

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Cal Street

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Street, Cal
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Cal Street,
Dates:	June 26, 2014
Bulk Dates:	2014
Physical Description:	8 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:23:18).
Abstract:	Singer Cal Street (1946 -) was a member of the classic Motown group the Velvelettes. Street was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on June 26, 2014, in Kalamazoo, Michigan. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2014_159
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Singer and performer Caldin “Carol” Street was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan to Dora and Reverend Willie Gill, Sr. Street was the middle child of seven children and was raised in Kalamazoo, where she graduated from Lincoln Jr. High School.

In 1961, Street was asked by her older sister, Mildred Arbor, to join a singing group called the Velvelettes with Bertha McNeal, Norma Fairhurst and Betty Kelley. Street became the lead singer of the quintet, which won an Alpha Phi Alpha talent contest at Western Michigan University in 1962. The Velvelettes auditioned for Berry Gordy and signed to Motown Records in 1962. They recorded two singles in 1963: "There He Goes" and "That's The Reason Why." In 1964, the Velvelettes recorded and released the single "Needle In A Haystack" on Motown's VIP Records, which peaked at #19 on the National Billboard Magazine's Top 40. The group then recorded "He Was Really Sayin' Somethin'," which peaked at #64 on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100 and at #21 on the Billboard R&B Singles chart.

In September of 1964, Betty Kelley left the Velvelettes to join Martha and the Vandellas. The remaining four Velvelettes continued to perform and released the singles “Lonely Lonely Girl Am I” and "A Bird in the Hand (Is Worth Two in the Bush)" in 1965, and "These Things Will Keep Me Loving You," in 1966, which later became a hit in the United Kingdom peaking at #34 on the UK Singles Chart. The Velvelettes also performed on the Dick Clark Caravan of Stars tours, and the “chitlin circuit” that consisted of the Apollo Theatre in Harlem, New York; the Howard Theatre in Washington, D.C.; the Uptown Theatre in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; the Royal Theatre in Baltimore, Maryland; the Regal Theatre in Chicago, Illinois; and the Fox Theatre in Detroit, Michigan. In the mid-1960s, Street moved from Kalamazoo to Detroit, Michigan, where she graduated from Chadsey High School and later from the business college of the Detroit Institute of Commerce.

In the late 1960s, Arbor, Fairhurst and McNeal left the Velvelettes and were replaced by Sandra Tilley and Annette Rogers-McMillan. Then, in 1969, Street disbanded the group after she married fellow singer and Temptations member, Richard Street. She later worked as an administrative assistant at Ford Motor Company and Western

Michigan University, as an HR specialist at the Upjohn Company/Pfizer, and as an executive assistant for her local NAACP chapter.

In 1984, four of the original Velveettes, Arbor, Fairhurst, McNeal and Street, reunited. In 1990, the group re-recorded their original hits and new songs for the album *One Door Closes* for Motorcity Records. Motown Records then released *The Very Best of the Velveettes* in 1999, *The Velveettes: The Best Of* in 2001, and *The Velveettes: The Motown Anthology* in 2004. The Velveettes are the only Motown group of the classic era still performing with the “original” line-up.

Street has one son, Richard Allen Street, Jr.

Carol Street was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on June 26, 2014.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Cal Street was conducted by Larry Crowe on June 26, 2014, in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and was recorded on 8 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Singer Cal Street (1946 -) was a member of the classic Motown group the Velveettes.

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:

Street, Cal

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Street, Cal--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Singer

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 Cal Street, June 26, 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 Cal Street, Section A2014_159_001_001, TRT: 1:34:51 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Cal Street, Section A2014_159_001_002, TRT: 2:29:35 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Cal Street, Section A2014_159_001_003, TRT: 3:29:11 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Cal Street, Section A2014_159_001_004, TRT: 4:28:43 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Cal Street, Section A2014_159_001_005, TRT: 5:29:49 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Cal Street, Section A2014_159_001_006, TRT: 6:32:14 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Cal Street, Section A2014_159_001_007, TRT: 7:15:44 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Cal Street, Section A2014_159_001_008, TRT: 8:03:11 ?