

Born Under Discrimination:
How Jazz Became the Soundtrack of the Civil
Rights Movement

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Music is a passion of mine, and I knew I wanted to develop a topic in that domain. I researched genres of influential music, and one made a recurrence, jazz. I introduced myself to jazz amidst watching countless clips of famous jazz performances throughout the 1930s. I constructed a peculiar observation that African Americans dominated the jazz culture while in a time of discrimination. I discovered jazz influenced more than just the future of music, it became a lifeline for African Americans. During a time of inequality, jazz cultivated a space where African Americans were appreciated for their musical talents and helped redefine the role of their culture in music. It was a frontier in the cultural shift that allowed future opportunities in the future for talented Black artists.

Before this project, I had little to no knowledge of jazz or its history. Therefore, I immersed myself by watching documentaries and listening to famous Black jazz artists such as Louis Armstrong and Billie Holiday. To grasp a deeper understanding of jazz and its influence on the Civil Rights Movement, I interviewed a jazz band director, a music professor at Drake University, a jazz professor from the University of Kentucky, and a jazz musician with a degree in jazz's influence on Black culture. To view jazz in the 1930s, I looked into library archives and newspapers from that period and was able to understand how Black artists were perceived.

After conducting research, I had a record of events scattered throughout history. To organize this, I created a timeline of significant events and formed a rough draft of my script. I recorded the audio of my script and compiled using the software, Adobe Premiere Pro. I collected images and videos parallel to my script and processed them in Adobe. I selected parts of my interviews that best supported my evidence and inserted them accordingly in the

software. Lastly, I found music that embellished my recordings and blended them into my documentary.

During times of inequality, jazz brought recognition to African Americans in a new fashion. In the 1930s, African Americans had a minimal cultural identity. Being derived from West Africa, and improvisation being foundational in jazz, it was a form of self-expression for African Americans, empowering them to speak about their hardships. Jazz was a frontier in history for paving the way for African Americans to be viewed with respect in the music industry.

Jazz can not be listened to without listening to the souls of Black Americans. They are intertwined. In a time of hatred, admiration of African Americans was unheard of. Yet with jazz, it was possible. Jazz helped change the cultural view of African Americans. It shed light on talented black artists and got them the recognition they deserved. It opened opportunities for African Americans' involvement in the music industry. Jazz was a frontier in paving the way for African Americans to be heard, one note at a time, thereby defining the future of music for generations to come.

Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources

Armstrong, Louis. Videoconference interview. Conducted by Bill Bill Grauer and Orrin Keepnews, 1950.

In this interview, Louis Armstrong, a famous black jazz artist, recalled how he watched the integration of black and white audience members happen through the power of jazz. He said at several of his shows, he would see white and black fans get so caught up in dancing and enjoying music, that they would forget about their assigned seats and intermingle. This is a prominent example of how jazz was used in the civil rights movement to intertwine the two races.

Associated Press. *Billie Holiday*. 18 July 1959. *The Salt Lake Tribune*,

www.newspapers.com/clip/8232679/1959-billie-holiday-obit/. Accessed 14 Mar.

2023.

This is a photo of a newspaper clipping of Billie Holiday's death. The death of her career was in the hands of the racist government officials who despised the influence of her piece "Strange Fruit". I used this to show the opposition Black jazz artists received.

---. "Famous Orchestra Is Coming Next Week." *The Vancouver Sun* [Columbia], 9 May 1942,

www.newspapers.com/image/491340522/?terms=Louis%20armstrong&match=1&clipping_id=119981082. Accessed 5 Mar. 2023.

I utilized a photo of Louis Armstrong from this newspaper. This was published when he was just beginning to grow famous, and I used it to represent that.

---. Newspaper photo of Louis Armstrong in Germany in 1952. 1952.

I retrieved this photo of Louis Armstrong, published in 1952 in the Advocate Messenger Newspaper. It was taken when he was performing in Germany, and it is a primary source I will utilize in my documentary.

Avery, Ray. *Charles Mingus at the Monterey Jazz Festival*. 20 Sept. 1964. *CTSI Archives*, www.npr.org/2022/04/21/1093614930/how-the-late-jazz-great-charles-mingus-is-being-remembered-100-years-later. Accessed 14 Mar. 2023.

This is a photo of Charles Mingus, a famous Black jazz musician. He is known for using his music as a form of civil rights protest, holding significance in my documentary as to how jazz affected the civil rights movement in an unfamiliar way.

Benny Goodman Performing in Carnegie Hall. 1959. *Central Images*, www.npr.org/2018/01/16/578312844/how-benny-goodman-orchestrated-the-most-important-concert-in-jazz-history. Accessed 14 Mar. 2023.

This is a photo of Benny Goodman taken in Carnegie Hall. His performance was one of the first integrated jazz performances, effectively introducing Black artists to a White audience.

Benny Goodman Performs in Carnegie Hall. *Carnegie Hall Archives*, 1938, www.capradio.org/music/jazz/2018/01/11/how-benny-goodman-made-the-american-concert-stage-safe-for-american-music/. Accessed 8 Mar. 2023.

This is a photo of one of the first integrated jazz performances conducted by bandleader Benny Goodman. This was significant in my topic because this performance familiarized White audiences with Black artists.

Benny Goodman Quartet 1937. 1937.

This is a video of the first performance of Benny Goodman's band trio. This marks the first time a black musician was playing in a white band, and broke a

significant barrier in the civil rights movement. I utilized this video in my documentary, as it is a prime example of how jazz was a frontier in the civil rights movement.

Canal Street. Bettman Archives, 1937,

www.gettyimages.com/detail/news-photo/view-looking-west-down-canal-street-with-the-national-news-photo/1329877471?adppopup=true. Accessed 8 Mar. 2023.

This is a photo of New Orleans in the 1930s. I used this photo to show the birthplace of jazz.

Central Press. Benny Goodman. *Central Press, 1959,*

www.npr.org/2018/01/16/578312844/how-benny-goodman-orchestrated-the-most-important-concert-in-jazz-history. Accessed 8 Mar. 2023.

This is a primary photo of Benny Goodman, a renowned white bandleader. Goodman used his position to bring recognition to Black jazz artists, a significant example of how jazz was able to change the perspective of African Americans.

Chicago Daily News Collection. Armistice Day peace celebration. *Chicago Sun-Times, 1* Nov. 1918,

metro.co.uk/2018/10/22/pictures-celebrate-the-armistice-100-years-after-the-end-of-world-war-i-8064185/. Accessed 6 Mar. 2023.

This is a photo after World War 1 ended. I used it in my documentary because jazz was born after the end of WWI.

Cleveland Press. *New Orleans Square. The Journal of American History, 1966,*

archive.oah.org/special-issues/katrina/Souther512f.html?link_id=fus_econ. Accessed 6 Mar. 2023.

I used this photo in my documentary to show New Orleans in the early 1900s. New Orleans was the birth of jazz and was significant in the rising popularity of jazz.

Duke Ellington Performing in New York, 1930. *Michael Orch Archives*, 1930, www.hf.uio.no/ilos/english/research/news-and-events/news/2020/Everyone-digging-their-jazz-was-not. Accessed 8 Mar. 2023.

I utilized this photo of a group of jazz performers to show the difference between classical European music and jazz. Jazz is lively and improvisational, which is what allowed it to have the effect it had.

English, Ron. "Robbery and Resistance in the Music Biz." *Ann Arbor Sun* [Ann Arbor, Michigan], 1 Nov. 1973, aadl.org/node/196037. Accessed 14 Mar. 2023.

This article from 1973 displays the exploitation Black jazz artists received. This is significant in my documentary as it shows a different perspective of jazz's influence on African Americans.

Europeans Musicians. Bettman Archives, Sept. 1945, www.nytimes.com/2021/08/27/arts/music/black-composers-europe.html. Accessed 8 Mar. 2023.

This is a photo of European musicians in the early 1930s. I used to show the difference between European music and jazz.

Fitzgerald, Ella. "AGVA Standard Form of Artists Engagement Contract." *Archives Center*, 11 Oct. 1957, americanhistory.si.edu/sites/default/files/file-uploader/contract%202.jpg.

From this paper, I learned that Ella Fitzgerald signed a contract to be the first African American performer at Macomba, a prestigious Hollywood club, with the help of Marilyn Monroe, who had been a fan of her music and an advocate

for her. I utilized this information in my research as it showed how jazz was breaking barriers in African American history.

---. "Ella Fitzgerald Contract Papers." *Archives Center*, Apr 1954,

americanhistory.si.edu/sites/default/files/file-uploader/contract%201.jpg.

This primary source was the contract Ella Fitzgerald signed to make Norm Gramz her manager, who worked with black musicians and helped them fight for equal rights. Gramz insisted that Fitzgerald sang to integrated audiences, and helped her find the courage to fight for herself. Signing this contract was a significant step for Fitzgerald in paving her way as a black woman in the jazz industry.

Hudson, Bill. A 17-year-old Civil Rights demonstrator is attacked by a police dog in

Birmingham, Ala. *How The Civil Rights Movement Was Covered In Birmingham*, 3 May 1963,

www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2013/06/18/193128475/how-the-civil-rights-movement-was-covered-in-birmingham. Accessed 2 Mar. 2023.

This is a photo of a peaceful Civil Rights Protester attacked by a police officer. Before this photo in my documentary, I used a similar photo of a slave being attached by his owner to show how even after slavery ended, African Americans were still being treated brutally.

Louis Armstrong. *New York Sunday News*, 10 Aug. 1947,

www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/armstrong-Louis-daniel-1901-1971/. Accessed 8 Mar. 2023.

This is a photo of Louis Armstrong from when he was growing popular. Armstrong was a representative of jazz and was a powerful image for African Americans.

Lyon, Danny. *Segregated Drinking Fountains*. *National Gallery of Art*, 1962,

www.nga.gov/features/slideshows/civil-rights.html#slide_1. Accessed 2 Mar. 2023.

This is a primary photo of the segregated drinking fountains in a county court in Georgia. I used this in my documentary to symbolize the divide between African Americans and White Americans in their everyday life.

March on Washington. 28 Aug. 1963. *Hulton Archives*,

www.npr.org/2014/04/04/299063588/the-politics-of-passing-1964s-civil-rights-act.

Accessed 14 Mar. 2023.

This is a photo of the march down Constitution Avenue in Washington. I used it to represent the battle for equality, and later explain how jazz influenced the protests.

Martin, Spider. *Dr. Martin Luther King and Coretta Scott King Coming to Montgomery*. 1965.

Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture,

time.com/3910062/civil-rights-photographs/. Accessed 14 Mar. 2023.

This is a photo of a civil rights protest in Montgomery, Alabama including MLK. Jazz influenced and contributed to the fight for equality for African Americans, and was a form of protest.

Peterson, Charles. *"The United States Vs. Billie Holiday."* 1939. *Hulton Archives*,

www.nytimes.com/2021/04/25/arts/music/strange-fruit-united-states-v-billie-holiday.html. Accessed 14 Mar. 2023.

This is a photo of Billie Holiday performing her controversial and raw piece "Strange Fruit" about the lynching of an African American. I used it as an example to show of jazz music was able to express the hardships of African Americans in ways words did not allow them to.

Rowe, Billy, and Associated Press. "Louis Armstrong Hailed as All-Time Jazz Great." *The Pittsburgh Courier* [Pittsburgh], 20 Sept. 1947.

I used this photo of this newspaper with Louis Armstrong as the front image with his famous title. This represents how recognized Armstrong was, and how a black man appearing on the front page of a newspaper positively was unprecedented.

Singleton, Minnie. "Louis Armstrong, Sonnie Wood, Trumpet King, and Vocalist." *The Macon Telegraph* [Macon], 16 Sept. 1941,

www.newspapers.com/clip/119981240/the-macon-telegraph/. Accessed 5 Mar. 2023.

I used a photo of Louis Armstrong from this newspaper. I utilized it in my documentary to show the impact of Louis Armstrong.

Stern, Alfred Whital. *Abolishing slavery Joint resolution of the thirty-eight Congress of the United States of America*. Library of Congress, 1868,

www.loc.gov/item/2020780910/. Accessed 2 Mar. 2023.

This is a primary photo of the abolishment of the slavery resolution of 1868. I will utilize this in my documentary to provide information on the historical setting.

Taylor, Mark. "MLK Jr. on Jazz: The Soundtrack of Civil Rights." *San Francisco*

Conservatory of Music, SFCM, 14 Jan. 2022,

sfc.edu/newsroom/mlk-jr-jazz-soundtrack-civil-rights#:~:text=%E2%80%9CJazz%20speaks%20for%20life.,Martin%20Luther%20King%2C%20Jr. Accessed 7 Sept. 2022.

This website included an essay Martin Luther King had written in 1964 for the Berlin Jazz Festival on the importance of jazz in the civil rights movement. King's view on the significance of jazz provided insight into how

jazz was credited for bringing together races and equality. That is information that will help back my reasoning for how jazz was a frontier in the civil rights movement.

Videoconference interview. Conducted by Steve Allen, 1974.

After her husband, Louis Armstrong's, passing, Lucille reminisced about her husband's purpose for creating music. She explained how Louis hated when people would refer to him as 'Uncle Tom' for not taking action in the civil rights movement, because he did, in his unique way. The takeaway received from this interview which is a very crucial part of jazz history, is that Armstrong used his music as a way to exemplify black voices.

Secondary Sources

Bennion, Rob. "Jazz Music and the Civil Rights Movement." *Gold Standard*, 14 Nov. 2016, www.goldstandardmusic.com/blog/2016/11/14/jazz-music-and-the-civil-rights-movement. Accessed 29 Dec. 2022.

In this article, I learned that after an integrated performance in Miami in 1941, Armstrong had written a letter to a jazz critic on that heart-wrenching moment. He recalled that seeing both black and white audience members interact and sit by one another was inspiring to him. This was a crucial moment that showed what influence jazz had on segregation and is vital to my topic's message.

"Benny Goodman: Forever the King of Swing." Hosted by Tom Vitale. NPR News, 8 Sept. 2022. Transcript.

This radio transcript introduced me to an influential jazz musician who helped break down the barrier between blacks and whites; Benny Goodman. He made history when he hired Teddy Wilson to play piano for his band, becoming the

first person to hire a black musician in an all-white band. I can utilize this information in my research to show how through the power of jazz, the divide between the two races was slowly being broken down.

"Black History, and Jazz Music in America, a Story." *African American Registry*, Nada Global, 20 Aug. 2021, aaregistry.org/story/jazz-music-and-an-african-american-art-form/. Accessed 29 Dec. 2022.

From this website, I learned that jazz music is African American dominated because it originated from black culture, with a European influence. I can utilize this information in my topic research of discovering the relation between jazz and the civil rights movement, as it shows why jazz was a significant attribute to African Americans, therefore having an impact on the movement.

Brandman, Mariana. "Nina Simone." *National Women's History Museum*, 2020, www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/nina-simone. Accessed 1 Jan. 2023.

Nina Simmon was a jazz and folk artist who used her fame to advocate for the civil rights movement. She released one of her famous songs "Mississippi Goddam" in 1964, credited to the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama and the killing of a civil rights leader. I used this source to develop my understanding of how jazz music was used to voice the brutality of racially motivated African American deaths.

"Cabaret Cards: The Law Police Used to Keep Musicians of Color off Stage." Written by Collin Marshall. *Iowa Public Radio*, NPR, 23 June 2020.

www.npr.org/2020/06/01/866933897/the-law-police-used-to-discriminate-against-musicians-of-color. Accessed 22 Jan. 2023. Transcript.

This NPR episode helped me understand how Cabaret Cards negatively affected black jazz artists in the 1940s-1950s. This law attempted to get rid of black jazz artists' popularization, as many African American musicians didn't have the money to pay for a license. This showed me how desperate officials didn't want audiences to integrate, and proves how much jazz had a play in that.

Clark, Brian, editor. "A History of Jazz Music." *A History of Jazz Music*, 8 June 2022, www.musicianwave.com/history-of-jazz-music/. Accessed 4 Dec. 2022.

From this website I was able to discover why jazz grew to become famous. I learned that the reason was that it offered a very unique and new at the time way to produce music. For example, jazz was the first type of music that allowed improvisation, in which artists often found a way for self-expression and diversity. I used this in my research to understand why jazz is one of a kind, and how it was able to produce such a big impact on society.

Correal, Annie. "After 91 Years, New York Will Let Its People Boogie." *The New York Times* [New York City], 30 Oct. 2017, sec. A, p. 19, www.nytimes.com/2017/10/30/nyregion/new-york-cabaret-law-repeal.html. Accessed 22 Jan. 2023.

This article introduced me to the Cabaret Law enacted in 1926 and how it negatively affected black jazz artists. The Cabaret law prohibited jazz music to be played in public bars or streets without a warrant. This informed me of opposition toward jazz and gave me a new perspective.

"The Devil's Music: 1920's Jazz." *Iowa PBS*, Iowa Public Broadcasting Board,

www.pbs.org/wgbh/cultureshock/beyond/jazz.html. Accessed 1 Jan. 2023.

From this website, I grew knowledgeable on why there was a large amount of backlash towards jazz music, and to what extent. Jazz developed the name 'Devil's Music' because many white people didn't enjoy that black artists were getting recognition. By the 1920s, at least 60 cities across the nation had banned jazz from playing in dance halls. I used this information because receiving that kind of immense backlash indicates just how much of an impact jazz had on society for African Americans.

"The Devil's Music: Jazz." Iowa PBS, 7 July 2021.

www.pbs.org/wgbh/cultureshock/beyond/jazz.html#:~:text=As%20jazz%27s%20popularity%20grew%2C%20so,it%20sounded%20better%20played%20backwards.

Accessed 22 Jan. 2023. Transcript.

This website was influential in my knowledge of the negative outlook people had on jazz. Throughout the 1920's-1940's, jazz developed the name 'Devils Music'. Because it was black-dominated, many whites viewed jazz as unholy and a disgrace to music. It helped me view the backlash jazz had received.

Dishneau, David. "Ellington's 'Jump for Joy' Back After 50 Years : Stage: Chicago company revives musical about black life that opened in L.A. in '41, then was lost to World War II." *Los Angeles Times* [Los Angeles], 4 Jan. 1992,

www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1992-01-04-ca-1149-story.html. Accessed 22 Jan. 2023.

This article introduced me to Duke Ellington, a black musician, and his famous jazz play, 'Jump for Joy' which was the first to have an all-black cast that wasn't slaves or servants. It helped deconstruct the Black stereotype and is

beneficial to my topic of how jazz was able to create a new image for African Americans.

"The Great War and Jazz." *The Library of Congress*, 16 Dec. 2020,

www.americaslibrary.gov/jb/jazz/jb_jazz_subj.html. Accessed 17 Oct. 2022.

This website gave me concise knowledge of how World War 1 influenced the popularization of jazz music. The ending of the war set people's mood to be jubilating and light, therefore people were drawn to more upbeat music such as jazz. If World War 1 were not had a positive outcome, jazz might not have had the recognition it does now, and black artists may have not been appreciated.

"Honoring Jazz: An Early American Art Form." *Civil Rights Museum*,

www.civilrightsmuseum.org/from-the-vault/posts/honoring-jazz. Accessed 31 Dec. 2022.

This website helped me understand and analyze the origin of jazz music and the history behind it. I learned how jazz began from the music created by African slaves when they were working on plantations, and how it became a source of self-expression and hope for them. I utilized this in my research as it gave me a starting point for my topic, and connected the origin of jazz to African Americans.

"How Nina Simone Reinvented Herself after a Rejection from Classical Music

Conservatory." Written by Liz Feilds. *How It Feels to Be Free*, written by Liz Fields, season 35, episode 1, Iowa PBS, 27 Jan. 2021.

www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/how-nina-simone-reinvented-herself-after-a-rejection-from-classical-music-conservatory/16781/#. Accessed 22 Jan. 2023. Transcript.

This transcript introduced me to Nina Simone, a jazz musician whose music was influential in the civil rights movement. She was inspired by Louis Armstrong and wrote a piece broadcasting the horrific tragedy of the Little Rock 9 shooting. It helped me understand how jazz was the soundtrack to the civil rights movement.

"How the late jazz great Charles Mingus is being remembered 100 years later." Written by

Tom Vitale. *Iowa Public Radio*, NPR, 21 Apr. 2022.

www.npr.org/2022/04/21/1093614930/how-the-late-jazz-great-charles-mingus-is-being-remembered-100-years-later. Accessed 22 Jan. 2023. Transcript.

This radio program introduced me to Charlie Mingus, who was an influential jazz musician and civil rights advocate. I learned how he encountered racist critiques, and even how one of his performances was bombed, but he continued playing. I was able to understand just how dangerous playing jazz as a black musician in the 1930s was.

Iowa Public Radio. Hosted by Farai Chideya and Roy Hurst, NPR News, 20 Nov. 2022.

Transcript.

This NPR episode introduced me to the popular jazz artist and civil rights advocate, Louis Armstrong. I learned how Armstrong's music created a culturally safe space where he had both black and white fans applauding his music. This information helped me grasp how jazz music was a frontier in the civil rights movement.

Kuske, Rebecca. "Ella Fitzgerald: Breaking down Racial Barriers with Her Voice." *National Museum of American History*, Harry Abrams, 1 Apr. 2017, americanhistory.si.edu/blog/ella-fitzgerald-voice. Accessed 1 Jan. 2023.

This website gave me information on a prominent jazz artist, Ella Fitzgerald, and how she overcame her struggles with performing during the civil rights movement as a black woman. She and her manager, Norm Gramz, insisted on performing for integrated audiences, and her requests got her arrested and thrown out of her shows, but she continued. She was awarded many awards for her music and civil rights achievements.

Louis Armstrong House Museum. "Louis Armstrong Biography." *Louis Armstrong House Museum*,

www.Louisarmstronghouse.org/biography/#:~:text=Louis%20Armstrong%20was%20born%20in,early%20to%20go%20to%20work. Accessed 19 Jan. 2023.

This archive gave me a deeper understanding of how Louis Armstrong became popular in his career when he was born into poverty and was an African American in a time of segregation. Additionally, I received multiple primary sources from this webpage, including letters written from and to Armstrong, and photos and audio clips of him performing. I learned how jazz music gave African Americans an opportunity to be seen and heard.

Mclaughlin, Moira E. "All About Jazz, Uniquely American Music." *The Washington Post* [Washington D.C], 24 May 2012,

www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/style/all-about-jazz-a-unique-form-of-american-music/2012/05/24/gJQA4bswnU_story.html. Accessed 6 Dec. 2022.

This article informed me that incorporating improvisation in music made jazz unique and popular, allowing for self-expression. This helped me understand how it was used expressively by African Americans.

Onion, Amanda, et al., editors. "Little Rock 9." *History*, A&E Television Network, 29 Jan. 2010, www.history.com/topics/black-history/central-high-school-integration. Accessed 22 Jan. 2023.

This article educated me on the Little Rock 9 shooting in Arkansas of four black young girls after 9 black students enrolled at an all white school. The Little Rock 9 shooting was the spark of several protest songs from black musicians. It showed me how discrimination affected the music created by artists and how it was a form of protest.

"The Origins of Jazz." *Jazz Observer*, jazzobserver.com/the-origins-of-jazz/. Accessed 28 Dec. 2022.

From this article, I learned the origin of jazz and the location and time it was created. I found that jazz music was created in New Orleans since it had a lot of ports, which allowed for different cultures of music to mix, and jazz was born. This website gave me a clear understanding of how jazz was born uniquely, and why it is such a culture-driven type of music.

Pak, Eudie. "The Tragic Story behind Billie Holiday's 'Strange Fruit.'" *Biography*, Arena Group, 5 Apr. 2019, www.biography.com/news/billie-holiday-strange-fruit. Accessed 24 Oct. 2022.

This biography introduced me to one of the most influential jazz artist in the civil rights movement, Billie Holiday. Holiday used a poem about the horrific lynching of a black man in one of her most popular and controversial songs "Strange Fruit", and sent a message to her audience about the mistreatment of African Americans. This information impacts my topic as I now understand how jazz music was often used to convey social issues in the civil rights movement.

Personal interview with the author. 8 Feb. 2023.

I interviewed Patrick Kearney, a high school jazz band director. He shared with me his knowledge of the opposition black jazz artists received and why they viewed it as Devil's Music.

Philip, Zola. "The Social Effects of Jazz." *York College*, Arcadia Publishing Books, 2009, www.york.cuny.edu/english/writing-program/the-york-scholar-1/volume-6.1-fall-2009/the-social-effects-of-jazz. Accessed 1 Jan. 2023.

This website helped me understand how jazz was an overview of black culture and African Americans' progress in the civil rights movement. Jazz was a way for African Americans to express and create an identity for themselves. I utilized this information to fully understand why jazz was as significant as it was for African Americans.

Phillips, Damani. Videoconference interview with the author. 8 Mar. 2023.

I interviewed Dr. Phillips, an Associate Professor with a degree in jazz studies at the University of Iowa. He helped me understand the exploitation of Black jazz artists. This was instrumental in my documentary for implementing a different perspective.

Prideaux, Ed. "Not a Wonderful World: Why Louis Armstrong Was Hated by so Many." *The Guardian* [London], 17 Dec. 2020, www.theguardian.com/music/2020/dec/17/not-a-wonderful-world-Louis-armstrong-was-hated-by-so-many. Accessed 31 Dec. 2022.

In this article, I discovered the backlash directed at Louis Armstrong, a popular black jazz artist. Armstrong's music was catered to white and black audiences. Many African Americans were angered by that fact but failed to recognize Armstrong's influence on integrating both races.

Russonello, Giovanni. "Louis Armstrong's Life in Letters, Music, and Art." *The New York Times* [New York City], New York ed., 16 Nov. 2018, sec. AR, p. 1, www.nytimes.com/2018/11/16/arts/music/Louis-armstrong-archive.html#:~:text=Raised%20in%20New%20Orleans%2C%20Armstrong,musicians%20of%20the%20radio%20era. Accessed 19 Jan. 2023.

This article gave me insight into Louis Armstrong's impoverished childhood and how he began his jazz career in a time of desperation. With this information, I was able to connect how jazz is able to have such an influence on one's future, and how that relates to my topic of the significance of jazz.

Saylor, Eric, and Ahana Devadas. Videoconference interview with the author. 11 Jan. 2023.

I interviewed Eric Saylor, an Associate Professor of music from Drake University. He deepened my knowledge of the impact of Billie Holliday, and why her piece 'Strange Fruit' was influential. He gave me insight into why she was a cultural figure in the black community and how her career paved the way for others to blossom.

Scherstuhl, Alan. "Louis Armstrong's Last Laugh." *New York Times* [New York City], 5 Nov. 2022, sec. c, p. 5, www.nytimes.com/2022/11/04/movies/Louis-armstrong-black-blues.html. Accessed 1 Jan. 2023.

This article gave me a deeper understanding of the backlash Louis Armstrong, a famous black jazz artist, received, and how he dealt with it. I used this information to acknowledge the opposition that came with being a black artist in the 1940s.

Tolson, Jerry. Videoconference interview with the author. 13 Feb. 2023.

I interviewed Jerry Tolson, a professor of jazz studies at the University of Kentucky. He helped me understand the influence jazz had on the future, and how it opened up opportunities for black artists to be recognized and have a role in the music industry.

Weber, Brandon. "How 'Strange Fruit' Killed Billie Holiday." *The Progressive*, 20 Feb. 2018, [progressive.org/latest/strange-fruit-caused-the-murder-of-billie-holiday-180220/](https://www.progressive.org/latest/strange-fruit-caused-the-murder-of-billie-holiday-180220/). Accessed 25 Dec. 2022.

This magazine informed me of the racially influenced and tragic death of Billie Holiday, a black jazz artist and civil rights activist. This helped me uncover the backlash black jazz musicians received.

"What Was the Impact of World War One on Music?" *BBC Music*, 13 Sept. 2021, www.classical-music.com/features/articles/what-was-impact-world-war-one-music/. Accessed 28 Dec. 2022.

This magazine introduced me to how jazz became popular and how it was used to raise spirits. After World War 1 had ended, people were in a good mood, and the popularization of jazz, the upbeat type of music, began. This was one of the key events that popularized jazz, therefore it was a necessity in my research of jazz music.

"Why We're Drawn to Billie Holiday's Story." Written by Lizz Bolaji. *Iowa PBS*, written by Lizz Bolaji, season 1, episode 7, Iowa Public Radio, 1 Mar. 2021. Transcript.

From this radio transcript, I gained knowledge of Billie Holiday's unfortunate childhood and her opening to jazz. She found solace in singing and creating jazz music. This information allowed me to find depth in a prominent civil rights activist and jazz musician.

Youngren, William H. "Black and White Intertwined." *The Atlantic*, vol. 283, Feb. 1999, pp. 86-89,

www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/1999/02/black-and-white-intertwined/377456/

. Accessed 29 Nov. 2022.

This magazine helped me understand just exactly what impact jazz had on the divide between two races. Jazz was one of the few areas in society at that time where race was irrelevant. This information was essential in proving of how jazz was a frontier in the civil rights movement.