

# **Guide to music and the Black Church**

## **MB**

Compiled by Anne Rhodes

2022-06-23

P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8307  
musicspecialcollections@yale.edu  
<http://guides.library.yale.edu/oham/collectionsguide>

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Oral History of American Music  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8307  
musicspecialcollections@yale.edu  
<http://guides.library.yale.edu/oham/collectionsguide>

**CALL NUMBER:** MBC

**TITLE:** Music and the Black Church

**DATES:** 2022-2023

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 15 Computer Files (15.2 gigabytes)

**LANGUAGE:** English (Latin script)

**SUMMARY:** A collection of video interviews with leaders of music in the Black church, including pastors, music ministers, gospel artists, and choir directors. These interviews were conducted by students in the Yale University class The Gospel Imagination, taught by Prof. Braxton Shelley.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/oham.mbc>

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## Administrative Information

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### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research. The finding aid includes links to stream most interviews online via Oral History of American Music's (OHAM) AV access system, Aviary. Yale users can login to Aviary using their Yale University ID, to stream these interviews without restriction. Other users are able to request access to interviews directly through Aviary. For access instructions, and to request transcripts of an interview, see [OHAM's website](#).

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### Conditions Governing Use

Rights and permissions for Oral History of American Music materials vary between individual interviews. Researchers wishing to publish or broadcast Oral History of American Music materials are responsible for obtaining direct authorization from copyright holders: generally, the interviewees or their estates.

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### Preferred Citation

Music in the Black Church, Oral History of American Music, in the Music Library of Yale University.

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### Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements

.mp4 and .mov files

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## Scope and Contents

A collection of video interviews with leaders of music in the Black church, including pastors, music ministers, gospel artists, and choir directors. These interviews were conducted by students in the Yale University class The Gospel Imagination, taught by Prof. Braxton Shelley.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged alphabetically by surname.

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## Collection Contents

### Baker, Barbara W.

Baker, Barbara W.

2023 May 8

MBC 14 a

*1 Computer File (1.12)*

*Approximate running time: 59 mins*

Brown, Carlos, Jr., 2001- , interviewer

[\[Aviary\] Baker, Barbara W., 2023 May 8](#)

Interview conducted via videochat, with interviewee in Silver Spring, MD and interviewer in New Haven, CT.

.mp4 file

Names:

Baker, Barbara W. (Barbara Wesley) , interviewee

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## Brooks, Kent

Brooks, Kent

2022 May 5

MBC 1 a

*1 Computer File (1.61 gigabytes)*

*Approximate running time: 110 mins*

Willis, John, 1997- , interviewer

[\[Aviary\] Brooks, Kent, 2022 May 5](#)

Interview conducted via videochat, with interviewee in Evanston, IL and interviewer in New Haven, CT.

.mp4 file

Names:

Brooks, Kent R. , interviewee

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## Clayton, Lisa

Clayton, Lisa

2023 May 4

15 a-b

*2 Computer Files (284 megabytes)*

*Approximate running time: 50 mins*

Addison, Ceily , interviewer

[\[Aviary\] Clayton, Lisa, 2023 May 4](#)

Interview conducted via videochat with interviewee in Storres, CT (?) and interviewer in New Haven, CT.

.mp4 files

Names:

Clayton, Lisa (Gospel Musician) , interviewee

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## Davis, Leo, Jr.

Davis, Leo, Jr.

2022 May 9

MBC 5 a

*1 Computer File (1 gigabyte)*

*Approximate running time: 66 mins*

Prescod, Nedelka , interviewer

[\[Aviary\] Davis, Leo, Jr., 2022 May 9](#)

Interview conducted via videochat, with interviewee in Memphis, TN and interviewer in Brooklyn, NY

.mp4 file

Names:

Davis, Leo, Jr. , interviewee

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## Dickenson, Omar

Dickenson, Omar

2022 May 11

MBC 10 a

*1 Computer File (440 megabytes)*

*Approximate running time: 53 minutes*

Allen, Justin, 1992- , interviewer

[\[Aviary\] Dickenson, Omar, 2022 May 11](#)

Interview conducted via videochat, with interviewee in Hampton, VA and interviewer in New Haven, CT

.mp4 file

Names:

Dickenson, Omar , interviewee

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## Graves, Avis D.

Graves, Avis D.

2022 May 9

MBC 6 a

*1 Computer File (909 megabytes)*

*Approximate running time: 72 mins*

Roberts, Rachel, 1999- , interviewer

[\[Aviary\] Graves, Avis D. , 2022 May 9](#)

Interview conducted via videochat, with interviewee in Cleveland, OH and interviewer in New Haven, CT.

.mp4 file

Names:

Graves, Avis D. , interviewee

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## Hines, Charletta

Hines, Charletta

2022 May 10

MBC 8 a-c

*3 Computer Files (513 megabytes)*

*Approximate running time: 60 mins*

Byrne, Clare , interviewer

[\[Aviary\] Hines, Charetta, 2022 May 10](#)

Interview conducted via videochat, with interviewee in Durham, NC and interviewer in Guilford, CT

.mp4 files

Names:

Hines, Charletta , interviewee

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## McNeill, Tony

McNeill, Tony

2022 May 9

MBC 7 a

*1 Computer File (368 megabytes)*

*Approximate running time: 60 mins*

Valor, Pau Ruis , interviewer

[\[Aviary\] McNeill, Tony, 2022 May 9](#)

Interview conducted via videochat, with interviewee in Rock Hill, SC and interviewer in New Haven, CT

.mp4 file

Names:

McNeill, Tony , interviewee

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Ministering Through the Arts: Tradition and Innovation

MBC 19 a 1 Computer File (49.9 gigabytes)

*Approximate running time: 131 mins*

Shelley, Braxton D. , organizer

White-Clayton, Diane L. , moderator

Garrett, Joyce , panelist

Harris, Will (Gospel Musician) , panelist

Jackson-Sago, Barbara , panelist

Moore-Copeland, L'Tanya , panelist

Owens, Walter , panelist

Robinson, Eddie A. , panelist

[\[Aviary\] Ministering Through the Arts: Tradition and Innovation 2023 October 26](#)

Panel convened in New Haven by the Interdisciplinary Program in Music and the Black Church at the Yale Institute of Sacred Music. Opening remarks by Martin Jean and introduction by Braxton Shelley.

.mov file

## Moore-Copeland, L'Tanya

Moore-Copeland, L'Tanya

2023 May 9

MBC 16 a

*1 Computer File (575 megabytes)*

*Approximate running time: 52 mins.*

Hester, Amaris , interviewer

[\[Aviary\] Moore-Copeland, L'Tanya, 2023 May 9](#)

Interview conducted via videochat with interviewee in Atlanta, GA (?) and interviewer in New Haven, CT.

.mp4 file

Names:

Moore-Copeland, L'Tanya , interviewee

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## Pace, Kay

Pace, Kay

2023 May 4

MBC 17 a

*1 Computer File (905 megabytes)*

*Approximate running time: 73 mins*

McFadden, Christoph', interviewer

[\[Aviary\] Pace Kay 2023 May 4](#)

[\[Aviary\] Pace Kay 2023 May 4](#)

Interview conducted via videochat, with interviewee in Union City, GA and interviewer in New Haven, CT.

.mp4 file

Names:

Pace, Kay , interviewee

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## Pollard, Deborah Smith

Pollard, Deborah Smith

2023 May 5

MBC 18 a

*1 Computer File (517 megabytes)*

*Approximate running time: 61 mins*

Byrne, Clare , interviewer

[\[Aviary\] Pollard, Deborah Smith, 2023 May 5](#)

Interview conducted via videochat, with interviewee in Detroit, MI and interviewer in Guildford, CT.

.mp4 file

Names:

Pollard, Deborah Smith , interviewee

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## Sellers-Battle, Crystal

Sellers-Battle, Crystal

2022 May 5

MBC 2 a

*1 Computer File (291 megabytes)*

*Approximate running time: 60 mins*

Brown, Zada , interviewer

[\[Aviary\] Sellers-Battle, Crystal, 2022 May 5](#)

Interview conducted via videochat, with interviewee in Huntington, PA and interviewer in New Haven, CT

.mp4 file

Names:

Sellers-Battle, Crystal , interviewee

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## Thomas, Deborah Manning

Thomas, Deborah Manning

2023 May 4

MBC 11 a

*1 Computer File (510 megabytes)*

*Approximate running time: 56 mins*

Azumah, Dzidedi , interviewer

[\[Aviary\] Thomas, Deborah Manning, 2023-05-04](#)

Interview conducted via videochat.

.m4a file

Names:

Manning, Deborah, (Gospel singer) , interviewee

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## Turner, Patrice E.

Turner, Patrice E.

2022 May 6

MBC 3 a

*1 Computer File (880 megabytes)*

*Approximate running time: 50 mins*

McCoy, Omena , interviewer

[\[Aviary\] Turner, Patrice E., 2022 May 6](#)

Interview conducted via videochat, with interviewee in Atlanta, GA, and interviewer in New Haven, CT

.mp4 file

Names:

Turner, Patrice E. , interviewee

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## White-Clayton, Diane

White-Clayton, Diane

2023 May 6

MBC 12 a

*1 Computer File (1.5 gigabytes)*

*Approximate running time: 80 minutes*

Fore-Ravelo, Tamara , interviewer

[\[Aviary\] White-Clayton, Diane, 2023 May 6](#)

Interview conducted via videochat.

.mp4 file

Names:

White-Clayton, Diane L. , interviewee

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## Williams, Oscar, Jr.

Williams, Oscar, Jr.

2022 May 10

MBC 9 a

*1 Computer File (6 gigabytes)*

*Approximate running time: 46 mins*

Kankam, Amma , interviewer

[\[Aviary\] Williams, Oscar, Jr. , 2022 May 10](#)

Interview conducted via videochat, with intervier in unknown location and interviewee in New Haven, CT

.mp4 file

Names:

Williams, Oscar, Jr. , interviewee

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**Williams, Vanessa R.**

Williams, Vanessa R.  
MBC 15 a-b  
*3 Computer Files (657 megabytes)*  
*Approximate running time: 108 mins*  
Eteme, Vyann , interviewer  
[\[Aviary\] Williams, Vanessa R., 2023 May 2](#)

2023 May 2

Interview conducted via videochat  
.m4a files

Names:  
Williams, Vanessa R. , interviewee

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## Wilson, G. Preston

Wilson, G. Preston

2022 May 6

MBC 4 a

*1 Computer File (633 megabytes)*

*Approximate running time: 46 mins*

Frodyma, Archer , interviewer

[\[Aviary\] Wilson, G. Preston, 2022 May 6](#)

Interview conducted via videochat, with interviewee in Lawrenceville, NJ and interviewer in New Haven, CT

.mov file

Names:

Wilson, G. Preston , interviewee

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## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Church music -- African American churches  
Gospel music  
Gospel musicians

### **Acquired From**

Shelley, Braxton D.