

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Regina Carter

PERSON

Carter, Regina

Alternative Names: Regina Carter;

Life Dates: August 6, 1962-

Place of Birth: Highland Park / Wayne County, Michigan, USA

Residence: Maywood, NJ

Work: New York, NY

Occupations: Violinist

Biographical Note

Jazz violinist Regina Carter was born on August 6, 1962 in Detroit, Michigan to Dan Carter, an auto worker, and Grace Williamson Carter, an elementary school teacher. She began taking music lessons at the age of two, first for the piano and later for the violin. Though classically trained, she started to become interested in jazz and funk when she was a teenager. She graduated from Cass Technical High School in Detroit, Michigan and enrolled in the New England Conservatory in Boston, Massachusetts. She went on to receive her B.A. degree in music from Oakland University.

In 1987, Carter joined the all-female pop-jazz quintet Straight Ahead, and appeared on their first three albums before leaving the band in 1991 and moving to New York City, where she picked up session work with a variety of high-profile jazz and pop artists, including Aretha Franklin, Lauryn Hill, Mary J. Blige, Billy Joel, Dolly Parton, Max Roach and Oliver Lake.

Carter released her first solo album, *Regina Carter*, in 1995. It was followed by *Something for Grace* in 1997, *Rhythms of the Heart* in 1999, and *Motor City Moments* in 2000. In 2001, she traveled to Genoa, Italy, and became the first jazz musician and the first African American to play the Guarneri Del Gesu violin, a handcrafted violin from the eighteenth century that belonged to violinist and composer Niccolò Paganini. Carter then released the albums *Paganini: After a Dream* in 2003, *I'll Be Seeing You: A Sentimental Journey* in 2006, *Reverse Thread* in 2010, and *Southern Comfort* in March of 2014.

In 2006, Carter was awarded the MacArthur “Genius” Fellowship. In 2007, she was

named artist-in-residence at her alma mater, Oakland University, for which she taught master classes and worked with students, faculty and ensembles.

Regina Carter was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on February 17, 2014.

Related Entries

Macculloch Elementary School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

St. Adams [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Hampton Junior High School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Cass Technical High School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Oakland University [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Bachelor of Music

New England Conservatory [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

[EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1987 to 1989]

Nanny

American Base in Munich [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1987 to 1989]

Violin Instructor

Wayne State University [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1989 to 1990]

Financial Aid Technician

SF Performances [MEMBEROF]

[from 1997 to 2002]

Resident Art Director

New England Conservatory [MEMBEROF]

[from 2006 to ?]

Friends of the Board

New School [MEMBEROF]

[from 2007 to 2009]

Friends of the Board

Bloomfield Hospice of New Jersey [MEMBEROF]

[from 2007 to ?]

Hospice Volunteer

SF Jazz [MEMBEROF]

[from 2013 to ?]

Resident Art Director