

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with William Richard Hayes

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Hayes, William Richard, 1944-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with William Richard Hayes,
Dates:	January 18, 2005
Bulk Dates:	2005
Physical Description:	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:27:45).
Abstract:	School music programs director and orchestra conductor William Richard Hayes (1944 -) was the founder of the Ypsilanti, Michigan Youth Orchestra, and worked as the director of music programs for the Traverse City Area Public Schools in Michigan for nearly three decades. He also served as conductor of the Cadillac Area Symphony, and has conducted the River Raisin Ragtime Review since 2002. Hayes was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on January 18, 2005, in Ypsilanti, Michigan. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2005_019
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

William Richard Hayes, musician and educator, was born March 7, 1944 in Carbondale, Illinois. His father, also William R. Hayes, worked for the Illinois Central Railroad while his mother, Eurma C. Hayes, was a noted Model Cities leader. Hayes attended Attucks Elementary School and graduated from Carbondale High School in 1962. At Southern Illinois University, he earned a B.M.E. degree in music education in 1967. There, he played bass for the Justin Singers. In 1971, he was awarded his masters of music degree from Western Illinois University.

In 1967, he taught music in Nebraska at Sandhill Public School. Married in 1969, Hayes lived and taught in Bermuda for a year. In 1971, Hayes taught at Pine Forge Academy in Pennsylvania, then at Bethlehem Community College. Teaching elementary school general music, choir, and beginning band as well as middle school band and orchestra, Hayes created curriculum and performance pieces at each level. At Traverse City, Michigan, Hayes founded the Multicultural Education Committee. Hayes worked as director of music programs for the Traverse City Area Public Schools from 1979 to 1993. He also served as conductor of the Cadillac Area Symphony from 1977 to 1993.

Now retired, Hayes founded the Ypsilanti, Michigan Youth Orchestra in 1997. Hayes is a former conductor of the River Raisin Ragtime Review as well as three-term Board of Directors member of the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. His teaching style has been called the “Soul Method” an eclectic, but disciplined approach to music. In 2008, *The Ann Arbor News* named Hayes the 2008 Ypsilanti Heritage Fellow for his commitment to young people in the Ypsilanti area.

A well-known Detroit area jazz bassist, Hayes, a divorced father of three, lives in Ypsilanti, Michigan.

Hayes was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on January 18, 2005.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with William Richard Hayes was conducted by Larry Crowe on January 18, 2005, in Ypsilanti, Michigan, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. School music programs director and orchestra conductor William Richard Hayes (1944 -) was the founder of the Ypsilanti, Michigan Youth Orchestra, and worked as the director of music programs for the Traverse City Area Public Schools in Michigan for nearly three decades. He also served as conductor of the Cadillac Area Symphony, and has conducted the River Raisin Ragtime Review since 2002.

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:

Hayes, William Richard, 1944-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Hayes, William Richard, 1944---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

School Music Programs Director

Orchestra Conductor

HistoryMakers® Category:

EducationMakers|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 Richard Hayes, January 18, 2005. 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 Richard Hayes, Section A2005_019_001_001, TRT: 0:29:49 ?

William Richard Hayes was born on March 7, 1944 in Carbondale, Illinois. His maternal grandfather, A.C. Jones, was a well-known A.M.E. minister in southern Illinois. His mother, Eurma Jones Hayes, was born in 1918 in Uniontown, Illinois. An activist, Hayes' mother served on Carbondale's school board and cooked for Giant City State Park in Makanda, Illinois and Greek houses at Southern Illinois University (SIU) in Carbondale. She participated in the Model Cities Program for which she attended a meeting with President Richard Nixon in Washington, D.C. After her death, the Eurma C. Hayes Center was erected in her honor in Carbondale. Hayes' paternal grandmother moved from Tennessee to Carbondale where his father, William Hayes, Sr., was born in 1912. A Republican, William Hayes, Sr. was a well-respected community member and worked for the Illinois Central Railroad for forty years. The majority of Hayes' family graduated from SIU, and his family is mentioned in books about the town's history.

Video Oral History Interview with William Richard Hayes, Section A2005_019_001_002, TRT: 0:29:40 ?

William Richard Hayes first heard classical music when his uncle installed a FM radio antenna for his home in Carbondale, Illinois. Growing up, Hayes climbed trees with his brother, owned chameleons and explored the town on his bicycle. He attended Attucks Elementary School and Attucks Junior High School, segregated schools in Carbondale, before transferring to the majority-white Carbondale Community High School. While there, Hayes was falsely accused of dancing with two white girls; his mother's outrage over this helped him leave the remedial classes, where he was erroneously placed, and enter the fast-tracked ones where he excelled. Hayes played in the school band and formed a Dixieland group that played at school pep rallies. After graduating in 1967, he attended Southern Illinois University in Carbondale on a music scholarship. Despite his family's disapproval of musicians, Hayes continued his musical studies. His music mentors included Henry Lowe, principal bassist in the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra.

Video Oral History Interview with William Richard Hayes, Section A2005_019_001_003, TRT: 0:28:32 ?

William Richard Hayes won a trip, sponsored by The Southern Illinoian, to Miami Beach, Florida as a young boy. Hayes was the first black news carrier to win, and segregation in the South meant that he could not use the beach while there. Hayes was the bassist for the Justin Singers at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale and traveled with the group to a talent contest in Henderson, Kentucky where they encountered racial harassment along the way. He taught in Nebraska for a year before he and his first wife obtained positions in Bermuda through the U.S. Department of Defense. Returning to Illinois, Hayes taught at Western Illinois University in Macomb where he obtained a master's degree in music education. He then taught at Pine Forge Academy, a Seventh-day Adventist boarding school in Pine Forge, Pennsylvania, before establishing an instrumental music program at Northampton County Area Community College in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Hayes shares his perspective on the Civil Rights Movement.

Video Oral History Interview with William Richard Hayes, Section A2005_019_001_004, TRT: 0:29:45 ?

William Richard Hayes left his position as assistant professor at Western Illinois University to move to Frankfort, Michigan, a majority-white town, where he taught elementary and junior high school classes. After being accused of indecency by multiple parents, he was forced to leave the school district. He

relocated to Traverse City, Michigan where he taught music from 1979 until 1993 and was well regarded among many in the community. In the early 1990s, Hayes, along with his wife and friends, formed the multicultural education committee to assist the school district in formulating policies to address racism and discrimination. During his tenure in Traverse City, Hayes conducted the Cadillac Area Symphony Orchestra. He then moved to Ypsilanti, Michigan where he established the Ypsilanti Youth Orchestra. Hayes reflects upon his musical pedagogy and his experiences living and working in communities with few other African Americans. He remembers successful students he taught in Nebraska and Michigan.

Video Oral History Interview with William Richard Hayes, Section A2005_019_001_005, TRT: 0:29:59 ?

William Richard Hayes wrote a three part composition, 'Exodus, Suite Exodus,' which was performed by the Chicago Chamber Orchestra and at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois. In 1997, Hayes founded the Ypsilanti Youth Orchestra. After ending his first marriage, he reconnected with his family in Southern Illinois. Although his father was initially unhappy about Hayes' decision to pursue a musical career, after Hayes obtained his master's degree, his father became more respectful of his musical aspirations. While his oldest daughter is a psychologist, Hayes' two adopted children have musical interests and potential. He talks about his contributions to the Ypsilanti school district in Ypsilanti, Michigan and students he encountered. Hayes describes his hopes and concerns for the African American community and reflects upon his life and legacy. He concludes by sharing his perspective on oral history interviews and describing how he would like to be remembered.