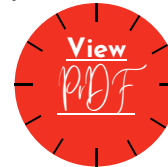


LAILA BAZEMORE (USA)

Norfolk State University (Norfolk, Virginia)

Laila Bazemore is a sophomore at Norfolk State University. She is currently seeking her Bachelor of Music in Music Media with a concentration in Piano and a minor in Voice. In November 2024, she alongside fellow student Kayla Fontenot will be presenting a poster on African music's transition into America at the World Piano Conference. At Norfolk State University, she participates in the Undergraduate Research Mentorship program. In April 2024, she competed in the HBCU Piano Competition held in Nashville, Tennessee. In October 2024, she is scheduled to perform in a masterclass by pianist Michelle Cann at Norfolk State University. She plays aux keys at her church in Camden, North Carolina.

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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