

# Decolonise the Music Curriculum - Part 1

## Resources on black 'classical' composers

This round up of some of the key black 'classical' composers is by no means a comprehensive list: but a starting point for music teachers who want to know more about European and North American black classical composers

### [Joseph Bologne Chevalier de Saint-Georges \(1745-99\)](#)

Read more:

[Saint-Georges \[Saint-George\], Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Get To Know Joseph Bologne, Chevalier ...](#)

Listen:

[Spotify artist page](#)



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### [Samuel Coleridge Taylor – British composer \(1875–1912\)](#)

Born in Croydon, this composer was hugely celebrated during his lifetime in the UK. He also met and wrote with key black American figures such as Paul Dunbar. His daughter [Avril Coleridge-Taylor](#) became a conductor and composer.

Listen:

[Spotify composer page](#)

Youtube Topic: [Samuel Coleridge-Taylor - Topic](#)

Read more:

British Library guide: [Samuel Coleridge-Taylor \(1875 –1912\) 'The black Dvorak' | Classical music](#)

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### [Harry T Burleigh – \(1866 - 1949\)](#)

Read more:

[Harry T. Burleigh Society](#)

[Harry Thacker Burleigh Biography](#)

[Henry Thacker Burleigh Biography - Selected works ...](#)

Listen and Learn:

[Spotify Artist's Page](#)

A Library of Congress Lecture: [Harry T. Burleigh: From the Spiritual to the Harlem Renaissance](#)



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### [Will Marion Cook – \(1869-1944\)](#)

Read more:

[Swing Along: The Musical Life of Will Marion Cook Marva Carter](#)  
[Will Marion Cook \(1869-1944\) • The Black Past](#)

Listen:

[Spotify](#)  
[Youtube](#)

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**[Scott Joplin \(1868-1917\)](#)** (often known for work like Entertainer/Maple Leaf Rag, he also wrote operas)

Read more:

[Scott Joplin, Treemonisha and American Opera Biographies Scott Joplin, 1868-1917](#)  
[\[Learn about\] Ragtime composer, Scott Joplin](#)

Listen:

[Treemonisha](#)  
[Spotify Artist Page](#)

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**Harry [Lawrence Freeman \(1869 – 1954\)](#)** particularly his opera *Voodoo*.

Read more:

[Harry Lawrence Freeman - US Opera](#)  
[Harry Lawrence Freeman \(1869-1954\) • - Blackpast](#)  
[Harry Lawrence Freeman: Pioneering the African ... - NATS.org](#)

Listen:

[Voodoo Queen aria](#)

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**Florence Price (1887 – 1953)**

Read more:

[New Sounds from a Familiar Face: Florence B. Price's Violin Concerto No. 2](#)  
[Home / | musicherstories](#)  
[The Rediscovery of Florence Price](#)  
[Florence Price](#) Wisemusicclassical.com



Listen:

[Florence Price's Spotify Artist Page](#)  
[FLORENCE B. PRICE: Piano Concerto in One Movement \(1934\) - First Section](#)  
[My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord & The Bells: A Florence Price & Margaret Bonds Medley](#)  
Naxos recordings: [PRICE, FB: Symphonies Nos. 1 and 4 \(Fort Smith Symphony, Jeter\) - 8.559827](#)

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**Robert Nathaniel Dett (1882 – 1943)**

Read more:

[Biographies R. Nathaniel Dett \(1882-1943\)](#)

[Robert Nathaniel Dett Biography](#)

<https://nathanieldett.org/>

Listen:

[R. Nathaniel Dett: MY CUP RUNNETH OVER - Clipper Erickson](#)

[R Nathaniel Dett: The Ordering of Moses \(1937\)](#)

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**William Grant Still – (1895-1978)**

Read

[Listening Guide: William Grant Still](#)

Website dedicated to his work: <http://www.williamgrantstillmusic.com/>

Library of Congress: [Biographies William Grant Still, 1895-1978](#)

Naxos catalogue page: [William Grant Still- Naxos Classical Music.](#)

Listen:

[Spotify Artist's Page for Grant Still](#)

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**Margaret Bonds (1913-1972)**

Read more:

[Margaret Bonds Biography | Afrocentric Voices](#)

[Margaret Bonds - Song of America](#)

Learn and listen:

[Four Women pianist Samantha Ege on Margaret Bonds](#)

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**J Rosamond Johnson (1873-1954)**

Read more:

[Biographies J. Rosamond Johnson \(John Rosamond\), 1873-1954](#)

[J. Rosamond Johnson \(1873-1954\) •](#)

Listen:

[Spotify link](#)

[Rosamund Johnson "Lift Every Voice And Sing"](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i7jHEAqg4FI>

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## **Articles**

[Ten black composers whose works deserve to be heard more often](#)

## **General Spotify Playlists:**

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/1UvhrGiyhSLgdzo7QzDCcD?si=Gk6uJ3iER5GQBCFcNqHYvA>

## **General Resources and Overviews**

Educator and activist Pran Patel's works extensively in this area as a campaigner and trainer. You can see his TedEx talk here: [Decolonise the Curriculum | Pran Patel | TEDxNorwichED](#)

Educator Nathan Holder's talk on the music curriculum here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6JZcLs3eV7U&>

## **General blogs**

Michelle McCauley: [Giving Cultural Context to Teaching Native American Music](#)

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