

# The Evolution of African American Music: From Hollers to Hip Hop

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# Work Songs

- African American work songs originally developed in the era of captivity, between the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries. Because African Americans were part of an almost entirely oral culture they had no fixed form of documenting their music and only began to record as the era of slavery came to an end after 1865.

# Work Songs

- Work songs
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=025QQwTwzdU&feature=related>

# Blues Music

- The first recordings of blues music were from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, and the style seems to have originated in the deep south of the United States. Blues is a direct descendant of the field hollers and call-and-response singing that slaves in the United States used in pre-Civil War America.

# Bessie Smith

- Bessie Smith (jul.9,1892 or apr.15,1894 - sep.26,1937) was Americas most popular female blues singer of the 1920s and '30s. Smith is often regarded as one of the wealthiest African Women of her time. The first African American to be recorded.
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Bo3f\\_9hLkQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Bo3f_9hLkQ)

# Ma Rainey

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-fizLgmUHmw>
- Ma Rainey traveled throughout the south in buses or trains singing the Blues. Ma was an advocate for women's rights and wrote many songs about the lives of African American women domestics. She wrote about violence against women, and was one of the first to write about her love for another woman.

# Spirituals

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yyZ128zVEr4Swing>
- Swing Low Sweet Chariot
- From 1654 until 1865, slavery life was legal within the boundaries of much of the present United States. Most slaves were black and were held by whites, although some Native Americans and free blacks also held slaves; there were a small number of white slaves as well mostly of Irish descent. The majority of slave holdings was in the southern United States where most slaves were engaged in an efficient machine-like gang system of agriculture.

# Protest Songs of the 20s

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FqolXTTS\\_1E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FqolXTTS_1E)
- **Lead Belly, Jim Crow – Laws**



# Jazz Cab Calloway

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=3&v=8mq4UT4VnbE&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=3&v=8mq4UT4VnbE&feature=emb_logo)

**Cabell "Cab" Calloway III** (December 25, 1907 – November 18, 1994)

# Billie Holiday Jazz

- Life in the 1940s was very different from life today for African Americans. Most states had Jim Crow laws on their books, meaning that blacks and whites lived very separate lives. The Civil Rights movement would not reach its peak until the 1960s

In 1940s America, blacks did not have the same civil rights as whites. Employers could legally refuse to consider black applicants for jobs. Landlords could refuse to rent houses to black people. Blacks and whites lived in separate neighborhoods. Often, blacks were barred from registering to vote.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-DGY9HvChXk>

# Jazz - Nina Simone

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q7YjY8W8NZA>
- **Eunice Kathleen Waymon** (February 21, 1933 – April 21, 2003),

# Marvin Gaye Motown (R/B) born April 2, 1939 – April 1, 1984)

- The 1960s was a decade of monumental change in sociopolitical, technological, and musical spheres. The United States was in the midst of an unpopular war and for the first time the American people were brought to the front lines.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fPkM8FosjSw>

# Diana Ross and the Supremes and Motown

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aax5EDQMOq4>
- This music preceded the disco music which was deemed cross over music.
- Diana Ross was born on March 26, 1944, in Detroit, Michigan and was very successful for Motown.
- Much later – Diana Ross on her own
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rXWDwVY-270>

# Motown continued

- Michael Jackson 1983
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sOnqjkJTMaA>
- Michael's Thriller was the first African American to have their music video played on MTV. The song Thriller was an homage to the many vampire stories shown on televisions, movies, and developed for books.

# John Legend a Contemporary Artist born December 28, 1978

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MBZrVqdoahQ&feature=related>
- As with many of the artists of this presentation John Legend grew up in the church, and so his spirituality was important.

# Queen Latifah Protest Song - born March 18, 1970

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f8cHxydDb7o>
- Queen Latifah protest music was against domestic violence and rap music that disrespected black women. She has now evolved and is singing Jazz songs.



# The Trilogy of Black Music

- These musician and artists have at least three things in common with many black feminist of today.
  - Generational reciprocity – knowing their place in the world and the importance of their ancestors, and the importance of paying forward to the next generation.
  - Spirituality – not referring to religion but to the talents each one has that is natural to their humanism. They learned the value using their voices to express a different worldview.
  - Activism – not necessarily radicalism , but they used their talents to make a difference, to identify social issues, and to reach the people.