

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Julian White

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	White, Julian Earl, 1941-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Julian White,
Dates:	October 18, 2006
Bulk Dates:	2006
Physical Description:	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:05:25).
Abstract:	Music professor and music director Julian White (1941 -) was a distinguished Professor of Music and Chairman of the Department of Music at Florida A&M University. He also served as the director of the famed FAMU “Marching 100” Band. White was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on October 18, 2006, in Tallahassee, Florida. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2006_124
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Julian E. White is a distinguished English Professor of Music, Chairman of the Department of Music and Director of the famous “Marching 100” Band at Florida A&M University (FAMU) in Tallahassee, Florida.

White was born in Jacksonville, Florida on March 3, 1941. His parents were Victoria (Richo) White and George White. Raised and educated in Jacksonville, White graduated from Stanton High School in 1959. He earned his B.A. degree in music education from FAMU, his M.A. degree from the University of Illinois and a Ph.D. from Florida State University.

White is a product of the “Marching 100” family, having played in the band as a student, before going on to a career as a high school band director and music teacher. He returned to FAMU to join the band staff in the 1970s as the band’s Associate Director before ascending to the top position in 1998.

Prior to joining the FAMU faculty in 1972, White was a Band Director at Northwestern Junior/Senior High from 1963 to 1965 and was the first director of the William Raines High School Band in 1965, both in Jacksonville. For a period of ten years, White served as drill designer for the McDonald’s All-America High School Band with appearances at the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City, the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California and the Fiesta Bowl of Phoenix, Arizona. His drills have been featured in performances on all major television networks and the Bastille Day Ceremony in Paris, France. White assists with half time shows for Bowl Games of America and is on the adjudication staff for Musical Festivals USA, International Music Festivals and Heritage Festivals, in addition to writing drill shows for high school and college bands. White is the father of Tonja, born in 1969, and Phaedra, born in 1971, from his first marriage. In 2000, he married Dennine (Mathis), and they are parents of Julian E. White II, born in 2005.

White was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on October 18, 2006.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Julian White was conducted by Robert Hayden on October 18, 2006, in Tallahassee, Florida, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Music professor and music director Julian White (1941 -) was a distinguished Professor of Music and Chairman of the Department of Music at Florida A&M University. He also served as the director of the famed FAMU “Marching 100” Band.

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:

White, Julian Earl, 1941-

Hayden, Robert (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

White, Julian Earl, 1941- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University

Occupations:

Music Director

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 Julian White, October 18, 2006. 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 Julian White, Section A2006_124_001_001, TRT: 0:29:30 ?

Julian White was born on March 3, 1941 in Jacksonville, Florida to Victoria Richo White and George White. His paternal grandparents were sharecroppers in Allendale, South Carolina, where his father was born. White's mother was born in Jacksonville. She was a housewife, and White's father worked at the

Naval Air Station Jacksonville and for Railway Express Agency. White grew up in the Durkeeville neighborhood of Jacksonville, and remembers living without electric appliances. His family were all musically inclined, and he credits them with his interest in music. His maternal grandmother sang, and his mother and sister played piano. White remembers attending church; the bombing of Pearl Harbor; his paternal grandmother's cooking; and holidays with his family. White played flute and saxophone in his school's band and was the captain of the swim team. His parents wanted their children to attend college, so White and his siblings studied at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University in Tallahassee, Florida.

Video Oral History Interview with Julian White, Section A2006_124_001_002, TRT: 0:30:15 ?

Julian White grew up in the middle class African American neighborhood of Durkeeville in Jacksonville, Florida. He remembers the sounds of traffic; the smell of azaleas and dogwoods; and visiting Washington, D.C. He attended College Park Elementary School, where he was on the school board patrol, and New Stanton Senior High School. He was a good student who enjoyed history and band. The summer before enrolling at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, White prepared to audition for the school's Marching 100 band. Established by William Foster, the Marching 100's practices were musically and physically demanding. White recalls his first performances with the band in Tallahassee and Miami, Florida. At the time he was the Marching 100 drum major, Beverly Hilsman Barber developed a dance component for their performance. White served as band director for two high schools in Jacksonville, Florida for ten years before he was asked to return to work at his alma mater. He describes his siblings' professions.

Video Oral History Interview with Julian White, Section A2006_124_001_003, TRT: 0:29:10 ?

Julian White graduated from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University and became the band director at Jacksonville, Florida's segregated Northwestern Junior-Senior High School, and at William Marion Raines Senior High School, where the band received a superior rating at a state competition. During the summers, he attended the University of Illinois to obtain his master's degree in music education. After ten years, William Foster asked White to become the associate director of the Marching 100. White reflects upon Foster's mentorship. While working for the Marching 100, White earned his Ph.D. from Florida State University. He wrote his dissertation on marching band concepts like picture formations, and dance routines by universities. As director of the Marching 100 from 1998, White recruited high school students to the band, and ensured the music selection was diverse. White reflects upon the influence of African dance on marching bands, and the role of historically black college bands.

Video Oral History Interview with Julian White, Section A2006_124_001_004, TRT: 0:28:20 ?

Julian White describes the process of creating a half-time show for the Marching 100 at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University and remarks upon the large staff and excellent facilities that are available to the band. Aside from marching at college football games, the Marching 100 also performed at the Grammy Awards, the Honda Battle of the Bands and for professional sports teams in the Southeast. The Marching 100 and Florida A&M Rattlers are nationally known and compete frequently with other historically black college bands. From 1980 to 1992, White wrote the drill shows for the McDonald's All American High School Band, which performed at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and at Carnegie Hall in New York City. He is a member of several music organizations, including the Florida Music Educators' Association and the American Bandmasters Association. White describes his children's careers and

the clinics he runs for students. He shares advice, and reflects upon his life and the importance of history.

Video Oral History Interview with Julian White, Section A2006_124_001_005, TRT: 0:08:10 ?

Julian White describes how he would like to be remembered. He concludes the interview by narrating his photographs.