

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Sasha Daltonn

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Daltonn, Sasha, 1947-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Sasha Daltonn,
<b>Dates:</b>	January 30, 2022
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2022
<b>Physical Description:</b>	9 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:24:38).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Writer, producer, and singer Sasha Daltonn (1947 - ) founded the Chicago Gospel Music Festival, Sasha Daltonn Entertainment, and Royal Productions. She also wrote and performed in <i>Sasha Sings Dinah and Dinah! Queen of the Blues</i> and planned Chicago's annual Dr. King Interfaith Breakfast. Daltonn was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on January 30, 2022, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2022_010
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Writer, producer, and singer Sasha Daltonn was born on June 25, 1947, in Chicago, Illinois, to Edgar Sanders and Christine Goolsby. She received her B.A. degree in organizational leadership in 1995 from Trinity International University, in Deerfield, Illinois, where she also worked towards an M.A. degree in ministry.

Daltonn first performed in theater in the Los Angeles production of *Anna Lucasta*. After her performance in the Chicago production of *GodSpell*, she joined Actor's Equity. Daltonn also developed the musical production *Running With the 8 Ball*. Daltonn appeared with Desmond "Sanford and Sons" Wilson in *Come Blow Your Horn*, followed by her first one-woman show, *Madame Hortense*, for which she received a nomination for the Joseph Jefferson Citation. In 2018, she appeared in the film *The Animator*, written and produced by Robert Jones. As a vocalist, Daltonn has performed throughout the United States and Canada, including for the Kool Jazz festival at Carnegie Hall and with Lionel Hampton.

Daltonn wrote *Dinah and her Music*, a musical revue of Dinah Washington's life, which she performed as *Sasha Sings Dinah* with a five-member cast in Chicago in 1980 and *Dinah! Queen of the Blues* as a one-woman off-Broadway show at the West Side Arts Theater in New York City in 1983. In 1985, Daltonn joined Chicago Mayor Harold Washington's Office of Special Events, where she planned the annual Dr. King Interfaith Breakfast and founded the Chicago Gospel Music Festival (formerly known as the Thomas A. Dorsey Gospel Festival). The festival, which Daltonn planned for five years, was first presented at the South Shore County Club (later South Shore Cultural Center), and in its third year moved to Grant Park.

In 1989, Daltonn became the talent coordinator for the TV special *Going Home to Gospel with Patti LaBelle*, produced by WTTV and aired in 1991. In the 1990s, Daltonn founded her own production company, Royal Productions. She later produced the show *The Empress, The Lady, and The Queen*, portraying Bessie Smith, Billie

Holiday, and Dinah Washington. Daltonn is currently the president of Sasha Daltonn Entertainment. Daltonn's book *Chicago's Gospel Music Festival: The Untold Story, Unplugged - How A Jazz Singer Founded the World's Largest Gospel Festival!* was published in 2021.

Daltonn became a founding member of the Chicago Gospel Announcers Guild in 1996 and joined the board of directors of Gospel Music According to Chicago in 2008 and the board of directors of the South Side Jazz Coalition in 2016.

Daltonn lives in Chicago, Illinois.

Sasha Daltonn was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on January 30, 2022.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Sasha Daltonn was conducted by Larry Crowe on January 30, 2022, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 9 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Writer, producer, and singer Sasha Daltonn (1947 - ) founded the Chicago Gospel Music Festival, Sasha Daltonn Entertainment, and Royal Productions. She also wrote and performed in *Sasha Sings Dinah and Dinah! Queen of the Blues* and planned Chicago's annual Dr. King Interfaith Breakfast.

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## 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®.

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## 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.

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## Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

### Persons:

Daltonn, Sasha, 1947-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

## Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews  
Daltonn, Sasha, 1947---Interviews

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## Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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N/A

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## Occupations:

Music Writer

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

MusicMakers

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## 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 Sasha Daltonn, January 30, 2022. 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).

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## 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.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Sasha Daltonn, Section A2022\_010\_001\_001, TRT: 1:29:07 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Sasha Daltonn, Section A2022\_010\_001\_002, TRT: 2:29:37 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Sasha Daltonn, Section A2022\_010\_001\_003, TRT: 3:29:32 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Sasha Daltonn, Section A2022\_010\_001\_004, TRT: 4:29:56 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Sasha Daltonn, Section A2022\_010\_001\_005, TRT: 5:30:00 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Sasha Daltonn, Section A2022\_010\_001\_006, TRT: 6:29:10 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Sasha Daltonn, Section A2022\_010\_001\_007, TRT: 7:28:58 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Sasha Daltonn, Section A2022\_010\_001\_008, TRT: 8:29:53 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Sasha Daltonn, Section A2022\_010\_001\_009, TRT: 9:28:25 ?