

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Lee Koonce

Overview of the Collection

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| Repository: | The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com |
| Creator: | Koonce, Lee, 1960- |
| Title: | The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Lee Koonce, |
| Dates: | April 28, 2018 |
| Bulk Dates: | 2018 |
| Physical Description: | 6 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:41:56). |
| Abstract: | Nonprofit executive and pianist Lee Koonce (1960 -) served as president and artistic director of the Gateways Music Festival in association with the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York. Koonce was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on April 28, 2018, in New York, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview. |
| Identification: | A2018_084 |
| Language: | The interview and records are in English. |

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Nonprofit executive and pianist Lee Koonce was born on January 5, 1960 in Xenia, Ohio to Ida Bent Koonce and Lee Koonce. As a child, Koonce took piano lessons and learned to play the violin, baritone horn, and flute in school. Koonce, who grew up in Chicago, graduated from Bishop Byrne High School in Memphis, Tennessee, where his father had taken a job, in 1978. He received a B.M. degree in piano performance from Oberlin Conservatory of Music and a B.A. degree in Spanish literature from Oberlin College in 1982. After working as a music and Spanish instructor at Elgin Academy in Elgin, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago, Koonce went on to complete his coursework for his M.M. degree in piano performance from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester in 1988, earning the degree in 1993.

After graduating from the Eastman School of Music, Koonce became a senior manager at Andersen Consulting, now Accenture. In 1996, Koonce became director of community relations at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Then, in 2001, he was hired as the executive director at the Sherwood Conservatory of Music in Chicago. From 2004 to 2007, Koonce served as the executive director of Opus 118 Harlem School of Music in New York City. In 2007, he became the executive director at Third Street Music School Settlement, serving until 2014, when he was named the executive director of Ballet Hispanico. After two years, Koonce became the first president and artistic director of Gateways Music Festival in association with Eastman School of Music. Under his leadership, Gateway Music Festival was awarded a \$300,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

In addition to his role as president and artistic director, Koonce has served on the board of directors of Gateways Music Festival since 1997. He also serves as a member of the board of trustees for the National Guild for Community Arts Education and served on the board of the League of American Orchestras. Koonce has served as a panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts, and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs as well as the Oberlin Conservatory of Music committee chair of the Oberlin College Alumni Council.

Lee Koonce was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on April 28, 2018.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Lee Koonce was conducted by Harriette Cole on April 28, 2018, in New York, New York, and was recorded on 6 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Nonprofit executive and pianist Lee Koonce (1960 -) served as president and artistic director of the Gateways Music Festival in association with the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York.

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:

Koonce, Lee, 1960-

Cole, Harriette (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Koonce, Lee, 1960- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Pianist

Nonprofit Executive

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 Lee Koonce, April 28, 2018. 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 Lee Koonce, Section A2018_084_001_001, TRT: 1:28:43 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Lee Koonce, Section A2018_084_001_002, TRT: 2:28:32 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Lee Koonce, Section A2018_084_001_003, TRT: 3:29:24 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Lee Koonce, Section A2018_084_001_004, TRT: 4:27:51 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Lee Koonce, Section A2018_084_001_005, TRT: 5:28:18 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Lee Koonce, Section A2018_084_001_006, TRT: 6:19:08 ?