

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with T.S. Monk, III

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Monk, T. S. (Thelonious Sphere)
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with T.S. Monk, III,
Dates:	October 17, 2014 and September 9, 2014
Bulk Dates:	2014
Physical Description:	14 uncompressed MOV digital video files (7:14:18).
Abstract:	Jazz musician T.S. Monk, III (1949 -) co-founded the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz in memory of his late father, Thelonious Monk. Monk was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on October 17, 2014 and September 9, 2014, in Chicago, Illinois and New York, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2014_243
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Jazz musician Thelonious Sphere “T.S.” Monk, III was born on December 27, 1949 in New York City, New York. His father, Thelonious Monk, was a famous jazz pianist and composer. Monk played trumpet and piano before switching to drums at the age of fifteen, taking lessons from percussionist Max Roach.

Monk’s first public performance as a drummer was with his father on a television show in 1970. He toured with his father's band from 1970 to 1975, and then played with the fusion band Natural Essence. He later formed the R&B group "T.S. Monk" with his sister Barbara Monk and vocalist Yvonne Fletcher. The group recorded three albums for Mirage Records in the early 1980s and charted a top 20 hit with its single "Bon Bon Vie (Gimme the Good Life)," followed by "Too Much Too Soon."

In 1986, Monk co-founded and chaired the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz in memory of his father, who passed away in 1982. Monk returned to performing jazz in 1992, after an absence of several years, forming the T.S. Monk Sextet. That same year, he released *Take One* on Blue Note Records, which was followed by *Changing of the Guard* in 1993 and the critically acclaimed *The Charm* in 1995. He celebrated his father's eightieth birthday with the album *Monk on Monk* in 1997. He then released three more records: *Crosstalk* in 1999, *Higher Ground* in 2003, and 2014’s *Verbiest Meets Monk: Father and Son*, a collaboration with Belgian jazz accordionist, Rony Verbiest. Monk’s sextet has performed at the White House, various festivals and concert halls, legendary jazz clubs and landmark institutions in the United States, Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

Monk received the New York Jazz Awards First Annual "Recording of the Year" award and *Downbeat* magazine’s prestigious 63rd annual Album of the Year Reader's Choice Award for *Monk on Monk*. In addition, his Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz sponsored ABC’s “A Celebration Of America's Music” in 1996 and 1998, held its International Jazz Competition since 1987, and offered its full scholarship Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz Performance graduate-level college program since 1995. Monk also collaborated with Herbie Hancock and

UNESCO in 2012 in creating “International Jazz Day,” a gathering of jazz musicians from 196 countries.

T.S. Monk was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on September 9, 2014.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with T.S. Monk, III was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on October 17, 2014 and September 9, 2014, in Chicago, Illinois and New York, New York, and was recorded on 14 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Jazz musician T.S. Monk, III (1949 -) co-founded the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz in memory of his late father, Thelonious Monk.

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:

Monk, T. S. (Thelonious Sphere)

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Feldman, Isaac (Videographer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Monk, T. S. (Thelonious Sphere)--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Jazz Musician

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 T.S. Monk, III, October 17, 2014 and September 9, 2014. 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 T.S. Monk, III, Section A2014_243_001_001, TRT: 1:26:42 ?

Video Oral History Interview with T.S. Monk, III, Section A2014_243_001_002, TRT: 2:32:33 ?

Video Oral History Interview with T.S. Monk, III, Section A2014_243_001_003, TRT: 3:38:29 ?
Video Oral History Interview with T.S. Monk, III, Section A2014_243_001_004, TRT: 4:32:30 ?
Video Oral History Interview with T.S. Monk, III, Section A2014_243_001_005, TRT: 5:28:36 ?
Video Oral History Interview with T.S. Monk, III, Section A2014_243_001_006, TRT: 6:19:42 ?
Video Oral History Interview with T.S. Monk, III, Section A2014_243_002_007, TRT: 7:35:20 ?
Video Oral History Interview with T.S. Monk, III, Section A2014_243_002_008, TRT: 8:32:21 ?
Video Oral History Interview with T.S. Monk, III, Section A2014_243_002_009, TRT: 9:30:27 ?
Video Oral History Interview with T.S. Monk, III, Section A2014_243_002_010, TRT: 10:32:16 ?
Video Oral History Interview with T.S. Monk, III, Section A2014_243_002_011, TRT: 11:33:02 ?
Video Oral History Interview with T.S. Monk, III, Section A2014_243_002_012, TRT: 12:36:07 ?
Video Oral History Interview with T.S. Monk, III, Section A2014_243_002_013, TRT: 13:36:32 ?
Video Oral History Interview with T.S. Monk, III, Section A2014_243_002_014, TRT: 14:19:41 ?