

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH LISTENING CALENDAR

October 2022



# Black History Month Listening Calendar

- Like last year the music department are celebrating Black History Month with a music listening calendar. This will be uploaded in teams for you to look at each day to if you wish and you will be hearing some music in your music lessons too.
- This year we have focused on black female composers and performers.

# Monday 3rd October- Florence Price



FLORENCE PRICE ( 09/04/1887-03/06/1953) AMERICAN CLASSICAL COMPOSER , PIANIST, ORGANIST AND MUSIC TEACHER.

- Born in Little Rock Arkansas and educated at the New England conservatoire of Music.
- She was the first African-American woman to be recognised as a woman to be recognized as a symphonic composer, and the first to have a composition played by a major orchestra.
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ht4H\\_eKjb0w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ht4H_eKjb0w)

# Tuesday 4th October- Margaret Bonds

- **Margaret Allison Bonds** (03/03/1913- 26/04/1972) American composer, pianist, arranger, and teacher.
- She is best remembered today for her popular arrangements of African-American spirituals.
- Listen to Troubled Waters based on the spiritual 'Wade in the water' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fzdwhBsd1HY>



## Wednesday 5th October- Lauryn Hill

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GX\\_BCeKBi-0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GX_BCeKBi-0)
- Lauryn Hill (born May 26, 1975) is an American rapper, singer, songwriter, and actress. She is often regarded as one of the greatest rappers of all time, as well as being one of the most influential musicians of her generation.
- Hill is credited for breaking barriers for female rappers, popularizing melodic rapping and for bringing hip hop and neo soul to pop music. She is known for being a member of Fugees and her solo album *The Miseducation Of Lauryn Hill* (1998), which became one of the best-selling albums of all-time. Hill has won eight Grammy Awards, the most for a female rapper to this day.



## Thursday 6th October- Hannah Kendall

- Hannah Kendall is a British composer born in 1984 in Wembley, London. She is currently based in New York.
- In 2015 she was noted as one of the 'brilliant female composers under the age of 35' by Radio 3.
- Her work 'The Spark Catchers' was premiered at the BBC Proms in 2017 inspired by the poet Lemn Sissay.
- Watch a short excerpt here. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QC3kOoZ6W0A>



## Friday 7th October- Eleanor Alberga

- Eleanor Alberga was born in Kingston, Jamaica. She decided at the age of five to be a concert pianist and began composing short pieces. She studied music at Jamaica School of Music and in 1970 she won the biennial West Indian Associated Board Scholarship which allowed her to study at the Royal Academy of Music in London.
- She still lives in London and composed the following as part of The Beacon project showcasing contemporary composers:
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mCgATMt53tk>



# Monday 10th October- Yolanda Brown

- Yolanda Faye Brown (born 1982/1983) is a British saxophonist, composer, and broadcaster. Her musical sound is a fusion of reggae, jazz and soul. In 2022 she was appointed chair of the British Phonographic Industry (BPI).
- In 2009, Brown became the first musician to not only be nominated in the "Best Jazz" category of the MOBOs in consecutive years, but also the first to win it two years running.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=04mOD6RfXcw>





## Tuesday 11th October- Celeste

- Celeste is an American-British singer songwriter born in 1994.
- Her debut album 'Not Your Muse' was released in 2021 and debuted at no. 1 in the U.K. album chart.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UE3sTF3oj6w>



# Wednesday 12th October- Ayanna Witter-Johnson



- Ayanna Witter-Johnson was born in London, of Jamaican heritage. She began playing the piano when she was four years old and the cello at 1
- Witter-Johnson completed a first-class degree in Classical Composition at the Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in the UK and won the Trinity Laban Silver Award in 2008. She completed a a MMus degree in Composition at the Manhattan School of Music in the USA.
- Performing both classical and contemporary music – she sings while accompanying herself on the cello and has described her song-writing style as "a bit of soul, hip-hop and reggae.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U2n6zIxUbMM>

## Thursday 13th October- Nina Simone

- Nina Simone (1933-2003) was an American singer, songwriter, pianist, and civil rights activist. Her music spanned styles including classical, folk, gospel, blues, jazz, R & B, and pop.
- She recorded more than 40 albums between 1958 and 1974. Her musical style fused gospel and pop with classical music, in particular J. S. Bach.
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DtJzr1Wcy\\_s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DtJzr1Wcy_s)





## Friday 14th October- Laura Mvula

- **Laura Mvula** (born 23 April 1986) is a British singer. A native of Birmingham, England, she was classically trained. In 2012, she signed with RCA Records and released an extended play, *She*, to critical acclaim.
- Mvula released her debut studio album, *Sing to the Moon* (2013), to favourable reviews, and earning two MOBO awards and a Mercury Prize nomination.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5akYnlwubDo>

## Monday 17th October- Jessie Montgomery

- **Jessie Montgomery** (born December 8, 1981, New York City) is an American composer, chamber musician, and music educator. Her compositions focus on improvisation, language, and social justice.
- Starting in 1999, Montgomery became involved with the Sphinx Organization, a Detroit-based nonprofit that supports young African American and Latino string players.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GcxDk92QIcY>





## Tuesday 18th October- Tracy Chapman

- **Tracy Chapman** (born March 30, 1964) is an American singer-songwriter. Chapman is best known for her hit singles "Fast Car" and "Give Me One Reason".
- Chapman is politically and socially active and in 1988 took part in a concert to honour the South African leader Nelson Mandela's birthday.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V6hQ9HSK1IE>

## Wednesday 19th October- Julia Perry

- **Julia Perry** ( 1924 – 1979) was an American classical composer and teacher who combined European classical and neo-classical training with her African-American heritage.
- Some of Julia Perry's early compositions are heavily influenced by African American music. She later branched out and began experimenting with dissonance and chords voiced a 4th apart .
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lu5JijV5fv8>





## Thursday 20th October- Nkeiru Okoye

- **Nkeiru Okoye** (born 1972) is an American composer and musician. She has composed many works based on American history, including *Harriet Tubman: When I Crossed That Line to Freedom*.
- Okoye learned to play piano at age 8 and began writing music at age 13.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q8U1ZnSi7sY>



Friday 21st October- Pamela Z



- **Pamela Z** (born 1956) is an American composer, performer, and media artist who is best known for her solo works for voice with electronic processing. In performance, she combines various vocal sounds including operatic bel canto, experimental extended techniques and spoken word, with samples and sounds generated by manipulating found objects.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ebxvVJwGWek>

## Monday 31st October - Chanda Dancy

- **Chanda Dancy** (born 1978) is an American film composer, violinist, keyboardist, and singer.
- Chanda is an artist, and composer for film and other multimedia. A fellow of the 2009 Sundance Film Composers Lab, a winner of the 2002 BMI Pete Carpenter Fellowship for Aspiring Film Composers and the 2004 APM/YMF Music Business Award.
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_fVdIF5HbHA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_fVdIF5HbHA)

