

African American Music

Covering jazz, blues, gospel, and other forms of African American musical expression, *African American Music* will bring 50,000 tracks of music to students, scholars, and patrons—the first online resource to document the history of African American music in sound. Identify the music and performances you want to hear, and then click to hear the music through speakers or headphones.

HOW WILL YOU USE IT?

African American Music is for ethnomusicologists, students, musicians, and everyday music enthusiasts. A people's history is engraved in the music – from post-Reconstruction, through the Great Migration, to the Civil Rights movement – reflecting the struggles, triumphs, and unfolding journey of African Americans.

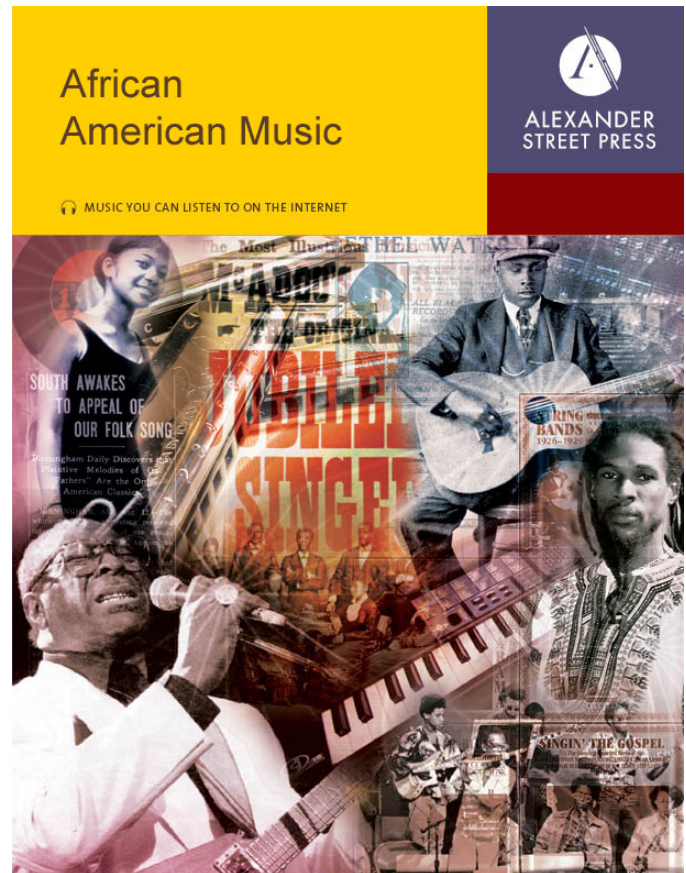
CONTENT

The collection contains recordings by the top names in the history of black American music. Premier artists such as Ma Rainey, Lead Belly, Mahalia Jackson, Alberta Hunter, Tampa Red, and William “Bunk” Johnson are showcased. At least 5,000 of the tracks are rare or never-before-published, and the other 45,000 are in-copyright and included through arrangement with distinguished labels.

The entire available catalog of Document Records, the world's largest collection of rare and vintage blues, jazz, gospel, spiritual, boogie-woogie, and country recordings, is included. From the earliest recordings of Afro-American music made in the late 19th century (including the Fisk Jubilee Singers, recorded at the turn of the century for Victor Records) to performances of the mid-1970s, in most instances the full recorded works of each artist are presented. There are more than 2,300 performers spanning more than a hundred years—Duke Ellington, Sophie Tucker, Joe Turner, T-Bone Walker, Sarah Vaughn, Cripple Clarence Lofton, Big Joe Williams, Memphis Jug Band, Roosevelt Sykes, Dizzy Gillespie, Chicago River Kings, Muddy Waters, Skip James, Blind Willie McTell, Lonnie Johnson, Alberta Jones, Johnny Shines, Memphis Minnie, and hundreds of others.

Through arrangement with Rounder Records, a major independent label specializing in blues, folk, gospel, jazz, reggae, roots, and soul music, *African American Music* delivers online access to the Alan Lomax Collection. An unrivaled assemblage of international field recordings by folklorist Alan Lomax from the 1930s through the 1960s, the collection includes the Jelly Roll Morton series (complete Library of Congress recordings), the Lead Belly series, and great artists and ensembles such as Son House, Sweet Honey in the Rock, Bob Marley and the Wailers, Irma Thomas, Bessie Jones, Etta Baker, and the Georgia Sea Island Singers.

Chicago-based Delmark Records, a major jazz and blues label, delivers the recordings of Arthur “Big Boy” Crudup, Little Brother Montgomery, Speckled Red, Edith Wilson, Earl Hines, and other notable artists. Another great label from Chicago is Nessa Records, started by Chuck Nessa in 1967, whose



catalog includes jazz and blues from such artists as Eddie Johnson, Bobby Bradford, Roscoe Mitchell, and Wadada Leo Smith, among others.

Many of the songs in the collection have never before been published and have remained virtually inaccessible before *African American Music*. Through an agreement with the Library of Congress, Alexander Street brings you some of the great collections housed in the Archive of Folk Culture, including such gems as the Herbert Halpert New York City Collection (1938-1939), with field recordings of spirituals, farming and labor songs, war songs, drinking songs, children's songs, and more. You'll also find field recordings from Haiti, the Caribbean, and the American South, as recorded by Alan Lomax, Zora Neale Hurston, and Mary Elizabeth Barnacle, whose expeditions meticulously documented traditional culture and musical expression, including traditional folk songs, spirituals, ceremonial songs, and political songs.

ALEXANDER STREET'S SEMANTIC INDEXING™ FOR POWERFUL SEARCHING

Deep indexing and multiple, combinable search fields allow researchers to find specific songs easily. Queries such as *Find all performances by Louis Armstrong* or *Find all examples of boogie-woogie* are easily answered.

The service incorporates key teaching tools designed to help direct students toward course-related music:

- *Course Folders*: Librarians and educators can organize and share course music with students in a secure and simple way. This tool can either tie in with an existing digital audio reserve or serve as a standalone access point.
- *Static URLs*: All course folders and individual recordings reside at permanent URLs that can be emailed or posted to online teaching applications such as Blackboard. Even selected sections within tracks can be put on reserve.
- *Custom playlists*: Users can create and save their own password-protected playlists, and through Web 2.0, playlists can be shared among users all over the world.

WORKS TOGETHER WITH OTHER RESOURCES

Through the music conductor interface, Alexander Street's unified tool for doing a single search among all music resources, a subscriber to both *African American Music* and *African American Music Reference* will be able simultaneously to listen to audio tracks, read biographies, see chronologies of major events in the history of the music, access liner notes and lyrics where available, and link to important Web resources. Music research has never been this easy, integrated, and complete.

PUBLICATION DETAILS

African American Music is available on the Web by annual subscription, with prices based on SU (simultaneous user) level. It's available alone—or for the best value, as part of the *Music Online* service, which gives you *African American Music*, *Classical Music Library*, *Smithsonian Global Sound*, and *American Song* all together at great savings. All of the Alexander Street listening services work on PCs or Macs and are easy and quick to set up—we do everything for you.

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