

KAYLA FONTENOT (USA)

Norfolk State University (Norfolk, Virginia)

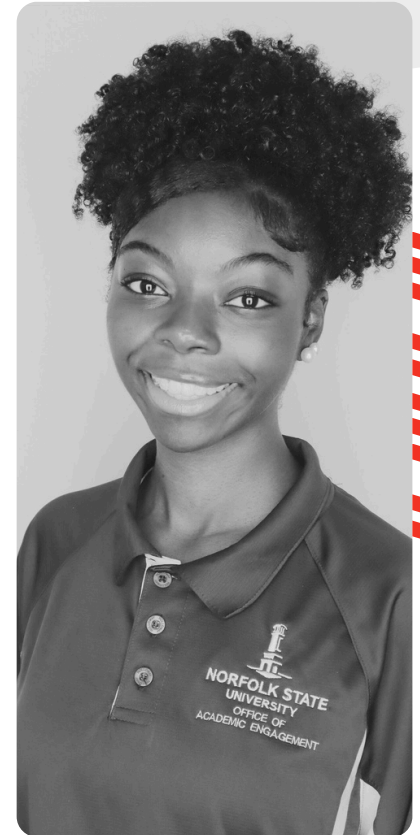
Kayla Fontenot is a junior at Norfolk State University. She is currently pursuing her bachelor's degree in Music Education with a concentration in Piano. Since Fall 2023, Fontenot has served as the Student Conductor of the NSU Concert Choir. In April 2024, she participated in the HBCU Piano Competition held at Tennessee State University. In April 2022, she had the opportunity to perform in a masterclass with internationally renowned pianist Awadagin Pratt. Fontenot is a member of the Nasbaum Honors College at NSU and the National Society of Leadership and Success. Her community involvement includes singing in the Young Adult Praise Team, occasionally playing the organ, and working with the youth ministry at her church. In Summer 2024, Fontenot worked at an elderly facility, engaging in activities with senior citizens.

POV: A look inside African music and its transition to America



African music is the originator of many of the genres and styles we hear today in America. While that is commonly agreed on, it is lessor known what came from Africa specifically and what traits define African music. Although music in Africa and America differ vastly in sound, it is commonly known that African American music was influenced by Africa and American history. African American music mainly evolved from slavery, time periods of oppression, and inequality against black people. The purpose of this presentation is to expound on the importance of African and African American music while identifying its characteristics and giving examples of various composers to signify the meaning. This purpose will reveal how African music has impacted music we listen to today, such as African American music. We propose to demonstrate the different characteristics each region in Africa has, its significance, and its impact culturally and socially. In this lecture, we will identify what makes African American music different from its predecessors, give insight to the oldest traits of Africa, and reveal how they have evolved in separate directions. Exemplary piano music will be introduced throughout this discussion.

Presenters



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