

Celebrates

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

"We are not makers of history, we are made by history"
- Martin Luther King, JR.

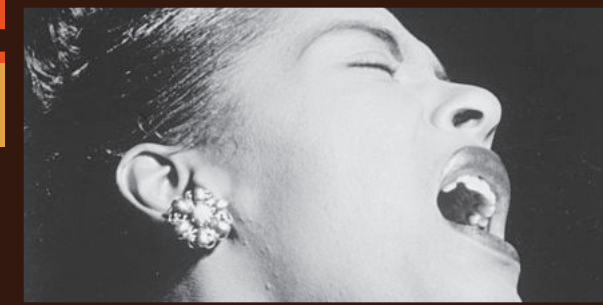


ELLA FITZGERALD



DUKE ELLINGTON

Musicians



BILLIE HOLIDAY



JAMES MARSHALL "JIMI" HENDRIX

BILLIE HOLIDAY

April 7, 1915 – July 17, 1959

Billie Holiday incorporated the song "Strange Fruit" into her set list in 1939. Adapted from a poem by a New York high school teacher, "Strange Fruit" was inspired by the 1930 lynching of two blacks, Thomas Shipp and Abram Smith. It juxtaposes the horrid image of bodies hanging from trees with a description of the idyllic South. Holiday delivered the song night after night, often overwhelmed by emotion, causing it to become an anthem of early civil rights movements.

DUKE ELLINGTON

April 29, 1899 – May 24, 1974

Duke Ellington – one does not think of jazz or Big Bands without thinking of Duke Ellington. Not only does he make the top 10 list of 1950's African American musicians but he is widely considered one of the twentieth century's best known African American celebrities. As both a composer and a band leader, Ellington received numerous prestigious awards including: 13 Grammy Awards, the French Legion of Honor in 1973 and a United States Commemorative stamp. In his fifty year career, Ellington played over 20,000 performances across the globe. His best known titles include; It Don't Mean a Thing if It Ain't Got That Swing, Sophisticated Lady, Mood Indigo and Satin Doll.

THELONIOUS SPHERE MONK

October 10, 1917 – February 17, 1982

Thelonious Monk is considered one of the greatest jazz musicians of all time and one of the first creators of modern jazz and bebop. Monk began studying classical piano when he was eleven, although he had already taught himself how to read the music beforehand by watching his sister practice. Monk played with small groups at Milton's Playhouse. Many of his compositions have become jazz standards, including "Well, You Needn't," "Blue Monk" and "Round Midnight."

MAMIE SMITH

May 26, 1883 – September 16, 1946

Mamie Smith was an American vaudeville singer, dancer, pianist and actress, who appeared in several films late in her career. As a vaudeville singer she performed a number of styles, including jazz and blues. She entered blues history by being the first African-American artist to make vocal blues recordings in 1920. Willie "The Lion" Smith (no relation) explained the background to that recording in his autobiography, Music on My Mind.

JUAN DE DIOS ALFONSO

1825 – June 27, 1877

Juan de Dios Alfonso was a black Cuban band leader, composer and clarinetist. Alfonso moved to Havana, where he played clarinet in Feliciano Ramos's band La Unión in 1856, and directed La Almendares in 1859. It is not quite clear when he formed La Flor de Cuba, which became one of the most popular orchestras in the middle of the 19th century. They played contradanzas, and other dances of the time. The orchestra was a típica, with cornet, trombone, figle, two clarinets, two violins, double bass, kettle drum, and güiro. The figle (ophicleide) was a sort of bass bugle with keys, invented in 1817; the t-bone would be a valve trombone.

FLORENCE PRICE

April 9, 1887 – June 3, 1953

Florence Price was the first African-American woman in the United States to have a composition played by a major orchestra and is considered the first African-American woman in the United States to be recognized as a symphonic composer.

ELLA FITZGERALD

April 25, 1917 – June 15 1996

Ella Fitzgerald recorded over 200 albums and around 2,000 songs in her lifetime. She helped popularize the vocal improvisation style of "scatting" which became her signature sound. Fitzgerald was the first African American woman to win a Grammy.

MARY VIOLET LEONTYNE PRICE

February 10, 1927 –

Leontyne Price is an American lyric soprano, performed on Broadway, on television and in opera houses. She was one of the first African Americans to achieve international acclaim on the opera stage

JAMES MARSHALL "JIMI" HENDRIX

November 27, 1942 – September 18, 1970

Jimi Hendrix was born Johnny Allen Hendrix, he was an American musician, guitarist, singer, and songwriter. Although his mainstream career spanned only four years, he is widely regarded as one of the most influential electric guitarists in the history of popular music, and one of the most celebrated musicians of the 20th century. The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame describes him as "arguably the greatest instrumentalist in the history of rock music".

MAXWELL LEMUEL MAX ROACH

January 10, 1924 – August 16, 2007

Maxwell Lemuel Roach was an American jazz percussionist, drummer, and composer. A pioneer of bebop, Roach went on to work in many other styles of music, and is generally considered alongside the most important drummers in history. He worked with many famous jazz musicians, including Coleman Hawkins, Dizzy Gillespie, Charlie Parker, Miles Davis, Duke Ellington, Thelonious Monk, Charles Mingus, Billy Eckstine, Stan Getz, Sonny Rollins, Clifford Brown, Eric Dolphy and Booker Little. Roach also led his own groups, and made numerous musical statements relating to the African American civil rights movement.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ON BLACK HISTORY VISIT

CNM.EDU/BLACK-HISTORY-MONTH

CNM

Central New Mexico Community College