

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dionne Warwick

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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>	Warwick, Dionne
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Dionne Warwick,
<b>Dates:</b>	November 15, 2001
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2001
<b>Physical Description:</b>	Betacame SP videocassettes (0:00:00).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Singer Dionne Warwick (1940 - ) was the first African American woman soloist to win a Grammy Award. Warwick was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on November 15, 2001, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2001_087
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Dionne Warwick was born in East Orange, New Jersey, on December 12, 1940. The oldest of three siblings, Warwick was raised in a deeply religious and musical family. Her father Mantrel, promoted gospel records while her mother, Lee, managed the Drinkard Singers, a gospel group comprised of Warwick's aunts and uncles.

At the age of fourteen, Warwick, along with her sister and cousin, formed The Gospelairens. The gospel trio sang in local churches, college campuses and African American theaters. They received widespread recognition by winning an amateur contest at the famed Apollo Theater. Over the next few years, The Gospelairens sang

behind many of the most prominent artists of the time, including Dinah Washington, Chuck Jackson and Solomon Burke.

In 1959, Warwick received a music scholarship to the University of Hartford in Connecticut. During a session with The Drifters, music conductor and composer Burt Bacharach heard her unique voice. Warwick signed a recording contract in 1962 and her first single, "Don't Make Me Over," was a hit, attracting both R&B and pop audiences. From 1963 to 1966, Warwick achieved unprecedented success by becoming the first crossover artist to have a dozen consecutive Top 100 hits.

In 1968, Warwick became the first African American solo female artist to receive a Grammy for "Do You Know the Way to San Jose." By 1970, she had recorded thirty hit singles, close to twenty best-selling albums and received a second Grammy for the album *I'll Never Fall In Love Again*.

Warwick brought her dynamic singing talents and commanding personality to television outlets, as well. She hosted the successful music programs *Solid Gold*, the Soul Train Music Awards and starred in her own show, *Dionne And Friends*.

Warwick has used her fame and influence to support causes close to her heart. A tireless activist, Warwick has served as the U.S. ambassador of health, a post that she held through both the Ronald Reagan and George Bush administrations. As one of the first artists to heighten public awareness of the AIDS epidemic, Warwick's concerted efforts raised millions of dollars.

Warwick maintains a busy schedule. She completed an international tour with Bacharach, performed with The National Opera Company of Japan, and recorded the critically acclaimed album *Aquarela Do Brazil* (Watercolors Of Brazil). Additionally, she runs her own television production and interior design companies. Her sons, David and Damon Elliot, are pursuing careers in the music industry as well, as the writers and producers of numerous hit songs.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Dionne Warwick was conducted by Diahann Carroll on November 15, 2001, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on Betacame SP videocassettes. Singer Dionne Warwick (1940 - ) was the first African American woman soloist to win a Grammy Award.

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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:

Warwick, Dionne

Carroll, Diahann (Interviewer)

N/A (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

## **Organizations:**

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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## **Occupations:**

Singer

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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 Dionne Warwick, November 15, 2001. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

### **Processing Information**

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 2/5/2020 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**