in 1981. His most notable work was for the hit single "Miss You." In 1978, Blue toured the U.S. with both The Rolling Stones and Louisiana Red, with whom he had recorded two albums. Blue's debut solo album, *Crossroads*, was released in 1980. After the release of his *From Chicago to Paris* album in 1982, Blue relocated to Chicago, Illinois, where he played with well-known blues artists like Big Walter Horton, James Cotton and Junior Wells.

He also signed with Alligator Records, and joined Willie Dixon's Chicago Blues All Stars in 1982. Blue recorded several albums throughout the 1980s including *Absolutely Blue* and *High Voltage Blues*. In 1985, he received the Grammy Award for Best Traditional Blues Album for his contribution to the compilation album *Blues Explosion*. Blue made a small appearance in the 1987 film *Angel Heart* and had a harmonica solo for the movie *Tapeheads* in the following year. Blue continued to release new albums through Alligator Records including *Paris Blues* in 1993 and *Blue Blazes* in 1994. After a short hiatus, he released the album *Code Blue* in 2007, and appeared in the 2008 film *The Perfect Age of Rock 'n' Roll*. He recorded new music on the 2010 album *Threshold* and his live project *Raw Sugar*, released in 2012. Blue then released the album *Voyage* in 2016.

Blue and his wife, Ilaria Lantieri, have one son together, James, and Blue also has a daughter named Sarah.

Sugar Blue was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on June 10, 2018.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Sugar Blue was conducted by Larry Crowe on June 10, 2018, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 8 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Blues musician Sugar Blue (? - )

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## 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®.

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## 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.

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## Controlled Access Terms

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

### Persons:

Sugar Blue

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Sugar Blue--Interviews

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## Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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## Occupations:

Blues Musician

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

MusicMakers

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## 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 Sugar Blue, June 10, 2018. 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).

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## 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.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Sugar Blue, Section A2018\_116\_001\_001, TRT: 1:28:57 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Sugar Blue, Section A2018\_116\_001\_002, TRT: 2:28:25 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Sugar Blue, Section A2018\_116\_001\_003, TRT: 3:31:14 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Sugar Blue, Section A2018\_116\_001\_004, TRT: 4:28:23 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Sugar Blue, Section A2018\_116\_001\_005, TRT: 5:30:36 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Sugar Blue, Section A2018\_116\_001\_006, TRT: 6:28:17 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Sugar Blue, Section A2018\_116\_001\_007, TRT: 7:28:37 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Sugar Blue, Section A2018\_116\_001\_008, TRT: 8:34:26 ?