

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Warrick L. Carter

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Carter, Warrick L.
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Warrick L. Carter,
Dates:	February 27, 2003
Bulk Dates:	2003
Physical Description:	7 Betacame SP videocassettes (3:16:04).
Abstract:	Academic administrator and college president Warrick L. Carter (1942 - 2017) was the president of Columbia College of Chicago, and was the former Director of Entertainment Arts for Walt Disney Entertainment. Carter was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on February 27, 2003, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2003_034
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Warrick Carter was born in Charlottesville, Virginia, on May 6, 1942, the second of four children. Attending Tennessee State University in Nashville, Carter earned a B.S. in music education in 1964, followed by advanced study in percussion at the Blair Academy of Music at TSU from 1964 to 1965. Carter earned his master's degree in music from Michigan State University in 1966, and a Ph.D. in music education from the school in 1970.

Carter began his career in education in 1964, teaching instrumental music and working as the band director at Alton Park Junior High in Chattanooga, Tennessee. In 1966, he became an assistant professor of music at the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore. In 1971, Carter was selected to be one of the inaugural leaders of Governors State University in Park Forest, Illinois, as a professor of music. Carter was promoted to the position of coordinator of the Division of Fine and Performing Arts in 1976, and in 1979, to division chairman. In 1984, Carter was hired as provost and vice president of academic affairs at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts. After twelve years at Berklee, Carter became the director of entertainment arts for Walt Disney Entertainment, where he was responsible for managing all internship programs, education and performance opportunities for college students at all of Disney's global parks. Carter was hired by Columbia College of Chicago as president in 2000.

Carter wrote extensively about music, as well as performed at such venues as the 7th Annual International Jazz Festival in Montreaux, Switzerland. In 1996, Carter was inducted into the International Jazz Educators Hall of Fame. That same year, Walt Disney established a scholarship in his name. He was listed in *Who's Who in Black America* and served on a number of boards of directors, including the International House of Blues Foundation and the New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts. Carter and his wife, Laurel, lived in Chicago.

Carter passed away on July 15, 2017 at age 75.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Warrick L. Carter was conducted by Larry Crowe on February 27, 2003, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 7 Betacame SP videocassettes. Academic administrator and college president Warrick L. Carter (1942 - 2017) was the president of Columbia College of Chicago, and was the former Director of Entertainment Arts for Walt Disney Entertainment.

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:

Carter, Warrick L.

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Carter, Warrick L.--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Berklee College of Music

Columbia College (Chicago, Ill.)

Occupations:

Academic Administrator

College President

HistoryMakers® Category:

EducationMakers

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 Warrick L. Carter, February 27, 2003. 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 Warrick L. Carter, Section A2003_034_001_001, TRT: 0:28:35
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Warrick Carter was born on May 6, 1942 in Charlottesville, Virginia to Evelyn Jones Carter and Charles M. Carter. His maternal great-grandparents Frank and Effie Nichols were slaves in Earlysville, Virginia when they were young, but moved to Charlottesville, Virginia. They sent their daughter, Carter's grandmother Carrie Nichols Jones, to Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute from 1889 until 1896 for high school and college. Evelyn Jones Carter was born on June 28, 1913 to Carrie Nichols Jones and Lucian Jones and worked as a music teacher who directed the Harry T. Burleigh choir. She attended Virginia State College, where she got her B.A. degree in music. Carter's father, Charles Carter, was born on August 18, 1913 to Joseph Carter and Maggie Carter, and worked on the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway as a waiter. Carter attended Jefferson Elementary School and Jackson P. Burley High School, where he was president of the band and choir.

Video Oral History Interview with Warrick L. Carter, Section A2003_034_001_002, TRT: 0:28:30
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Warrick Carter attended Jackson P. Burley High School in Charlottesville, Virginia, where he was interested in music and architectural engineering and where he graduated from in 1960. Although he was offered scholarships to Virginia State University and North Carolina A&T State University, he enrolled at Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tennessee. Carter enjoyed the cosmopolitan environment of Nashville and joined in civil rights protests with students from Fisk University and Meharry Medical College and leaders such as Ernest "Rip" Patton, Lucretia Collins, and HistoryMaker James Bevel. Carter received his B.S. degree in 1964 and participated in an advanced percussion study at Blair Academy of Music from 1964 until 1965. At the same time, Carter also taught music at Alton Park Junior High School. In 1966, Carter received his M.M. degree in music education from Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan, which was the first educational environment he had been in that was mostly white.

Video Oral History Interview with Warrick L. Carter, Section A2003_034_001_003, TRT: 0:28:40
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Warrick Carter taught band and percussion at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore in Princess Anne, Maryland in 1966. In 1968, he received a scholarship to return to Michigan State University for his Ph.D. degree, which he received in 1970. In 1971, Carter was given the opportunity to be coordinator of music at the new Governors State University in University Park, Illinois, where he designed the curriculum for the music department and hired faculty. In 1979, Carter became chairman of the Division of Fine and Performing Arts. During this time, he also wrote articles and composed. From 1984 until 1996, Carter worked as the Dean of Faculty and Provost at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts, where he enjoyed the high level of musicianship but also encountered the racism of Boston. In 1996, Carter became Director of Entertainment Arts at Walt Disney Entertainment, where he developed talent and programming for their new parks worldwide. In 2000, he became president of Columbia College Chicago.

Video Oral History Interview with Warrick L. Carter, Section A2003_034_001_004, TRT: 0:29:24
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Warrick Carter worked for Walt Disney Entertainment from 1996 until 2000. As director of entertainment arts at Disney, Carter developed talent and education programs for Disney theme parks around the world, including the new parks Disney California Adventure, Animal Kingdom, and Disney TokyoSea. Carter reflects on the depiction of race in Disney animated films of the 1990s, including

“The Lion King,” “Tarzan,” and “Mulan,” and how those animated films related to his work in the theme parks. Carter also reflects on the management lessons he learned from working at Disney, including the commitment to exceeding expectations, shared responsibility for cleanliness, and the importance of including everyone in a decision-making process. In 2000, Carter became president of Columbia College Chicago, the largest school in media and the arts in the country. He reflects on his experience, the college’s growth, and the criticism he received as a college president.

Video Oral History Interview with Warrick L. Carter, Section A2003_034_001_005, TRT: 0:29:05
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Warrick Carter describes his experience as president of Columbia College Chicago, including meeting with students, his philosophy on arts education, and the college’s efforts to encourage arts education in schools. He believes that the arts should be taught in public schools and taught early and often enough to help students develop the necessary musical skills, especially in integrated schools. Carter describes an article he wrote pertaining to the influence of the diaspora on two overlooked black classical musicians in Europe: the composer Chevalier de Saint-George, who was a contemporary of Mozart, and the violinist George Bridgetower, who was a friend of Beethoven. Carter reflects on Columbia College Chicago’s thriving film department and the college’s role in increasing the number of minorities in film and journalism careers.

Video Oral History Interview with Warrick L. Carter, Section A2003_034_001_006, TRT: 0:31:24
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Warrick Carter describes the relationship between decreasing arts education programs across the country and popular music. Carter shares his belief that the decline of music education has resulted in the decrease in popular musicians playing instruments. Carter cites Norah Jones as a successful contemporary musician who achieved fame through traditional musical education programs. Carter also discusses the role of new art forms and technologies like DJing and spray painting in arts education programs. Carter names some of the musicians he has performed or recorded with, including HistoryMakers Billy Taylor and Dee Dee Bridgewater. Carter reflects on his concern for the lack of male role models in the African American community, as well as on his family and his legacy. He ends the interview by narrating his photographs.

Video Oral History Interview with Warrick L. Carter, Section A2003_034_001_007, TRT: 0:20:26
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Warrick Carter continues to narrate his photographs.