

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Samuel Floyd

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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>	Floyd, Samuel A.
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Samuel Floyd,
<b>Dates:</b>	January 22, 2003
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2003
<b>Physical Description:</b>	6 Betacame SP videocassettes (3:03:23).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Academic administrator and music museum director Samuel Floyd (1937 - 2016 ) was Director Emeritus and consultant to the Center for Black Music at Columbia College in Chicago, Illinois. Floyd was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on January 22, 2003, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2003_014
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Accomplished musical educator Samuel A. Floyd, Jr., was born in Tallahassee, Florida, on February 1, 1937. Floyd received his B.S. degree from Florida A&M University in 1957 before attending Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, where he received his M.M.E. degree in 1965, and his Ph.D. in 1969.

From 1957 to 1962, Floyd worked as band director for Smith-Brown High School in Arcadia, Florida; he later moved on to his alma mater, Florida A&M University, where he worked as a music instructor and the assistant director of bands until 1964 under the legendary William Foster. Between 1964 and 1978, Floyd taught as an associate professor in the Music Department at SIU, after which he became director of the Institute for Research in Black American Music for Fisk University, where he worked until 1983. After leaving Fisk, Floyd worked at Chicago's Columbia College, where he directed the Center for Black Music Research from 1983 to 1990, and from 1993 to 2002; he also served as academic dean from 1990 to 1993, and as interim vice president of academic affairs and provost from 1999 to 2001. In 2002, Floyd became director emeritus and consultant for the Center for Black Music Research.

Floyd lectured at numerous colleges and universities throughout the United States; served on various committees for Southern Illinois University, Fisk University, and Columbia College; received a multitude of research grants and awards; and participated in many professional and civic organizations. Floyd wrote a variety of articles published in professional journals, and authored and edited books on musical theory and research.

Floyd and his wife, Barbara, lived in Chicago, Illinois. They raised three children: Wanda, Cecilia, and Samuel III.

Floyd passed away on July 11, 2016.

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# Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Samuel Floyd was conducted by Larry Crowe on January 22, 2003, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 6 Betacame SP videocassettes. Academic administrator and music museum director Samuel Floyd (1937 - 2016 ) was Director Emeritus and consultant to the Center for Black Music at Columbia College in Chicago, Illinois.

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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:

Floyd, Samuel A.

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

## Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Floyd, Samuel A.--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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Columbia College (Chicago, Ill.). Center for Black Music Research

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## Occupations:

Music Archivist

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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 Samuel Floyd, January 22, 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).

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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 Samuel Floyd, Section A2003\_014\_001\_001, TRT: 0:29:53 ?

Samuel Floyd discusses his family background and a peripatetic musician father who left the family when Samuel was just four years old. Floyd describes life growing up with a single mother during World War II in Lakeland, Florida. Floyd also delves in to his musical background and he remembers his early days at Florida A&M University.

Video Oral History Interview with Samuel Floyd, Section A2003\_014\_001\_002, TRT: 0:30:30 ?

Samuel Floyd talks about his musical experiences at Florida A&M. Then, looking back, he discusses the various musical influences during his youth. He explains why he thinks the community of his childhood home of Lakeland, Florida was educated in the arts and how it opened doors for him. Floyd then remembers being in the Florida A&M band and the attention he received because of his involvement. Next, he recalls the encouraging atmosphere at Florida A&M University. Then, Floyd details his career as a high school band director immediately following his graduation. Samuel Floyd talks about taking a new job as an assistant band director at Southern Illinois University and about the band's grueling tour schedule.

Video Oral History Interview with Samuel Floyd, Section A2003\_014\_001\_003, TRT: 0:30:06 ?

Samuel Floyd describes the creation of the Center for Black Music Research. The seedlings of the idea were fomented while he was at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois. Floyd then moved to Fisk University, but because of the institution's severe financial troubles, Floyd accepted an offer from Columbia College in Chicago, Illinois. In addition, Floyd discusses several pivotal figures in scholarly research on black music and unsung black composers/performers.

Video Oral History Interview with Samuel Floyd, Section A2003\_014\_001\_004, TRT: 0:30:11 ?

Samuel Floyd speaks at length about unsung 18th and 19th century black composers like Scott Joplin and Joseph Boulogne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges. He describes the pressures faced by an indifferent and discriminatory world during their time which led to their compositions nearly being lost to posterity. Floyd's most important discovery was that of Alton Augustus Adams, the first black bandmaster of the U.S. Navy during World War I.

Video Oral History Interview with Samuel Floyd, Section A2003\_014\_001\_005, TRT: 0:31:17 ?

Samuel Floyd discusses a great triumph of his research career, the reunion of several members of the lost Great Lakes Naval Band led by Alton Augustus Adams during World War II. Floyd also details his thoughts on the loss of musical talent in the black community due to desegregation and expands his comments to include the overall loss of a sense of connectedness and black pride.

Video Oral History Interview with Samuel Floyd, Section A2003\_014\_001\_006, TRT: 0:31:26 ?

Samuel Floyd discusses issues he's faced in fundraising for the Center for Black Music Research at Columbia College and describes how he must look at the problems of lack of funding in the future. He then considers his legacy and moves into explaining the types of topics that interest him in his writings and the reasons behind his topical decisions. Next, Floyd talks about the advancement in black music scholarship and names other authors in his field who have helped him and inspired him to pave these roads of change. Samuel Floyd discusses how he'd like to be remembered and then narrates photos from his collection documenting his life.

Video Oral History Interview with Samuel Floyd, Section  
A2003\_014\_SAMUEL\_A\_FLOYD\_JR\_06\_MED\_001, TRT: 0:05:00 ?

This tape contains "A Tribute to Samuel Floyd." The footage consists of clips from Samuel Floyd's interview with The HistoryMakers.