The Music in *The Music of Black Americans*

Kerry Carwile Masteller, Sandi-Jo Malmon, Christina Linklater
Eda Kuhn Loeb Music Library, Harvard University

musicinmoba.harvardmusiclib.share.library.harvard.edu

NEMLA
June 2, 2023
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

Research: created inventory of sources from *MoBA*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page Number</th>
<th>Book Section</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Sub-Chapter</th>
<th>Subsection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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]


Design

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

- #9 · Version 2
  Kerry Masteller 2 years ago
typol

Jamie Lu '23, AOK student worker
Chapter Title

The publication of the first edition of The Music of Black Americans: A History in 1971 represented a monumental achievement for its author. Prior to then, musicology had focused on European music, and studies of American music had not considered Black composers and performers. The book's research was the work of a lifetime for Professor Southern, who had scarcely any existing bibliography to draw on and thus conducted most of her research from primary sources.

The book was an international sensation, and was followed by a second edition in 1983 and a third (which covered the hip-hop era) in 1997. It has never been out of print. Its appearance in 1971 was greeted with a deluge of praise from all over the world, and its author was invited to speak in Europe, Asia and Africa. Professor Southern's correspondence is preserved in the Harvard University Archives, and the impact of her work on other scholars and performers can be explored here (link to digital exhibition when available).

Slave songs of the United States

Title: Slave songs of the United States
Creator: William Francis Allen, Charles Pickard Ware, and Lucy McKim Garrison, editors
Imprint: New York: A. Simpson; 1867
Description: unaccompanied songs in English
Instrumentation: voice
Book section: Let My People Go
Book chapter(s): Two Wars and the New Nation; The Ante-Bellum Period; General Character of the Folk Music
Catalog link: http://lids.lib.harvard.edu/aaa/990206069840203941/catalog
Digital copy: http://hrs.harvard.edu/URN-3:FHCLHOUGH:190955136
Design

Siriana Lundgren, AOK student worker
Design

How To Navigate the Site

Explore the Book

How to 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.

Explore the Pieces

How to 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.

Index

How to 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.

The African Heritage

A very old Ashantee Air

Song of Gabon

Ashante Air

Ashante 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

Thank you!
musicinmoba.harvardmusiclib.share.library.harvard.edu