

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Verdine White

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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>	White, Verdine
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Verdine White,
<b>Dates:</b>	October 13, 2019
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2019
<b>Physical Description:</b>	5 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:20:07).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Musician Verdine White (1951- ) was a founding member of the band Earth, Wind & Fire as bass guitarist, percussionist, songwriter, composer, vocalist and producer, contributing to all twenty-one albums released by Earth, Wind & Fire. White was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on October 13, 2019, in Los Angeles, California. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2019_108
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Musician, songwriter, composer, and producer Verdine White was born on July 25, 1951 in Chicago, Illinois to Edna and Dr. Verdine Adams. He attended and graduated from Crane High School in 1969.

White began his career performing as a bassist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and later played electric bass at local jazz clubs. In 1970, he joined the band Earth, Wind & Fire, which was founded by his brother, Maurice White, in 1969. In 1971, the band released their self-titled debut album, the soundtrack for the film *Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song*, and the album *The Need of Love*. Their album, *Open Our Eyes* rose to the number one spot on the Billboard Top Soul Albums in 1974. A member of the band for more than four decades, White was bass guitarist, percussionist, songwriter, composer, vocalist and producer, contributing to all twenty-one albums released by the group. Earth, Wind & Fire toured internationally, with White helping to produce many of their performances. He also collaborated with musicians such as Ramsey Lewis, The Emotions, Jennifer Lopez, and Solange. In 2012, White co-authored the book, *Playing the Bass Guitar Edition: A Beginner's Guide to the Electric Bass*; and, in 1994, he was featured in the video, *Rhythm of the Earth-Advanced Bass Techniques*. He also co-founded the Verdine White Performing Arts Center, a non-profit organization providing music lessons, scholarships, and grants to underserved youth.

Earth, Wind & Fire was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2000, and the Vocal Group Hall of Fame in 2003. They also received eight Grammy's, four American Music Awards, The NAACP Image Award, and NAACP and BET Lifetime Achievement Awards. The band received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 1995 and has recorded more than fifty gold and platinum albums.

White won six Grammy Awards and received seventeen Grammy Award nominations. He also ranked number twenty-seven on *Bass Player's* list of The 100 Greatest Bass Players of All Time. White was inducted into the Boys and Girls Club's Alumni Hall of Fame in 2007 and the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2010.

White and his wife, Shelly Clark, reside in Los Angeles.

Verdine White was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on October 13, 2019.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Verdine White was conducted by Larry Crowe on October 13, 2019, in Los Angeles, California, and was recorded on 5 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Musician Verdine White (1951- ) was a founding member of the band Earth, Wind & Fire as bass guitarist, percussionist, songwriter, composer, vocalist and producer, contributing to all twenty-one albums released by Earth, Wind & Fire.

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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:

White, Verdine

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

White, Verdine--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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Earth, Wind & Fire (Musical group)

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## Occupations:

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 Verdine White, October 13, 2019. 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 Verdine White, Section A2019\_108\_001\_001, TRT: 1:29:14 ?

- Video Oral History Interview with Verdine White, Section A2019\_108\_001\_002, TRT: 2:29:24 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Verdine White, Section A2019\_108\_001\_003, TRT: 3:28:37 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Verdine White, Section A2019\_108\_001\_004, TRT: 4:28:53 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Verdine White, Section A2019\_108\_001\_005, TRT: 5:23:59 ?