

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Vernon Oliver Price

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Price, Vernon Oliver, 1929-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Vernon Oliver Price,
Dates:	March 4, 2022
Bulk Dates:	2022
Physical Description:	5 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:24:50).
Abstract:	Gospel singer Vernon Oliver Price (1929 -) is known widely in the Church of God in Christ (COGIC) for her role in music and education. She served as choir director at Chicago's Saint Paul COGIC, sang with such groups as the Thompson Community Singers and the Gospel Music According to Chicago Choir, and served as assistant director of the COGIC International Music Department and on the COGIC Board of Education. Price was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 4, 2022, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2022_020
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Gospel singer Vernon Oliver Price, known widely in the Church of God in Christ for her role in music and education, was born on December 1, 1929, in Chicago, Illinois, to Maudell and Mauris Oliver. She graduated from Chicago's DuSable High School in 1948.

Price began singing at Bishop William M. Roberts's Fortieth Street Church of God In Christ (COGIC) (later Roberts Temple COGIC) on Chicago's South Side under the leadership of Minnie Pearl Roberts Thomas when she was three years old, where she was later joined by her sister Loretta Oliver. In 1941, Price became a member of the choir at Bishop Louis Henry Ford's Saint Paul COGIC, also on Chicago's South Side. She also was a guest artist on Mother Lucy Smith's All Nations Pentecostal Broadcasts with such artists as Little Lucy Smith, Reverend James Cleveland, and The Watson Family. As a teenager, she was in the DuSable High School choir under the tutelage of Mildred Bryant Jones and sang with the Emma Jackson Singers, Ernestine Washington, and Emily Bram Bibby. She also trained with Anna Broy Crockett Ford, whom she later served as assistant director of the COGIC International Music Department. Price went on to serve as choir director of Saint Paul COGIC, church soloist for over eighty years, and jurisdictional soloist for the COGIC First Jurisdiction of Illinois for over sixty-five years. Price appeared on *Jubilee Showcase* and has performed at numerous hospitals and nursing homes. She also ministered at Illinois's Joliet, Statesville, and Dwight Penitentiaries for forty-five years and served as volunteer Protestant chaplain for the Jordan Penal Group.

Price and her sister Loretta Oliver joined Milton Brunson's Thompson Community Singers in the 1950s and later became members of Lou Della Evans Reid's Gospel Music According to Chicago Choir. Oliver also sang as a member of the Duncanaires. Price has performed with Reverend Clay Evans's Fellowship Missionary Baptist

Church Choir and African American Religious Connection Mass Choir, the Jessy Dixon Singers, A. R. Leak's "It's Time Truth Speaks" radio broadcast, the COGIC Inner-State (Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin) Meeting, the O'Neal Twins, Mattie Wrigley, Mattie Moss Clark, Luvonia Whittley, Iris Stevenson McCullough, Judith McAllister, and Albertina Walker.

Price released her album *Thank You Lord* in 2010, produced by her son Louis Price, who was the lead singer of the Temptations from 1977 to 1980 and a member of the Drifters in the 1980s and released his eponymous debut album, *Louis Price*, in 1991. Price performed in *The Chicago Defender's* Home Service Show gospel festival at the Trianon Ballroom in 1964 and at *The Soul of Chicago* in 1993. Price served for over thirty years as a member of the COGIC Board of Education and as a Heritage Singer.

Price is a resident of Chicago, Illinois. She and her late husband, John Haywood Price, had several children, including R&B singer Louis Price.

Vernon Oliver Price was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on March 4, 2022.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Vernon Oliver Price was conducted by Larry Crowe on March 4, 2022, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 5 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Gospel singer Vernon Oliver Price (1929 -) is known widely in the Church of God in Christ (COGIC) for her role in music and education. She served as choir director at Chicago's Saint Paul COGIC, sang with such groups as the Thompson Community Singers and the Gospel Music According to Chicago Choir, and served as assistant director of the COGIC International Music Department and on the COGIC Board of Education.

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:

Price, Vernon Oliver, 1929-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Price, Vernon Oliver, 1929---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Gospel 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 Vernon Oliver Price, March 4, 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).

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 Vernon Oliver Price, Section A2022_020_001_001, TRT: 1:28:20 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Vernon Oliver Price, Section A2022_020_001_002, TRT: 2:29:33 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Vernon Oliver Price, Section A2022_020_001_003, TRT: 3:31:46 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Vernon Oliver Price, Section A2022_020_001_004, TRT: 4:30:23 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Vernon Oliver Price, Section A2022_020_001_005, TRT: 5:24:48 ?