

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Nat Adderley, Jr.

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Adderley, Nat, 1955-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Nat Adderley, Jr.,
Dates:	January 19, 2017
Bulk Dates:	2017
Physical Description:	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:16:15).
Abstract:	Music arranger and pianist Nat Adderley, Jr. (1955 -) was the music director and musical arranger for Luther Vandross from 1981 to 2003. Adderley was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on January 19, 2017, in New York, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2017_005
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Music arranger and pianist Nat Adderley, Jr. was born on May 23, 1955 to Nat Adderley, Sr. and Ann James in Quincy, Florida. Adderley attended the Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts in Manhattan, New York. In high school, he performed and wrote music for his father's group, the Cannonball Adderley Quintet. Adderley also worked as a keyboardist for R&B singer Valerie Simpson. Adderley earned his B.A. degree in African American studies from Yale University in 1977.

In 1981, Adderley became the music director for Luther Vandross. Adderley arranged the music for Vandross' 1981 album, *Never Too Much* on the songs "Never Too Much" and "Sugar and Spice (I Found Me a Girl)." He then co-wrote the song "Better Love" for Vandross' 1982 album, *Forever, for Always, for Love*. In 1984, Adderley arranged "Superstar," as well as "If Only for One Night" and "Creepin'" for Vandross' album, *The Night I Fell In Love*. He co-wrote Vandross' first top twenty hit, "Stop to Love" and arranged the songs "So Amazing" and "Give Me The Reason" from the album, *Give Me The Reason*. In 1988, Adderley arranged the songs "I Wonder" and "Love Won't Let Me Wait" for Vandross' album, *Any Love*. The album was nominated for a 1989 Grammy Award for Best Male R&B Vocal Performance. Adderley also played keyboard for Vandross' 1991 Grammy award winning album, *Power of Love*. He produced Vandross' albums *Your Secret Love*, *Luther Vandross*, and the Grammy award winning album, *Dance with My Father*. Adderley arranged Vandross' 2003 Grammy award-winning duet with Beyonce Knowles, "The Closer I Get to You," which won for Best R&B Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocals. He then produced the live album, *Luther's Live 2003 at Radio City Music Hall*.

In addition to his work with Vandross, Adderley has worked with several other musicians. He arranged the songs for Aretha Franklin's 1983 album, *Jump To It*, the string section for Doc Powell's Grammy nominated song "What's Going On" and Natalie Cole's song "When I Fall in Love." Recordings of Adderley playing piano were used by playwright August Wilson for his play *The Piano Lesson* in 1990. Adderley later formed the Nat Adderley, Jr. Trio.

Nat Adderley, Jr. was interviewed by *The Historymakers* on January 19, 2017.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Nat Adderley, Jr. was conducted by Harriette Cole on January 19, 2017, in New York, New York, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Music arranger and pianist Nat Adderley, Jr. (1955 -) was the music director and musical arranger for Luther Vandross from 1981 to 2003.

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:

Adderley, Nat, 1955-

Cole, Harriette (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

Adderley, Nat, 1955- --Interviews
African Americans--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Pianist

Music Arranger

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 Nat Adderley, Jr., January 19, 2017. 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 Nat Adderley, Jr., Section A2017_005_001_001, TRT: 1:38:40 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Nat Adderley, Jr., Section A2017_005_001_002, TRT: 2:25:56 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Nat Adderley, Jr., Section A2017_005_001_003, TRT: 3:11:19 ?

- Video Oral History Interview with Nat Adderley, Jr., Section A2017_005_001_004, TRT: 4:31:45 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Nat Adderley, Jr., Section A2017_005_001_005, TRT: 5:27:50 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Nat Adderley, Jr., Section A2017_005_001_006, TRT: 6:30:39 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Nat Adderley, Jr., Section A2017_005_001_007, TRT: 7:30:06 ?