

Concert Host Script

FEATURING BLACK MUSICIANS

HOST: "Welcome to our virtual concert featuring several black composers and performers. Black musicians have shaped and defined every aspect of American music. Today's concert is a small starting point to begin investigating some notable Black performers and composers."

VISUAL: [Picture of Valerie Coleman](#)

HOST: "Our first musician is Valerie Coleman. Valerie does all sorts of musical things. She is a flutist, the founding member of a famous wind quintet, and a composer. The piece is Umoja, (pronounced "oo-MOE-ja") which means "unity", and is a word used to commemorate the first day of Kwanzaa."

VIDEO: [Umoja](#), performed by Imani Winds (3 min.)

HOST: "Stevie Wonder started making music professionally around the age of 11. As legendary singer, instrumentalist, and record producer, he has influenced and shaped many genres (or styles) of music, including R & B, pop, jazz, and funk."

VISUAL: [Picture of Stevie Wonder](#)

HOST: "This piece of music is a tribute to another very famous Black musician, Duke Ellington. Stevie name checks several jazz greats, including Ella Fitzgerald, Count Basie, Glenn Miller, and Satchmo, the nickname of singer/trumpet player Louis Armstrong."

VIDEO: [Sir Duke](#), performed by Stevie Wonder (5 min.)

HOST: "Jessye Norman was one of the most famous opera singers of the 20th century. She travelled all over the world to perform as a soloist with the most famous opera companies. She also founded a school for the performing arts."

VISUAL: [Picture of Jessye Norman](#)

HOST: "Watch and listen to Jessye Norman sing an aria, or a song, called 'Thy Hand, Belinda' from the opera Dido and Aeneas, by Henry Purcell."

VIDEO: [Thy Hand, Belinda](#), performed by Jessye Norman (5 min.)

HOST: "Hazel Scott was a pianist and performer who blended classical piano with jazzy sounds. She often referred to her technique as 'jazzing up the classics.' She hosted her own radio show and was one of the first Black women to host her own tv show. She had strong political views and refused to play for segregated audiences."

VISUAL: [Picture of Hazel Scott](#)

HOST: "This is a clip from a movie where she plays herself, a famous musician."

VIDEO: [Takin' A Chance](#), performed by Hazel Scott (4 min.)