

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Spencer Rockford

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Sports Stories - IHSA Oral History project

Interview #SIH-A-L-2017-072

Spencer Rockford, former Ottawa Township High School student discusses the school's successful music program, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Illinois High School Association* Oral History project.

Date: Jul 29, 2017 Location: United Church of Christ, Ottawa, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:04 / 1.06 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on September 28, 2017

The interviews are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

Interview being
processed

© 2017 Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Abstract

Spencer Rockford, *Sports Stories-IHSA*, SIH-A-L-2017-072

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Spencer Rockford was born in Ottawa, Illinois in July, 1990. His interest in band began in 4th grade, an interest that included piano. While at the Ottawa Township High School (OTHS), Spencer was involved in all types of choral and band organizations, and graduated in 2008. He participated in multiple Illinois High School Association (IHSA) musical competitions while at Ottawa High. Spencer then attend Millikin University, focusing on music education. He participated in many Millikin vocal groups and graduate in 2012. In 2013, Spencer began teaching at the Mt. Carmel, Illinois Middle School. He spent two years there before he had an opportunity to return to Ottawa Township High School to work on the music faculty, teaching vocal music.

This interview covers Spencer's experiences as a high school student participating in a very successful high school music program that earned twenty IHSA Music Sweepstakes awards from 1997-2016. Rockford discussed the amount of preparation it took to get ready for a contest, the actual contest day events, and the challenges of sight reading music, which is no longer a part of the contest. Spencer also talked about the various OTHS organizational groups that participated in the full day of the IHSA organizational contest. In addition, he talked about how the IHSA Music Sweepstakes helped him in his own musical development. He shares stories about returning as a teacher to his own high school to teach, and the strong music tradition at Ottawa Township High School.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Ottawa Township High School; Illinois High School Association musical competitions; OTHS music program; IHSA Music Sweepstakes; IHSA Solo and Ensemble contest; importance of musical program and competitions to student development;

Note to the Reader: Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

COPYRIGHT

The following material can be used for educational and other non-commercial purposes without the written permission of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. "Fair use" criteria of Section 107 of the Copyright Act of 1976 must be followed. These materials are not to be deposited in other repositories, nor used for resale or commercial purposes without the authorization from the Audio-Visual Curator at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 112 N. 6th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701. Telephone (217) 785-7955

