

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Bertha Hope

PERSON

Hope, Bertha

Alternative Names: Bertha Hope;

Life Dates: November 8, 1936-

Place of Birth: Vicksburg, Mississippi, USA

Residence: New York, NY

Occupations: Jazz Pianist

Biographical Note

Jazz pianist Bertha Hope-Booker was born on November 8, 1936, to Corinne Meaux and Clinton Rosemond. Raised in western Los Angeles, California, Hope-Booker attended Manual Arts High School. As a youth, she performed in numerous Los Angeles clubs. Hope-Booker studied piano at Los Angeles Community College and later received her B.A. degree in early childhood education from Antioch College.

In her youth, Hope-Booker played music with and learned from other young musicians in her neighborhood. Some of them became famous later, including Richie Powell and Elmo Hope, the latter becoming her husband in 1957. She moved with Elmo Hope to the Bronx, New York, where she worked at a telephone company during the day while performing at night. After her husband's passing in 1967, she continued to present his music and remained an active force in improvised music within the New York jazz scene. Hope-Booker served as an artist-in-residence under the auspices of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. Through this program, she performed in statewide New Jersey music workshops with Dizzy Gillespie, Frank Foster, Nat Adderley and Philly Joe Jones.

Hope-Booker later married Walter Booker, Jr., and the two worked to keep the music of Elmo Hope alive through Hope-Booker's tribute ensemble called ELMollenium and The Elmo Hope Project. She also plays with another group, Jazzberry Jam. In addition, Hope-Booker is the leader of The Bertha Hope Trio, which has toured extensively throughout Japan. She is a composer and arranger with several recordings under her name, including *In Search of Hope and Elmo's Fire* (Steeplechase); *Between Two Kings* (Minor Records) and her latest on the Reservoir label, *Nothin' But Love*. Hope-Booker has also taught an advanced jazz ensemble at The Lucy Moses School and an Introduction to Jazz program at Washington Irving High School in New York City,

which was sponsored by Bette Midler. The Seattle-based trio, New Stories, has recorded a CD of Hope-Booker's music entitled, Hope Is In the Air.

Bertha Hope-Booker was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on November 1, 2007.

Related Entries

Manual Arts High School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Diploma

Antioch College [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

B.A.

Birdielee V. Bright Elementary School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

James A. Foshay Learning Center [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Los Angeles City College [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

[EMPLOYEEOF]

[from ? to ?]

Musician

[EMPLOYEEOF]

[from ? to ?]

Pianist

Kaufman Music Center's Lucy Moses School [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from ? to ?]

Teacher

Washington Irving High School [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from ? to ?]

teacher

Elmo Hope Project [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Jazz Foundation of America [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

