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UA0001

Edison H. Anderson Papers

Compiled by Miguell Ceasar

Date: 9/24/2021

Revised by Evelyn Davis, January 2024

Collection Overview

Creator: Prairie View A&M University

Title of Collection: Edison H. Anderson Papers

Dates: 1953-1977

Extent: .25 Linear ft.

Abstract: Edison Holmes Anderson was the Director of the Music Department at Langston University, where he established a well-known Acapella Choir. In 1958, he became the director of vocal-choral music at PVAMU, and he organized a vocal group consisting of students from all branches of the college, the Prairie View A Cappella Concert Choir. The Edison H. Anderson collection covers his time as director of vocal chorus from 1953-1977.

Access Restrictions: Collection is open for research.

Identification: UA 0001

Use Restrictions: Written permission must be obtained from the Special Collections/ Archives Department and all relevant rights holders before publishing quotations, excerpts, or images from any materials in this collection.

Language: English

Repository: Special Collections/Archives Department, John B. Coleman Library, Prairie View A&M University

Biographical Note: Edison Holmes Anderson was born on October 3, 1916, in Terrell, Texas, where he attended elementary and high school. After graduating from PVAMU in 1938, he accepted a position at Grand Central Junior High School in Kaufman Texas, where he served as principal from 1938 to 1940. In 1941, he became the director of music at Arkansas State College, and he met and married Gloria C. Edwards. The couple had three children, Edison Jr., Clementine, and Samuel Edward.

He received master's and doctorate degrees from Iowa State University, where he studied in the Opera workhouse under the direction of Dr. Stark, and he also earned a specialist diploma in music at Columbia University in New York City. He was soloist in the Columbia University Choir under the direction of Robert Shaw of Juilliard. While studying in New York, he also performed *Braaten's Alto Rhapsody* with noted singer Carol Brice.

Anderson went on to serve as the Director of the Music Department at Langston University, where he established a well-known Acapella Choir. Anderson was chosen as the conductor of the All-State Choir at the Festival of Oklahoma, which attests to his enthusiasm for working with young people in groups of all sizes as well as to those who have been inspired towards a professional goal.

In 1958, he became the director of vocal-choral music at PVAMU, and he organized a vocal group consisting of students from all branches of the college, the Prairie View A Cappella Concert Choir. His vocal students and choirs performed in hundreds of cities throughout the nation, and he did numerous radio, television, and recital performances. Anderson passed away on January 7, 1976, and PVAMU established a scholarship in his honor.

Scope & Contents: The Edison H. Anderson collection covers his time as director of vocal chorus from 1953-1977. The collection consists mostly of Programs of A Cappella concert choir and other printed materials such as poems and scholarship materials.

Arrangement: The Edison H. Anderson collection is made up of two series and arranged chronologically by date of content.

Series I: Printed Material and Programs

Series II: Miscellaneous items (Poems and scholarship information)

Series III: Biographical Materials

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation: Edison H. Anderson Papers UA0001. Special Collections/Archives Department, John B. Coleman Library, Prairie View A&M University

Subject Terms:

African American educators
 African American educators--Texas
 Historically Black Colleges & Universities
 HBCUs (Historically Black colleges and universities)
 Prairie View A&M University
 Anderson, Edison H., 1916

Inventory

Series 1 Printed Material and Programs

Box	Folder	
1	1	Langston, A Cappella Choir, Embassy Auditorium; March 8, 1953
1	2	Langston, A Cappella Club, Oakland Auditorium, Little Theatre; March 7, 1956
1	3	Edison Holmes Anderson in concert; November 9, 1958
1	4	Texas A&M College, Department of Music Program, Auditorium-Gymnasium;

- May 1, 1962
- | | | |
|---|----|--|
| 1 | 5 | Prairie View Department of Music, A Cappella Concert Choir; May 8, 1960 |
| 1 | 6 | Prairie View Department of Music, A Cappella Concert Choir, Lincoln Highschool; February 3, 1961 |
| 1 | 7 | Prairie View Department of Music, A Cappella Concert Choir, Palestine, Texas; January 11, 1962 |
| 1 | 8 | Second Baptist Church, San Antonio, Texas, A Cappella Concert Choir of Prairie View A&M College, April 2, 1963 |
| 1 | 9 | A Cappella Concert Choir, Auditorium; April 19, 1964 |
| 1 | 10 | Edison Holmes Anderson in Recital; November 22, 1964 |
| 1 | 11 | A Cappella Concert Choir, Prairie View, Zion Baptist Church |
| 1 | 12 | A Cappella Choir, Auditorium-Gymnasium; May 2, 1965 |
| 1 | 13 | A Capella Choir, Auditorium-Gymnasium; May 5, 1965 |
| 1 | 14 | The Prairie View A Cappella Concert Choir, Phoenix Union High School Auditorium; February 19, 1967 |
| 1 | 15 | A Cappella Concert Choir, Auditorium-Gymnasium; May 8, 1967 |
| 1 | 16 | A Cappella Concert Choir, Berkley, High West Campus; March 2, 1968 |
| 1 | 17 | A Cappella Concert Choir, Auditoriums-Gymnasiums; May 4, 1969 |
| 1 | 18 | Tyler, Texas, Prairie View College, A Cappella Concert Choir, Auditoriums; March 10, 1969 |
| 1 | 19 | A Cappella Concert Choir in Easter and Spring, Women's Gymnasium; March 22, 1970 |
| 1 | 20 | A Cappella Choir Concert, West Berkeley Campus Auditorium; February 28, 1971 |

Series 2 Miscellaneous items (Poems and scholarship information)

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| 1 | 21 | Tribute to Edison H. Anderson, Hobart Taylor Arts & Sciences Building; June 19, 1977 |
| 1 | 22 | Detroit (Michigan) Institute of Musical Art. A Cappella Concert Choir |
| 1 | 23 | Edison H. Anderson Memorial Scholarship Foundation. Hempstead, TX |
| 1 | 24 | Anderson, Gloria, So Many Things, I Cannot Tell Them All (poem) |
| 1 | 25 | Anderson, Gloria Edwards, I Would Like To Give You Some Flowers |

Series III: Biographical Materials

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| 1 | 26 | Tribute to Dr. H. Edison Anderson by Herald I. Stark, 1977 |
| 1 | 27 | Dr. Herald I. Stark portrait, undated |
| 1 | 28 | pictures of memorabilia and portrait of Dr. Anderson, undated |
| 1 | 29 | The Panther, November 1964 |
| 1 | 30 | Yearbook photocopy, undated |
| 1 | 31 | The H. Edison Anderson, Sr. Memorial Scholarship Foundation |