

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Wayne Shorter

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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>	Shorter, Wayne
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Wayne Shorter,
<b>Dates:</b>	November 11, 2014 and November 14, 2014
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2014
<b>Physical Description:</b>	8 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:07:30).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Saxophonist and music composer Wayne Shorter (1933 - 2023) won ten Grammy Awards during his career, and was one of jazz's leading figures beginning in the 1960s. Shorter was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on November 11, 2014 and November 14, 2014, in Los Angeles, California. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2014_255
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Saxophonist and composer Wayne Shorter was born on August 25, 1933 in Newark, New Jersey. Shorter played the clarinet at Newark Arts High School, but switched to the saxophone before entering New York University in 1952. After graduating with his B.M.E. degree in 1956, Shorter worked for a short time with composer John Eaton until he was drafted into the U.S. Army for two years.

In 1958, Shorter briefly played with Horace Silver, and then joined Maynard Ferguson's big band. The following year, he joined Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers where he remained until 1963, eventually becoming the band's music director. During the Blakey period, Shorter also made his debut on records as a leader, and produced several albums for Chicago's Vee-Jay label including *Introducing Wayne Shorter*, *Second Genesis*, and *Wayning Moments*.

In September of 1964, Miles Davis invited Shorter to join his quintet, completing a lineup that included Herbie Hancock, Ron Carter and Tony Williams. Shorter stayed with Davis until 1970 and was one of the band's most prolific composers, contributing songs like "E.S.P.," "Pinocchio," "Nefertiti," "Sanctuary," "Footprints," "Fall," and "Prince of Darkness." Shorter also became a productive solo artist for Blue Note Records during this period, recording eleven albums including *Night Dreamer*, *JuJu*, *Speak No Evil*, *The All Seeing Eye* and *Adam's Apple*.

In November of 1970, Shorter teamed up with Joe Zawinul to form the jazz fusion band Weather Report. Four years later, he released the album *Native Dancer*, which featured Herbie Hancock and Brazilian composer and vocalist Milton Nascimento. In the late 1970s, Shorter toured with Freddie Hubbard, Hancock, Ron Carter, and Tony Williams as V.S.O.P. He then left Weather Report in 1985 and went on to record three albums on Columbia Records from 1986 to 1988.

Shorter re-emerged in 1992 with Wallace Roney and the V.S.O.P. rhythm section in the "A Tribute to Miles" band. In 1995, now on the Verve record label, Shorter released the solo album *High Life*; and, in 1997, released *I+I* with Herbie Hancock. *Footprints Live!* was released in 2002 under his own name with a new quartet, followed by

*Alegria* in 2003 and *Beyond the Sound Barrier* in 2005. *Without a Net*, his first recording for Blue Note Records in forty-three years, was released in February of 2013.

In all, Shorter recorded over twenty albums as a bandleader, and appeared on numerous others, including several Joni Mitchell studio albums. He also toured and recorded alongside Carlos Santana, among others. Shorter received ten Grammy Awards; the Montreal International Jazz Festival's Miles Davis Award; a Jazz Journalists Association Jazz Award; and Honorary Doctorate of Music degrees from the Berklee College of Music and New York University.

Wayne Shorter was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on November 11, 2014.

Wayne Shorter passed away on March 2, 2023 at the age of 89.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Wayne Shorter was conducted by Larry Crowe on November 11, 2014 and November 14, 2014, in Los Angeles, California, and was recorded on 8 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Saxophonist and music composer Wayne Shorter (1933 - 2023) won ten Grammy Awards during his career, and was one of jazz's leading figures beginning in the 1960s.

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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:

Shorter, Wayne

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

## Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Shorter, Wayne--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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## Occupations:

Saxophonist

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Music Composer

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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 Wayne Shorter, November 11, 2014 and November 14, 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).

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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 Wayne Shorter, Section A2014\_255\_001\_001, TRT: 1:29:39 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Wayne Shorter, Section A2014\_255\_001\_002, TRT: 2:31:47 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Wayne Shorter, Section A2014\_255\_001\_003, TRT: 3:30:47 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Wayne Shorter, Section A2014\_255\_001\_004, TRT: 4:33:58 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Wayne Shorter, Section A2014\_255\_002\_005, TRT: 5:32:28 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Wayne Shorter, Section A2014\_255\_002\_006, TRT: 6:29:09 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Wayne Shorter, Section A2014\_255\_002\_007, TRT: 7:29:06 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Wayne Shorter, Section A2014\_255\_002\_008, TRT: 8:30:36 ?