

Collection #
SC3685

**MARIANNE WILLIAMS TOBIAS
ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW, 15 JULY 2013**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 manuscript folder, four digital files
COLLECTION DATES:	15 July 2013
PROVENANCE:	Gift of Marianne Williams Tobias, Indianapolis, Indiana
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ACCESSION NUMBER:	2023.0119; 2019.0341
NOTES:	This forms part of the Indianapolis Women's Oral History Project Archives

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Marianne Williams Tobias was born in Dallas, Texas, in 1940 to Samuel Royster Hardison Jr. (1908-1941) and Mamie Lillian Gebhardt (1904-1984). Following her father's death, her mother moved back to Indianapolis, Indiana where she met and married Russell S. Williams (1898-1956), who raised Ms. Tobias as his own child. At the age of twelve, she won the Indiana State Piano Contest and played for the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. She graduated from Tudor High School in 1958 and attended Radcliffe College (Cambridge, Massachusetts), where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1962. Afterward, she worked for a year and a half for Julia Child and WGBH, Boston's public television station, as well as illustrated lectures on American history for U.S. Navy submariners. At the same time, she pursued an artist's diploma at Longy School of Music (Cambridge, Massachusetts), which she received in 1967, and decided on a career in music. Graduating from University of Minnesota in 1976 with a PhD in Musical Arts, she taught music at St. Paul Academy, giving piano lessons, played concerts, and worked with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra. Throughout her university years, she also attended Oxford University (England), the Sorbonne (Paris), and the Deutsche Spracht Institute (Augsburg, Germany).

Upon her return to Indianapolis in 1986, Ms. Tobias became the commentator for the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, writing program notes and giving pre-concert lectures as well as performing. Later, she also taught music at Butler University.

Her other interests varied from the arts and led her to become a certified legal translator of Spanish to English as well as a certified veterinary assistant. She published several books, including *Classical Music Without Fear: A Guide for General Audiences* (2003) and *Opera for All Seasons: 60 Years of Indiana University Opera Theater* (2010). In 2014, she established the Marianne Tobias Music Program at Eskenazi Health, which presents a variety of musical performances for patients, staff, and visitors. She also served on a variety of local and national arts related and non-profit boards of directors, such as the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Indianapolis Museum of Art, International Violin Competition, Park Tudor School, the Indiana University Foundation, Dance Kaleidoscope, and the Indiana Historical Society. She was known as a generous philanthropist throughout the many years she lived in Indianapolis.

Ms. Tobias has two children, James Ullyot (b. 1968) and Kathryn Ullyot Hundley (b. 1970). Ms. Tobias died on July 12, 2023 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Sources:

Materials in the collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The following interview is one of a collection of oral history interviews devoted to collecting life stories of prominent Indiana women involved in business, education, law, philanthropy, politics, and religion. All of the women interviewed for this project were selected from within the membership of The Gathering, an informal networking group of approximately 175 Indiana women leaders that began around 1990. The Indianapolis Women's Oral History Project (initially known as The Gathering Oral History Project) was organized in 2013 by the members of The Gathering and conducted with the assistance and supervision of the Indiana Historical Society (IHS).

This manuscript was transcribed from a digitally recorded interview conducted on July 15, 2013, at Marianne Williams Tobias's home, Indianapolis, Indiana by Martha Lamkin, a member of The Gathering. Data Logistics Control, INC, located in Indianapolis, Indiana, transcribed the interview in 2015, and Wendy L. Adams, director of oral history at IHS, lightly edited the transcript in 2020. The interview, which includes the audio recording and transcript, is housed at the William H. Smith Memorial Library, Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center, Indianapolis, Indiana.

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Oral History Interview Transcript, 15 July 2013

Oral History Interview Audio, 15 July 2013

Portrait of Marianne Williams Tobias

CONTAINER

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