



# MUSIC



## A POWERFUL AND AMAZING TOOL FOR BROADENING A CHILD'S HORIZONS AND IMAGINATION

IN COLLABORATION WITH NBHE  
CO-FOUNDER JOYCE BURGES

When my husband and I began to oversee the education of our children, one of the primary subjects we wanted them to learn was music. I come from a musical background. My father was a gospel singer and the old hymns he sang were continually wafting through the house. That atmosphere of music had a huge influence on me. I knew from the time I was very young that I wanted to be a singer. From my experience in gaining a passion from my father, I knew as a mother I wanted to share this gift with my children. I believe that music is a broad discipline and can be considered on three different levels.

First of all: the level of recognition and admiration. Every child should be given an appreciation of the dynamic beauty and expression of music. It is very important that we pass onto our children the value of the timeless genres of music such as the old Negro spirituals, the blues, the old hymns, classical, and jazz music.

**IF OUR CHILDREN DO NOT GLEAN FROM THE RICHNESS OF REAL MUSIC, THEY WILL LIVE IN THE SHALLOWNESS OF WHAT SOME OF TODAY'S MUSIC HAS TO OFFER.**

In addition, I know that it is critical that we teach our children about the important contributions made to music by black composers and performers. I feel that it is our job, as parents, to ensure that their influence is not forgotten or overlooked.

It is with these goals in mind that we provide children with an appreciation of classical music and of the black musical heritage. We have created our Musician Profile Worksheets and Joyce Burges Lists of Great Composers as a way to introduce children to the outstanding world of music.

The second level of music is the level of basic musical training. Music is a very powerful tool that enhances brain development. Many studies have proven that children who listen to classical music while they are doing school lessons enhance their academic performance.

Giving your child basic training in music including rhythm, tempo, and tones can also assist them in development in other mental areas. I suggest that children take at least two years of some sort of music lessons to gain this basic understanding of music. You can start them out with resources from a local library, online outlets, etc.

Even if there's no instrument involved, children can make use of music theory. As a matter of fact I recommend music theory before actually beginning with an instrument. Music theory helps children understand what's going on within the music. Introductory music theory lessons provide children with a foundation for long time understanding of music; and basic counting of scales and chords help children learn the concepts of music.

The third and final level of music is the level of developing the musical artist in your child. If your child proves to have a musical talent it is wise to encourage and support this gift. Let me offer you a few tips to encourage your developing musical child. And, remember when you're using internet services and streaming to take precaution. You may wish to protect your computer to secure it against inappropriate viewing.

## **ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILDREN TO:**

- 1.** Recognize that they have been given a gift that will bring pleasure
- 2.** Recognize that this gift was endowed by God
- 3.** Recognize that this gift creates a platform to serve others
- 4.** Recognize that as an artist, they will have the ability to use their music to convey a message to others...to strike a meaningful emotional chord within them
- 5.** Recognize that they should deepen their experience by being open to a wide range of musical genres while maintaining musical integrity and positive family values
- 6.** Recognize that through confidence and hard work, and with purpose, children can become great artists.



**Music is a powerful and amazing tool for broadening your child's horizons and imagination. Giving your child an introduction to music is as simple as going to the library, and of course with the digital technology that's available today. Don't let your child miss out on the wonderful world of music!**

**- Joyce Burges**

# BROADENING YOUR CHILD'S HORIZONS: AFRICAN AMERICAN COMPOSERS AND MUSICIANS

## USE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE MUSICIAN PROFILE

THIS LIST IS ADAPTED FROM THE LIST: COMPOSERS OF AFRICAN DESCENT, FOUND ON [WWW.AFRICLASSICAL.COM](http://WWW.AFRICLASSICAL.COM). PLEASE CHECK THEIR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION.

### Composers:

- Adolphus C. Hailstork
- Akin Euba
- Alain Pierre Pradel
- Amadeo Roldan
- Arthur Cunningham
- Charles Lucien, Sr. Lambert
- Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson
- Edmond Dede
- Edward K. "Duke" Ellington
- Eleanor Alberga
- Fela Sowande
- Florence Beatrice Smith Price
- George Theophilus Walker
- H. Leslie Adams
- Hale Smith
- Henry Thacker Burleigh
- Ignatius Sancho
- Irene Britton Smith
- James Price Johnson
- José Mauricio Nunes Garcia
- José Silvestre White
- Julio Racine
- Julius Penson Williams
- Justin Elie
- Justin Holland
- Le Chevalier de Saint-Georges
- Leo Brouwer
- Lucien-Leon G., Jr. Lambert
- Ludovic Lamothe
- Margaret Allison Bonds
- Michael Mosoeu Moerane
- Mzilikazi Khumalo
- Occide Jeanty
- R. Nathaniel Dett

- Samuel Coleridge-Taylor
- Samuel Ekpe Akpabot
- Scott Joplin
- Tania Leon
- Ulysses Simpson Kay
- William Grant Still
- William Levi Dawson

### Musicians:

- Aaron Paul Dworkin
- Celso Machado
- Francis "Frank" Johnson
- George Bridgetower (Augustus Polgreen)
- Cirma Yifrashewa
- James DePreist
- John Blanke
- Nokuthula Ngwenyama
- Paul Freeman
- William H. Chapman Nyaho

### Opera Singers:

- Denise Graves
- Jessye Norman
- Kathleen Battle
- Leontyne Price

### Spiritual Performers:

- Mahalia Jackson
- Marian Anderson

### Jazz Performers:

- Louis Armstrong
- Scott Joplin

### NBHE RECOMMENDED RESOURCES:

- [AFRICLASSICAL.COM](http://AFRICLASSICAL.COM),

- "FROM SPIRITUALS TO SYMPHONIES" BY HELEN WALKER HILL

- "THE GIFT OF MUSIC" BY JANE STUART SMITH AND BETTY CARLSON

# MUSICIAN PROFILE (FOR GRADES 3-5)

FILL IN THE QUESTIONS BELOW. USE A BLANK SHEET IF YOU NEED MORE SPACE.

Name of the Musician/Composer: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates of Musician's Life: \_\_\_\_\_

Where did this musician live? \_\_\_\_\_

When did this musician began to write or perform music? (at a young age, or later in life?)

\_\_\_\_\_

Name one song composed or performed by this person:

\_\_\_\_\_

What instruments do you hear in this Musician's music? Describe what it sounds like to you:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you like this musician's music? Why or why not?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Draw or print and paste a picture of this musician:

# MUSICIAN PROFILE (FOR GRADES 6-9)

FILL IN THE QUESTIONS BELOW. USE A BLANK SHEET IF YOU NEED MORE SPACE.

Name of the Musician/Composer: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates of Musician's Life: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthplace? \_\_\_\_\_

What was going on in the world during this musician's lifetime? How did those events affect his music?

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What motivated this musician?

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What musical era is this musician considered to be a part of: (classical, baroque, etc.)?

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# MUSICIAN PROFILE (FOR GRADES 10-12)

FILL IN THE QUESTIONS BELOW. USE A BLANK SHEET IF YOU NEED MORE SPACE.

What is one of this musician's most famous pieces? Was this piece acclaimed during his lifetime, or only after his death?

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Describe some of the distinctive characteristics of this musician's music:

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What lasting impact did this musician leave on the musical world?

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