

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with William Banfield

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Banfield, William C., 1961-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with William Banfield,
Dates:	November 17, 2018
Bulk Dates:	2018
Physical Description:	4 uncompressed MOV digital video files (1:49:11).
Abstract:	Professor and composer William Banfield (1961-) was made director of Africana Studies at the Berklee College of Music in 2006, and has released several albums as a recording artist, wrote six symphonies and two operas, and published seven books. Banfield was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on November 17, 2018, in Boston, Massachusetts. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2018_218
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Professor and composer William Banfield was born on March 24, 1961 in Detroit, Michigan to William Banfield and Anne Banfield. He attended Cass Technical High School in Detroit, Michigan and graduated in 1979. Banfield enrolled at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, Massachusetts and graduated with his B.M. degree in jazz studies in 1983. He later received his Th.M. degree from Boston University in 1988, and his D.M.A. degree from the University of Michigan in 1992.

Banfield accepted his first teaching position at Madison Park High School in Boston, Massachusetts. In 1983, he resigned from his position and founded BMagic Records. Two years later, Banfield founded Young Artists Development, Inc. After he received his D.M.A. degree in 1992, Banfield served as assistant professor of African American Studies/Music at Indiana University. In 1997, Banfield served as the endowed chair of humanities, professor of music, director of American cultural studies/jazz, popular, world music studies at the University of St. Thomas, Minnesota. He then became the W.E.B. DuBois fellow at Harvard University in 2002. The following year, Banfield was the visiting Atelier artist at Princeton University; and, in 2005, he was hired as a visiting professor of composition at the University of Minnesota. Banfield subsequently accepted an appointment at the Berklee College of Music as a professor and director of the Africana Studies program. In 2010, he was hired by Quincy Jones' foundation called the QFoundation, to write a national music curriculum for American popular music.

Banfield has also released a number of albums which include *Extensions of the Tradition* in 1996, *Striking Balance* in 2004, *Spring Forward* in 2009, and *Playing with Other People's Heads* in 2014. He was also the host of National Public Radio's "Landscapes in Color: Conversations with Black American Composers" and an original program on WCAL at St. Olaf College entitled, "Essays of Note." Banfield has authored seven books, completed six symphonies and two operas. In 2014, Banfield launched JazzUrbane, a contemporary jazz recording label. He

has also served on the Pulitzer Prize composition panel.

William Banfield was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on November 17, 2018.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with William Banfield was conducted by Larry Crowe on November 17, 2018, in Boston, Massachusetts, and was recorded on 4 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Professor and composer William Banfield (1961-) was made director of Africana Studies at the Berklee College of Music in 2006, and has released several albums as a recording artist, wrote six symphonies and two operas, and published seven books.

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:

Banfield, William C., 1961-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Banfield, William C., 1961- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Professor

Composer

HistoryMakers® Category:

MusicMakers

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 William Banfield, November 17, 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).

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 William Banfield, Section A2018_218_001_001, TRT: 1:31:59
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Video Oral History Interview with William Banfield, Section A2018_218_001_002, TRT: 2:31:17
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Video Oral History Interview with William Banfield, Section A2018_218_001_003, TRT: 3:34:11
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Video Oral History Interview with William Banfield, Section A2018_218_001_004, TRT: 4:11:44
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