

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Ronald A. Crutcher

PERSON

Crutcher, Ronald

Alternative Names: Ronald A. Crutcher;

Life Dates: February 27, 1947-

Place of Birth: Cincinnati, Ohio, USA

Residence: Henrico, Virginia

Work: Richmond, Virginia

Occupations: Cellist; College President

Biographical Note

Academic administrator and cellist Ronald A. Crutcher was born on February 27, 1947 in Cincinnati, Ohio to Andrew and Burdella Crutcher. Crutcher graduated from Woodward High School in 1965, and went on to attend Miami University of Ohio, where he received his B.M. degree in 1969. He earned his M.M.A. degree from the Yale School of Music in 1972. Crutcher received a Fulbright Fellowship in 1972 to study in West Germany until 1977. In 1979, he became the first cellist to receive a D.M.A. degree from the Yale University School of Music.

Crutcher debuted at Carnegie Hall in 1985. He also performed around the world with a number of groups, including the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, the Springfield Symphony Orchestra, the Greensboro Symphony Orchestra, the Klemperer Trio, and the Chanticleer String Quartet. In addition to his music career, Crutcher worked as an educator and school administrator. Crutcher was head of the string program at Wittenberg University School of Music from 1977 to 1979. He was then hired as an assistant professor of Music at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and was promoted to coordinator of the string area of their School of Music in 1984. In 1989, Crutcher became the associate vice chancellor for academic affairs. In 1990, he joined the Conservatory at The Cleveland Institute of Music as a vice president for academic affairs and dean. He became the director of the Butler School of Music at the University of Texas – Austin in 1994. In 1999, Crutcher was hired as the provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at his alma mater, Miami University of Ohio. In 2004, he was hired as president and professor of music at Wheaton College. In 2016, Crutcher became the first African American president of the University of Richmond.

Crutcher co-founded Liberal Education and America's Promise (LEAP) within the Association of American Colleges and Universities, where he also served on the board. He also served on numerous community and corporate boards including the board of the American Council on Education, The Fulbright Association, and multiple boards for symphonies and music associations. Crutcher has received various awards and honors for his work in higher education and music including honorary doctorates from Muhlenberg College, Colgate University, and Wheaton College. Crutcher has also received the Presidential Medal of Honor from the University of Cordoba in Spain, The Cultural Excellence Award from The Cleveland Music School Settlement, and a Certificate of Merit from the Yale School of Music Alumni Association.

Crutcher and his wife, Betty Neal Crutcher, have one daughter, Sara.

Ronald A. Crutcher was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on December 6, 2016.

Related Entries

Miami University [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Bachelor of Music/Bachelor of the Arts

Yale University [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Master of Musical Arts

Yale University [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Doctor of Musical Arts

University of Bonn [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Certificate in Musicology

Frankfurt State Academy [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Graduate Diploma in Performance

Woodward Career Technical High School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Diploma

Wittenberg University (Germany) [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 19770101 to 19790630]

Assistant Professor of Music

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 19880701 to 19900630]

Interim Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs to Associate Vice Chancellor

The Cleveland Inst. of Music [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 19900701 to 19940630]

VP for Academic Affairs & Dean of the Conservatory

University of Texas at Austin [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 19940701 to 19990630]

Director, School of Music Florence; Thelma Hall Chair in Music

Miami University of Ohio [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 19990701 to 200406]

Provost & Exec. VP for Academic Affairs

Wheaton College (MA) [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 20040701 to 20150701]

President & Professor of Music

The Bonn School of Music (Germany) [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 19730801 to 19760931]

Instructor

University of North Carolina, Greensboro [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 19790801 to 19900630]

Assistant to Associate Professor

University of Richmond [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 20150701 to ?]

President & Professor of Music

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Member

Sigma Pi Phi [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Member

Austin Symphony Orchestra [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Board of Trustees

The Fulbright Association [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Board Member

American Council on Education [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Board of Directors

