

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Gene Chandler

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Chandler, Gene
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Gene Chandler,
Dates:	May 7, 2022
Bulk Dates:	2022
Physical Description:	9 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:56:39).
Abstract:	Musician Gene Chandler (1937 -) is the singer of songs such as “Duke of Earl,” “Rainbow,” and “Groovy Situation.” He worked closely with Curtis Mayfield and Carl Davis and is a former member of the Dukays. Chandler was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on May 7, 2022, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2022_048
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Musician Gene Chandler was born on July 6, 1937, in Chicago, Illinois, as Eugene Dixon. While attending Englewood High School in the Englewood neighborhood of Chicago, Illinois, he founded a group called the Gaytones. In 1957, Chandler was drafted into the United States Army and served in Germany until 1960, when he was honorably discharged and returned to Chicago, where he rejoined the Dukays and signed to Nat Records in Chicago.

Chandler and the Dukays gained popularity in Chicago and released *Duke of Earl* in 1961. Chandler left the Dukays to pursue a solo career with Vee-Jay Records and re-released *Duke of Earl* as a solo track in 1962, the same year he officially adopted the stage name Gene Chandler. During his career, he has recorded fourteen albums and forty singles, including *Man's Temptation*, *Rainbow*, and its various re-recordings, *The Two Sides of Gene Chandler*, *The Gene Chandler Situation*, and *Just Be True*. Chandler has also served as a singer, producer, song writer, and composer. Chandler worked closely with producer Carl Davis and song writer Curtis Mayfield, as well as with musician Jerry Butler. In the late 1970s, Chandler worked as an executive vice president at Carl Davis' Chi-Sound Records.

In 1970, Chandler received the Producer of the Year Award from the National Association of Television and Radio Announcers, and his song *Duke of Earl* received the Gold Disc Award from the Recording Industry Association of America. In 2002, *Duke of Earl* was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame. Chandler was inducted as a performer into the Rhythm and Blues Hall of Fame in 2014 and received its Pioneer Award in 2016. In Chicago in 2016, 59th Street from Racine Avenue to May Street was renamed *Gene Chandler Duke of Earl Way* in honor of Gene Chandler.

Gene Chandler lives in Chicago, Illinois. He has an adult son, Drake Dixon.

Gene Chandler was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on May 7, 2022.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Gene Chandler was conducted by Larry Crowe on May 7, 2022, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 9 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Musician Gene Chandler (1937 -) is the singer of songs such as “Duke of Earl,” “Rainbow,” and “Groovy Situation.” He worked closely with Curtis Mayfield and Carl Davis and is a former member of the Dukays.

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:

Chandler, Gene

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Chandler, Gene--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

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 Gene Chandler, May 7, 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 Gene Chandler, Section A2022_048_001_001, TRT: 1:29:56 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Gene Chandler, Section A2022_048_001_002, TRT: 2:28:15 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Gene Chandler, Section A2022_048_001_003, TRT: 3:26:31 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Gene Chandler, Section A2022_048_001_004, TRT: 4:29:09 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Gene Chandler, Section A2022_048_001_005, TRT: 5:27:54 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Gene Chandler, Section A2022_048_001_006, TRT: 6:29:01 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Gene Chandler, Section A2022_048_001_007, TRT: 7:27:28 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Gene Chandler, Section A2022_048_001_008, TRT: 8:22:11 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Gene Chandler, Section A2022_048_001_009, TRT: 9:16:14 ?