

The Music in *The Music of Black Americans*

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musicinmoba.harvardmusiclib.share.library.harvard.edu

NEMLA
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Harmful Content Statement

The Mark of Black Americans: Epithets, Archaic Language, and Offensive Imagery in *The Music of Black Americans: A History*

<https://musicinmoba.harvardmusiclib.share.library.harvard.edu/contentstatement>

and

Harvard University Harmful Language in Library Collections

<https://library.harvard.edu/harmful-language-library-collections>

Harvard Library's Advancing Open Knowledge Grants Program

This program provides awards of **up to \$10,000** for projects that advance open knowledge and foster innovation to further diversity, inclusion, belonging and antiracism. Projects can take a variety of forms, but should be grounded in Harvard Library's values and FY22 Priorities.

OUR VALUES

Lead with curiosity

Seek collaboration

Embrace diverse perspectives

Champion access

Aim for the extraordinary

Eileen Southern (1920-2002)

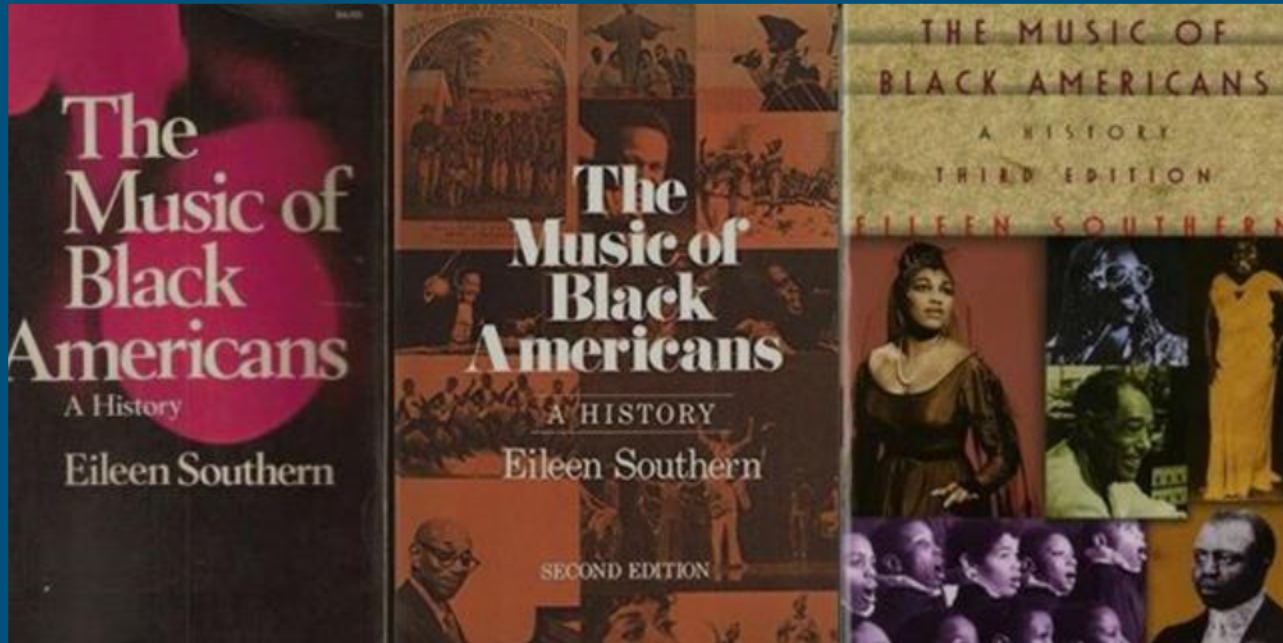
Image: Portrait of Eileen Southern, by Martha
Stewart. Radcliffe College Archives PC 479-1-1



A Call for Change

“I would like changes to be made in how we train musicians in conservatories and universities. A lot of our thinking, and our perceptions of what’s good music, becomes indoctrinated at that stage.” - Roderick Cox

“A literary national park” - Wadada Leo Smith



Project Phases

Research

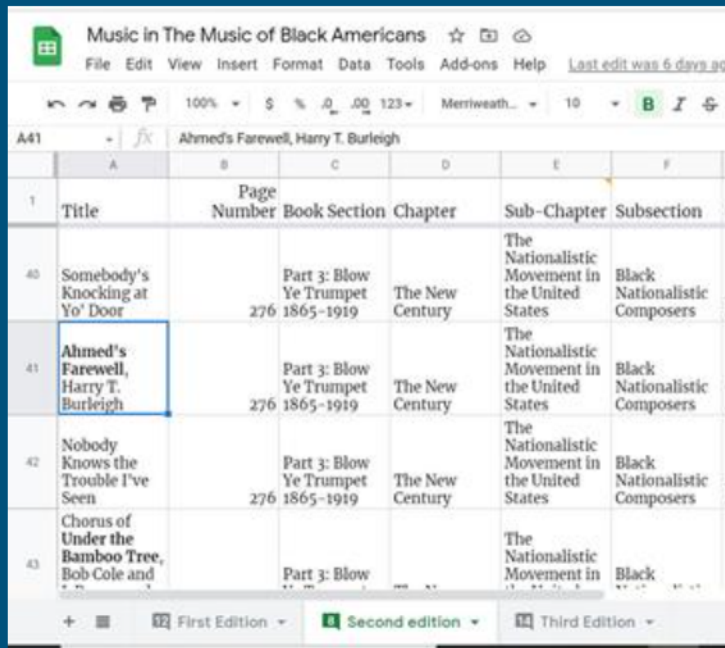
Design

Collaboration

Image: Eileen Southern, ca. 1974-1984.
Radcliffe College Archives PC 479-1-4



Research: created inventory of sources from *MoBA*



Music in The Music of Black Americans

File Edit View Insert Format Data Tools Add-ons Help Last edit was 6 days ago

100% \$ % .00 123 Merriweath... 10 B I

A41 Ahmed's Farewell, Harry T. Burleigh

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Title	Page Number	Book Section	Chapter	Sub-Chapter	Subsection
40	Somebody's Knocking at Yo' Door	276	Part 3: Blow Ye Trumpet 1865-1919	The New Century	The Nationalistic Movement in the United States	Black Nationalistic Composers
41	Ahmed's Farewell, Harry T. Burleigh	276	Part 3: Blow Ye Trumpet 1865-1919	The New Century	The Nationalistic Movement in the United States	Black Nationalistic Composers
42	Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen	276	Part 3: Blow Ye Trumpet 1865-1919	The New Century	The Nationalistic Movement in the United States	Black Nationalistic Composers
43	Chorus of Under the Bamboo Tree, Bob Cole and		Part 3: Blow		The Nationalistic Movement in	Black

+ First Edition Second edition Third Edition

*Hannah Ezer '22,
2020 SHARP Fellow*

Research (continued): looked for (digital) scores

HOLLIS

IMSLP

HathiTrust

Internet Archive

WorldCat

The Digital Public Library of America

Google Books

RISM

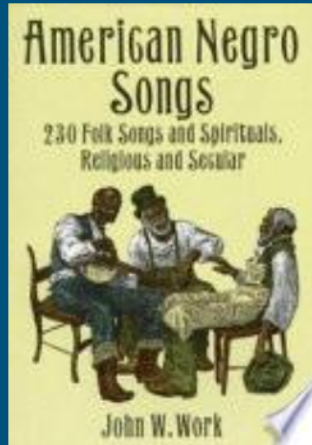
RILM

Isabelle Mountoute
'23, AOK student
worker

[some HOLLIS successes]

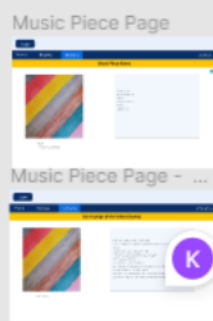


Williams, Bert, et al. *35 Song Hits by Great Black Songwriters*. Dover Publications, 1998.



Work, John W. *American Negro Songs: 230 Folk Songs and Spirituals, Religious and Secular*. Dover Publications, 1998.

Design



K

#10 · Version 2

Kerry Masteller 2 years ago
"View all" link not necessary if the
Show All list moves to this page.

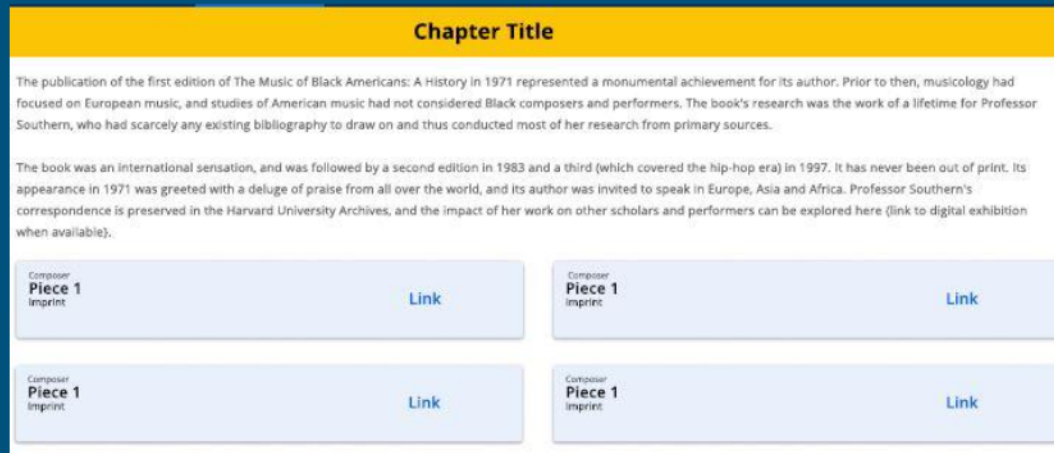
K

#9 · Version 2

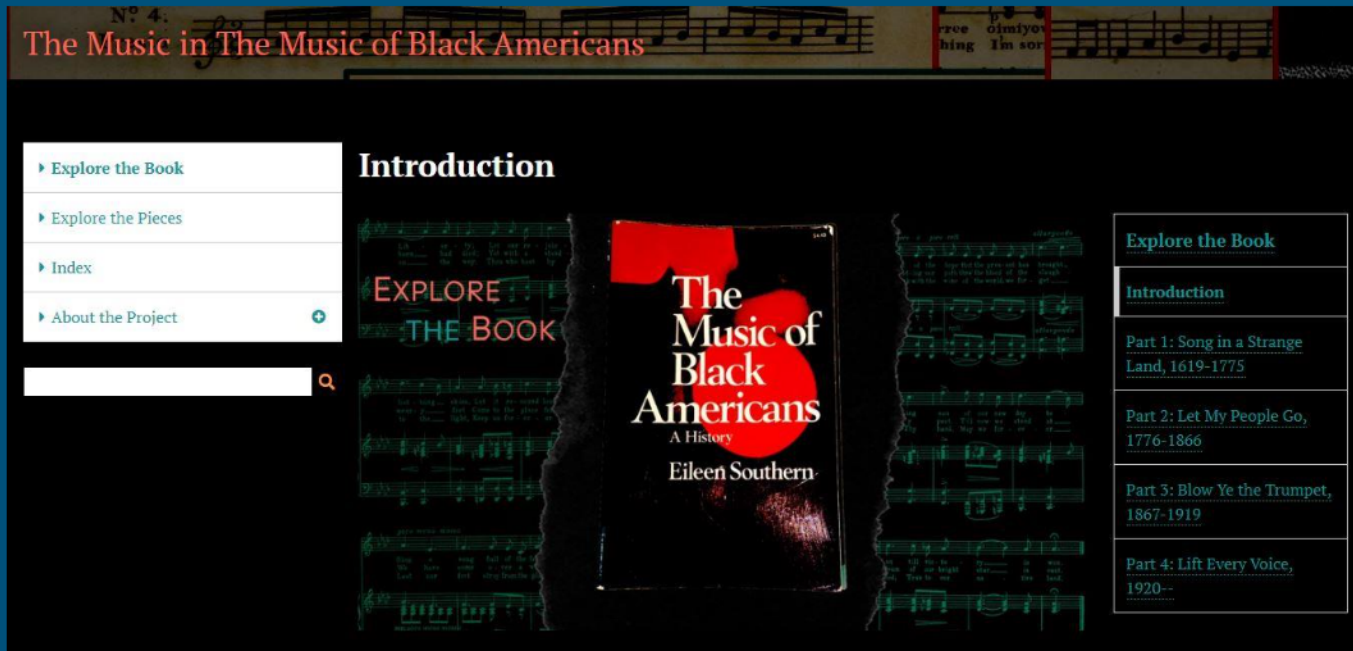
Kerry Masteller 2 years ago
typo!

*Jamie Lu '23, AOK
student worker*

Design



Design



*Siriana Lundgren,
AOK student worker*

Design

How To Navigate the Site



Explore the Book



Explore the Pieces



Index

Use [Explore the Book](#) to be guided through each part of Southern's text. Here, you can navigate to each musical example while learning more about the organization of the book as a whole.

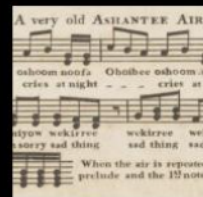
Use [Explore the Pieces](#) to see a list of all the musical examples in Southern's text. Here, you can browse or search through all the examples at once.

Use the [Index](#) to see a list of all the parts Southern outlines in her book. Clicking on any link within the index will allow you to explore the musical examples in that section of the book.

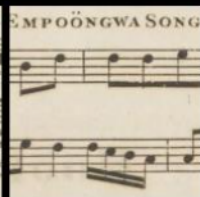
Part 1: Song in a Strange Land, 1619-1775

"The black folk brought their memories of the rich traditions of Africa"
(*The Music of Black Americans*, page 25)

Explore the different sections of Part One by navigating the galleries of sheet music below. Click on any piece to access its citation and a score, if available.



A very old Ashantee Air



Song of Gabon

The African Heritage



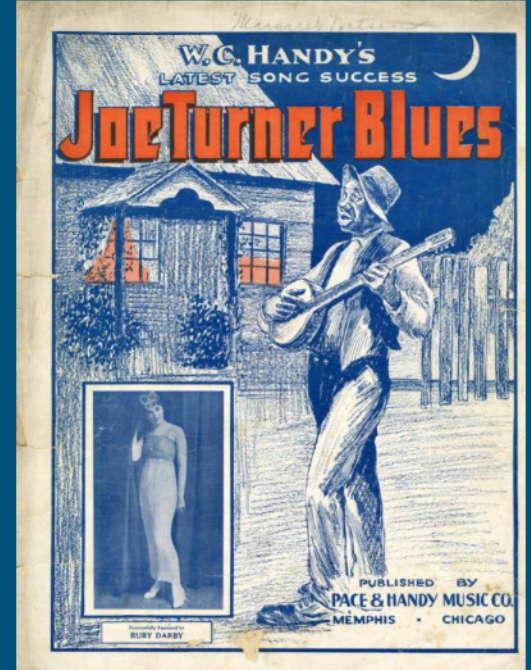
Ashanti Air



Ashanti Air

Collaboration:

Digital scores with formal permissions include:



"Joe Turner Blues", Charles L. Blockson Afro-American Collection at Temple University

Post-project reflections

- Context is important: harmful language is rife in this repertoire
- Recruiting students can be time-consuming
- Not every piece in the book was by a Black composer
- More asset tracking would have streamlined our working

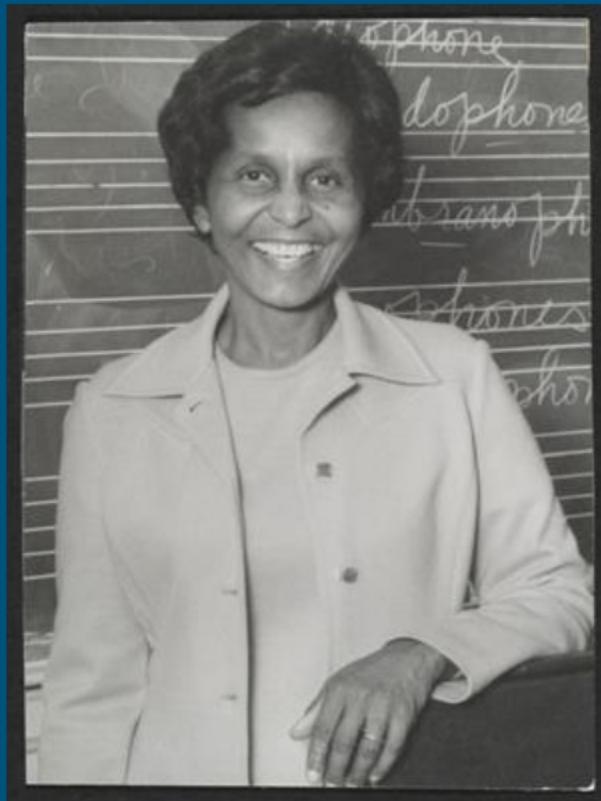


Image: Eileen Southern, ca. 1974-1984.
Radcliffe College Archives PC 479-1-4

Thank you!

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