

A LONG TALK

ABOUT THE UNCOMFORTABLE TRUTH

The Frontline

Alongtalk.com

Volume 10 (June)

Juneteenth & Black Music Month



Juneteenth and Black Music Month

**“The caged bird sings with a fearful trill
of things unknown but longed for still
and his tune is heard on the distant hill
for the caged bird sings of freedom...”**

~Maya Angelou, Caged Bird

Did You Know?

On June 19th, 1865, Union Army General, Gordon Granger, and his troops advanced into the remote, former confederate territory of Galveston, TX and made the announcement that slavery was officially over in the United States. Imagine the emotional release of joy, celebration, and relief among those 250,000 enslaved men, women, and children - to be able to live to see their dreams of freedom come true. Only to find out that President Abraham Lincoln already signed the Emancipation Proclamation ending slavery a full two and a half years earlier in 1862. The plantations of Galveston, TX were the last to find out. Talk about a dream deferred! Nevertheless, we collectively and proudly take a moment every June 19, or “Juneteenth” to celebrate the true end of the inhumane practice of slavery in this country.

This one goes out to those caged birds who sang their songs of freedom, songs of praise and worship, songs of mourning and sorrow. Those that sang work songs wrapped in coded language like “Follow the Drinking Gourd” and “Wade in the water” to communicate, to strategize, and to survive... Throughout the legacy of the Black experience in America, there is a recurring theme of creating “something out of nothing”. From cuisine to agriculture to oral and music traditions- Black folks have always been creative problem solvers and inventive in their approaches - out of necessity. These innovations make up a

However, hands down, our greatest contribution of all is Black music. Rooted in gospel and Negro spiritual tradition, Black music has evolved over the years to spawn all of the major music genres, from Ragtime, to Blues music, the early forefather of Rock n Roll and Country music, to Folk, Jazz, Bebop, Soul, Rhythm n Blues, Disco, to Hip Hop music, with every other offshoot genre of popular music in between. Hip Hop music originated in the 70's as yet another example of that "creating something out of nothing" legacy of the Black experience in this country. Who would have imagined that a group of teens from the Bronx NY, poor in resources, but rich in spirit and creativity, would take their parents' old vinyl records and used turntable equipment to create an art form that would later transform into a global, multi-billion dollar cultural phenomenon!

As an independent Hip Hop artist for over 20 years, I've personally seen firsthand the power and influence of Black music—not only in this country, but around the world. In 1956, The US State Department created a Jazz Ambassadors program, sending prominent jazz musicians like Louis Armstrong, Dizzy Gillespie, Duke Ellington and others abroad as Jazz Cultural Ambassadors to help improve the public image of America overseas. In that same legacy, almost 60 years later, I was honored to be selected as part of a cohort of Hip Hop artists and musicians to serve as U.S. State Department Global Hip Hop Cultural Ambassadors, spreading cultural diplomacy through my art form, in the legacy of the jazz greats that came before me, and all the caged birds that came before them.

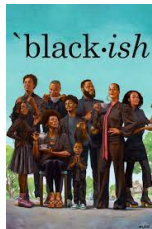
I said, Elvis Presley ain't got no soul (huh)
 Chuck Berry is rock and roll (damn right)

You may dig on the Rolling Stones
 But they ain't come up with that style on they own (uh-uh)

Elvis Presley ain't got no soul (hell naw)
 Little Richard is rock and roll (damn right)

You may dig on the Rolling Stones
 But they ain't come up with that shit on they own (nah-ah)

~Yasiin Bey (Mos Def), Rock n Roll



Black-ish brought "Juneteenth" to the mainstream for many Americans.

The NAACP Image Award winning sitcom, Black-ish, chronicles the lives of an upper-middle class Black family living in the suburbs. The show tackles topics from social justice and politics to pop culture and family values through the lens of the Black experience.

Click the image to see how Black-ish brought "Juneteenth" to the mainstream.



A Critical Lens: The True History of Juneteenth

Former head of DC's African American Civil War Museum, Hari Jones, explodes some myths about Juneteenth in this brief lecture. [Click the image to watch.](#)

June is Black Music Month



Music history is Black history. Here's to those who came before and those who are up next. We celebrate Black music and its global impact.

[Click the image to see the celebration of Black music from 1899 to the present.](#)

A banner for a "Special Anniversary Conversation" titled "'One Year Later'". It features two circular portraits: one of Kyle R. Williams, CEO, and one of B.J. Dunne, Men's Basketball Coach. The text below the portraits reads: "with CEO Kyle R. Williams and Gettysburg Men's Basketball Coach, B.J. Dunne". At the bottom, it says: "Tune in to our YouTube channel June 1, 2021 at Noon." The background is dark with white text and images.

One Year Later

Special Anniversary Conversation with CEO Kyle R. Williams and Gettysburg Men's Basketball Coach B.J. Dunne

[Click the YouTube Channel](#) button below to watch the live stream of the conversation on our YouTube Channel at 12:00pm on Tuesday, June 1, 2021.

[Click the Zoom Link](#) button below to participate as a member of our live audience via Zoom.

[YouTube Channel](#)[Zoom Link](#)

Shout-outs From The Frontline



The Frontline would like to give shout-outs to the UPenn Men's Soccer team, West Virginia University, and the Chambersburg Area School District of Pennsylvania's 2nd cohort. We commend you on your commitment as you begin your journey to become an ally in the fight to dismantle white supremacy. Your participation in A Long Talk About the Uncomfortable Truth is only the beginning. We look forward to continuing this conversation as we get to work on the task of putting "an anti-racist at every dinner table in America." We salute you for your groundbreaking work on the frontlines of the War on Ignorance!

We stand with you as you stand with us!

Together we can!

Click the images to visit their websites.

Culture Corner



Bones and Banjos: Confronting Cultural

Appropriation is a TED Talk that brings light to the appropriation of Black music in the genre of Bluegrass. **Click the image to learn more about the unique history of bones and banjos.**



*The Juneteenth Foundation is celebrating freedom and Black culture through its annual Freedom Festival. **Click the image to learn how you can participate in this year's event.***



*The Black Music Action Coalition is an organization of artists, lawyers, managers, and music executives whose mission is to eradicate systemic racism within the music industry and society. **Click the image to view their website.***

State of the Union

Current Events

History Matters



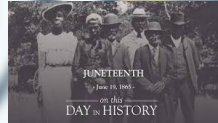
For centuries, Black music has been the sound of complete artistic freedom. No wonder everybody is always stealing it. Click the image to read this New York Times Magazine article.



All American music is Black music, said Bruno Mars in a recent interview, and he wasn't the first to say so. Click the link to see the 30 Times Black Music Changed the World.



Trevor Noah and Dulce Sloan of The Daily Show explain Juneteenth.



Take a look at this short documentary that explains why all Americans should celebrate Juneteenth.

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