

Black History Month Listening Calendar

1 October

Starting #BlackHistoryMonth is Florence Price's Symphony No1, the first Symphony by a Black Woman to be performed by a major orchestra @chicagosymphony. Here it's played by @Chineke4Change, Europe's first majority Black and ethnically diverse orchestra.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ht4H_eKjb0w

2 October

MMF's pick for the second day of #BlackHistoryMonth is Crown by fellow South Londoner Stormzy. We love this video, such a powerful performance.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EBwafIYUYrM>

3 October

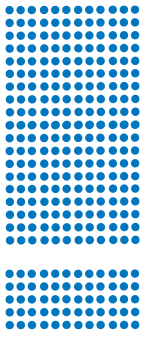
We're celebrating Sunday with Herbie Hancock's Watermelon Man. Herbie is a fantastic Pianist, Composer and Arranger. This piece has become a Jazz Standard and now features on the Model Music Curriculum. #BlackHistoryMonth
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oP-vD4ScAGA&list=PLitQ2pP9mJegL6G920NQ0bAUOxyVkOouL&index=29>

4 October

Today's #BlackHistoryMonth pick is Operatic Soprano Jessye Norman Singing Amazing Grace. This stunning arrangement honours the song's legacy as a Black Spiritual.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G5jZe32DEYI>

5 October

Our selection today is Nina Simone performing I wish I Knew How It Would Feel To Be Free. This song served as an anthem in the American Civil Rights Movement. Nina is a genre-defying artist, and the lyrics are spectacular!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vq3sdFOYXkM>



6 October

Composer Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's Ballade for Orchestra is the [#BlackHistoryMonth](#) pick of the day. Coleridge-Taylor studied at the [@RCMLondon](#), he lived in Croydon and wrote over 82 published compositions!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CKtIbKp3tgM>

7 October

A treat for the ears! Award-winning South African singers, Ladysmith Black Mbazos performing Inkanyezi Nezazi. [@therealmambazo](#) are known for their music, incorporating the intricate rhythms and harmonies of their native South African musical traditions.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6dynV_PRL8w

8 October

[@EspeSpalding](#) is our [#BlackHistoryMonth](#) artist of the day. Esperanza is a fabulous singer and jazz bassist. Here she performs at the White House for President Obama.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TQtXo4tiZxs>

9 October

Today, [@RandallGoosby](#) plays Beethoven's 'Bridgetower' Sonata. Bridgetower(1778-1860) was a dual heritage virtuoso to whom Beethoven dedicated his 9th sonata. After they fell out, Beethoven changed the dedication to Kreutzer. Let's learn our [#BlackHistory](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4wSjpNKzr4s>

10 October

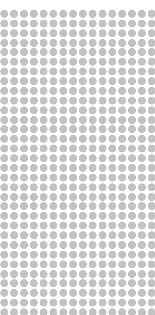
Today we have a video from Merton's own Blues & Roots Ensemble who specialise in the music of composer Charles Mingus. Mingus's music is all about collective improvisation combining elements of jazz, gospel, blues and classical music.

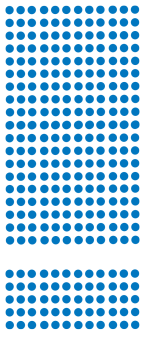
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z-bi3RubowM>

11 October

Start today with Saint-Georges' Symphony No1 played by the BBC Symphony conducted by [@rafaelpayare](#). Saint-Georges lived from 1745-1799 and was conductor of the leading symphony orchestra in Paris as well as a champion fencer! [#BlackHistoryMonth2021](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pTdi3OzHzV0>





12 October

Today's #BlackHistoryMonth listening pick is @ArethaFranklin, The Queen of Soul, singing an iconic live performance of Respect. With 38 studio albums, she was also the first woman to be inducted into the @rockhall of fame.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zF-gQP91iIE>

13 October

This stunning #BlackHistoryMonth listening pick has Ella Fitzgerald singing Summertime, the famous aria/jazz standard from Porgy and Bess. We love this clip of the 'First Lady of Song' performing live in Berlin, 1968.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u2bigf337aU>

14 October

William Grant Still is one of America's most famous black composers. His Afro-American Symphony combines traditional classical forms with blues & popular music elements.

Here @GustavoDudamel & @LAPhil play the second movement, 'Sorrow.'

#BlackHistoryMonth

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nA9vm6LSHxM>

15 October

Today to celebrate #BlackHistoryMonth we have the iconic Reggae artist, Bob Marley's Three Little Birds. Marley increased the profile Jamaican music worldwide and became an important cultural icon.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HNBCVM4KbUM>

16 October

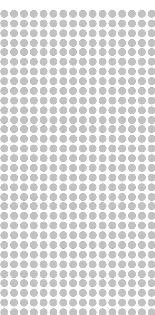
As MMF's #BlackHistoryMonth pick today, you'll hear Trinidadian soprano @jeaninedebique sing 'Rejoice Greatly' with @Chineke4Change at @bbcproms. What a voice and what a performance!

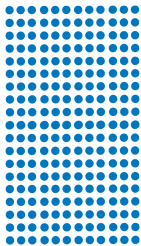
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bHQpeGzio4k>

17 October

Today @StevieWonder performs 'Superstition' live. Stevie is a legend who has won more Grammy Awards than any solo artist in history! He is also a United Nations Messenger for Peace and recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom. #BlackHistoryMonth

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=97hwNY3ni10>





18 October

Today's pick is [@wyntonmarsalis](#) and the Jazz at Lincoln Centre Orchestra performing an amazing concert of Jazz and visual art. MMF is the only music service in the UK to have received JALC's series of Let Freedom Swing jazz workshops. [#BlackHistoryMonth](#)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jS9dscuKsGA&list=RDjS9dscuKsGA&start_radio=1&rv=jS9dscuKsGA&t=136



19 October

[@angeliquekidjo](#) is today's [#BlackHistoryMonth](#) artist. Angelique is a Beninese singer-songwriter, actress and activist known for her diverse musical influences. She's fluent in 5 languages: Fon, French, Yorùbá, Gen(Mina), English and sings in all of them.
<https://youtu.be/S6LHQoM9OoE>

20 October

[@thekannehmasons](#) perform their own arrangement of [@bobmarley](#)'s Redemption Song. This clip proves how music can bring families together. Amazing to see all of the siblings on their musical journeys.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k_LmRcr8Mm4

21 October

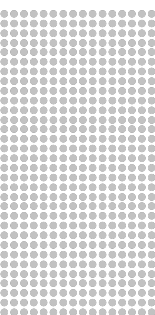
Listen to the Trinidad Steel Band play Tropical Bird, a fantastic piece of music to brighten even the dreariest Autumn day...
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rFcq9ouzY5s&list=PLitQ2pP9mJeigXP056mW2dTK4Kp2Wgbpx&index=68>

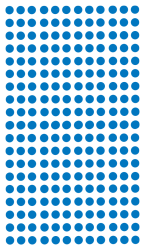
22 October

[@lauramvula](#) performing 'Sing to the Moon'. Laura grew up in Birmingham and studied composition at [@RoyalBirmingham](#). This is a stunning performance with [@MetropoleOrkest](#)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kyR_EJQmkqs

23 October

The composer of the day is George Walker, the first African-American to win the Pulitzer Prize in Music. In this video [@Chineke4Change](#), conducted by [@kevinjohndusei](#), play Walker's Lyric for strings live at the 2017 [@bbcproms](#).
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZLLVacAT6Y>





24 October

Today's #BlackHistoryMonth pick is @destinyschild 'Say My Name'. It's now an R&B classic but in 1999 the rap-style syncopations were cutting edge. Say My Name often ends up on greatest song lists and currently features on the new Model Music Curriculum.

<https://youtu.be/sQgd6MccwZc?si=Dvw5ZqlrohHPAJ1S>

25 October

Tracy Chapman is the MMF #BlackHistoryMonth artist of the day. Chapman is an amazing singer-songwriter and this performance of 'Fast Car' feels perfect.

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

26 October

Today's #BlackHistoryMonth artist is @Regina_Carter. Carter is an American Jazz Violinist and her discography includes 10 solo albums as well as dozens of collaborations. Here she performed the Jazz Standard, 'I'll Be Seeing You'.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Sx0SBWjGQQ>

27 October

Jimi Hendrix is the #BlackHistoryMonth artist of the day! Hendrix is arguably one of the most important rock musicians of all time. In Purple Haze he mixes elements of Blues with Eastern modalities. This is an incredible live performance.

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

28 October

Today's #BlackHistoryMonth artist is Leonora Lafayette. She was born in Louisiana, studied at @JuilliardSchool and was the first Black Singer to perform at @RoyalOperaHouse, in 1953. Here she sings Aida, the role she became best known for.

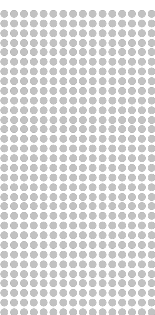
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y8XhPrKDU8>

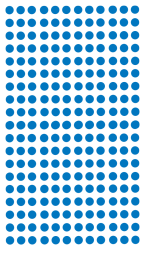
29 October

@HamiltonMusical is our #BlackHistoryMonth pick of the day. This clip showcases the original London cast including @JamWestman, @GilesTerera and @1RachelJohn.

#HistoryHasItsEyesOnYou

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vQGORN3ZMg>





30 October



Today's #BlackHistoryMonth pick is American Composer Margret Bonds. Bonds was known for her piano arrangements of African-American Spirituals. Here the phenomenal researcher and pianist @DrSamanthaEge plays Troubled Water.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hf4tZHXROwc>

31 October

Celebrating #BlackHistoryMonth this October has been an amazing way to explore Black History, Artists and Music. There are so many more fabulous artists than our 31. As @KoolIntheGngLIVE suggest, let's keep exploring and continue the 'Celebration'!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3GwjfUFyY6M>

Enjoy the full playlist with us on Spotify [HERE](#)

