

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Reverend Dr. Stanley Keeble

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Keeble, Stanley, 1937-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Dr. Stanley Keeble,
Dates:	December 2, 2003
Bulk Dates:	2003
Physical Description:	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:24:10).
Abstract:	Gospel musician Reverend Dr. Stanley Keeble (1937 -) has performed around the world and on television for many years. Keeble was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on December 2, 2003, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2003_284
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Lifelong lover of gospel music Reverend Stanley Keeble was born March 8, 1937, in Chicago, Illinois. His father, Josephus, was a native of Arkansas and his mother, Idola, was from Mississippi. They moved to Chicago in 1936 in hopes of finding work. Keeble graduated from high school in 1955, and would later return to school, graduating from Daniel Hale Williams University in 1978.

At the age of nine, Keeble took piano lessons, and attended services at the Greater Harvest Baptist Church, where he came under the tutelage of Willie Webb. By 1952, Keeble had begun his musical career. He started out playing the piano, organ and singing, and later directing the choir of Fellowship Baptist Church,

under the leadership of Reverend Clay Evans. Keeble continued to perform gospel music, playing with Inez Andrews of the Caravans and serving as the first musician for Jessie Dixon. By 1968, he had formed his own gospel choir, The Voices of Triumph. While continuing to perform, Keeble focused his energies on becoming a minister. He was ordained in 1973. Following graduation from Daniel Hale Williams University, Keeble began teaching English in the Chicago Public Schools in 1980, where he also created an accredited program on gospel music. In 1986, Keeble left teaching to serve as the chaplain at Presbyterian St. Luke Hospital, where he remained for the next thirteen years. In April 2002, Keeble established the Chicago Gospel Music Heritage Museum. He also hosts a weekly radio program entitled *The Joy Hour*, on WKKC.

For thirty-five years, Keeble has been a member of the Gospel Music Workshop of America. He is also an officer of the Chicago Gospel Announcers Guild. As a gospel pioneer, Keeble is noted for his knowledge of gospel history. He has performed across the United States and in Europe, appeared on radio programs and was a frequent performer on Chicago's *Jubilee Showcase*, a weekly program that aired for twenty-one years and celebrated many of gospel's greats.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Reverend Dr. Stanley Keeble was conducted by Larry Crowe on December 2, 2003, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Gospel musician Reverend Dr. Stanley Keeble (1937 -) has performed around the world and on television for many years.

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:

Keeble, Stanley, 1937-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Keeble, Stanley, 1937---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Gospel 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 Reverend Dr. Stanley Keeble, December 2, 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 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).

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 Reverend Dr. Stanley Keeble, Section A2003_284_001_001, TRT: 0:29:40 2003/12/02

Reverend Dr. Stanley Keeble was born on March 8, 1937, in Chicago, Illinois. His father, Josephus Keeble, Sr., was a native of Arkansas and his mother, Adola Stuckey Keeble, was born on December 8, 1913 in Jackson, Mississippi. His paternal grandfather, E.C. Keeble, was a prominent minister, and his father worked as a sod layer in Palmer, Missouri. Keeble's parents moved to Chicago in 1936 in hopes of finding work and they separated shortly after he was conceived. Keeble shares memories of Washington Park while growing up in Chicago, Illinois and attending Emerson Elementary School and then Willard Elementary School. At the age of nine, Keeble took piano lessons, and attended services at the Greater Harvest Baptist Church, where he came under the tutelage of Willie Webb. As a child, Keeble met legendary gospel performers including Roberta and Sally Martin. Keeble distinguishes gospel music from Negro spirituals and other religious genres of music. Keeble credits Thomas Dorsey with developing gospel's musical style.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Dr. Stanley Keeble, Section A2003_284_001_002, TRT: 0:29:00 2003/12/02

Reverend Dr. Stanley Keeble comments on the decline of Negro Spirituals. As a child, Keeble had an outgoing personality. He was involved in baseball. However, his activities mainly centered on the church and his love of gospel music. In elementary school, Keeble was a good student and only got in trouble for cutting school once. One of only seven black students in his class, Keeble graduated from Chicago Vocational School [CVS] in 1955 where he specialized in music. Keeble first attended Sunday School at Zion Temple Baptist Church and then went to the Greater Harvest Baptist Church which was pastored by the Late Reverend Louis Boddie. In 1952, he began attending Fellowship Baptist Church where Clay Evans was the pastor. In the 1960s, Fellowship became connected to Civil Rights Leaders such as HistoryMaker Reverend Jesse Jackson, Sr. and Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In his mid-20s, Keeble began appearing on Sid Ordower's television program "Jubilee Showcase."

Keeble shares his memories of Sam Cooke.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Dr. Stanley Keeble, Section A2003_284_001_003, TRT: 0:30:00 2003/12/02

Reverend Dr. Stanley Keeble describes his frequent television appearances on Chicago's Jubilee Showcase and being at Fellowship Baptist Church. Keeble was recognized by fans in public. Keeble performed with Chicago Gospel artist James Cleveland, Marvin Yancy, and Jessy Dixon. Keeble comments on secular music versus gospel music and crossover artists like Gladys Knight, Aretha Franklin, Marvin Gaye, and HistoryMaker Jerry Butler. Keeble describes handling a difficult situation with an unprepared performer. Keeble remembers when Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King visited Chicago, Illinois and when HistoryMaker Jesse Jackson joined Fellowship Baptist. While continuing to perform, Keeble, ordained as a minister in 1973, was inspired by Reverend Clay Evans and Reverend Consuela York who ministered in Cook County Jail. After graduating from Daniel Hale Williams University in Chicago, Illinois in 1978, Keeble taught English in the Chicago Public Schools.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Dr. Stanley Keeble, Section A2003_284_001_004, TRT: 0:28:40 2003/12/02

Dr. Stanley Keeble describes the relationship between Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Fellowship Baptist Church in Chicago, Illinois. Keeble talks about the split within the National Baptist Convention due to Dr. King's activism and recalls learning of Dr. King's assassination. In 1968, Keeble formed his own gospel choir, The Voices of Triumph. Keeble was ordained in 1973 and received his Ph.D. in Divinity from Gospel Outreach Seminary. As a newly ordained minister, Keeble preached his first sermon at Fellowship Baptist and then joined Logos Baptist Assembly. He recounts being called to the ministry following a friend's car accident. Keeble hosts a weekly radio program called "The Joy Hour." Keeble shares his views on female ministers and mega-churches. Keeble lists his favorite gospel musicians and expresses his concern that gospel musicians are not fairly compensated. Keeble shares his hopes and concerns for the black community.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Dr. Stanley Keeble, Section
A2003_284_001_005, TRT: 0:26:50 2003/12/02

Reverend Dr. Stanley Keeble talks about being the founder and director of the Chicago Gospel Music Heritage Museum in Chicago, Illinois. Keeble considers Thomas Dorsey, Sally Martin, Professor Theodore R. Frye, Roberta Martin, James Cleveland, Mahalia Jackson and the Late Reverend Milton Brunson to be the pioneers of gospel, and he wants to preserve the legacy of these gospel greats. Keeble also hopes to inspire young people to embrace gospel music and to innovate its preservation and distribution. Keeble describes the annual Gospel Fest in Chicago and reflects upon his legacy. He concludes the interview by narrating his photographs.