

# Iconography Of Music In African American Culture 1770s 1920s Garland Reference

Music has always played an important role in African American culture, and its iconography has evolved over time to reflect the changing experiences and aspirations of the community. In the 1770s, music was often used as a form of protest and resistance against slavery. Spirituals, work songs, and field hollers were all used to express the pain and suffering of the enslaved population, but they also contained a message of hope and resilience.

By the 19th century, music had become a more central part of African American life. It was used for religious services, social gatherings, and political rallies. The rise of minstrelsy and vaudeville in the late 19th century gave African American musicians a new platform to showcase their talents. These performers often used music to satirize and challenge stereotypes about their race.



## Images: Iconography of Music in African-American Culture (1770s-1920s) (Garland Reference Library of the Humanities Book 1) by Alicja Urbanowicz

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 31803 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 314 pages

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In the early 20th century, the Great Migration brought millions of African Americans from the rural South to the urban North. This migration led to a new wave of musical innovation, as African American musicians began to experiment with new styles of music, such as jazz and blues. These new styles of music quickly became popular with both black and white audiences, and they helped to break down some of the racial barriers that had existed in the past.

The iconography of music in African American culture is rich and varied, and it reflects the many different ways that music has been used to express the experiences and aspirations of the community. From the spirituals of the enslaved population to the jazz and blues of the 20th century, music has been a powerful force for change and progress in African American culture.

## **The Iconography of Music in African American Culture**

The iconography of music in African American culture is a complex and ever-evolving field. However, some of the most common symbols and motifs include:

- **The banjo:** The banjo is a stringed instrument that has been associated with African American culture since the early 19th century. It was originally brought to the United States by enslaved Africans, and it quickly became a popular instrument for both religious and secular music.
- **The blues:** The blues is a genre of music that originated in the African American community in the late 19th century. It is characterized by its sorrowful lyrics and its use of the blues scale.

- **Jazz:** Jazz is a genre of music that originated in the African American community in the early 20th century. It is characterized by its complex harmonies and its use of improvisation.
- **The spiritual:** The spiritual is a type of religious music that originated in the African American community in the 19th century. It is characterized by its simple lyrics and its use of call and response.

These are just a few of the many symbols and motifs that can be found in the iconography of music in African American culture. These symbols and motifs have been used to express the many different ways that music has been used to shape the experiences and aspirations of the community.

### **The Importance of Music in African American Culture**

Music has always played an important role in African American culture. It has been used for religious services, social gatherings, and political rallies. It has been used to express the pain and suffering of slavery, the hope and resilience of the Great Migration, and the joy and celebration of the Civil Rights Movement.

Music is more than just entertainment for African Americans. It is a way of life. It is a way to connect with their history, their culture, and their community. It is a way to express their hopes and dreams for the future.

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