

# Black History Music Trivia Questions And Answers

## BLACK HISTORY TRIVIA

- 1 Along the Gulf Coast of Louisiana, what type of music is played with the accordion?
- 2 Who wrote "Their Eyes Were Watching God"?
- 3 Which one of composer/pianist Anthony Davis' operas premiered in Philadelphia in 1985 and was performed by the New York City Opera in 1986?
- 4 Since 1987, who has held the position of director of jazz at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York City?
- 5 Of what profession were Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, and Countee Cullen, major contributors to the Harlem Renaissance?
- 6 Who wrote *Clotel*, or *The President's Daughter*, the first published novel by a Black American in 1833?
- 7 Who published *The Escape*, the first play written by a Black American?

ANSWER:

1. Zydeco
2. Zora Neale Hurston
3. X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X
4. Wynton Marsalis
5. Writers
6. William Wells Brown
7. William Wells Brown

**Black history music trivia questions and answers** are an engaging way to celebrate the rich contributions of African American artists and musicians throughout history. Music has played a vital role in the African American experience, serving as a form of expression, resistance, and cultural identity. From the spirituals sung by enslaved people to the revolutionary sounds of hip-hop, each era of music tells a unique story that reflects the struggles, triumphs, and ongoing fight for equality. This article will delve into some captivating trivia questions and answers that highlight significant milestones and figures in Black music history.

## Understanding the Importance of Black Music History

The history of Black music is deeply intertwined with the broader narrative of African American history. It encompasses various genres, including gospel, jazz, blues, R&B, hip-hop, and more. Each genre has roots in the African American community and has contributed to shaping American culture and society as a whole. Understanding this history not only honors the artists themselves but also brings awareness to the social issues they addressed through their music.

## Trivia Questions and Answers

Below are a series of trivia questions that cover various aspects of Black music history, including influential artists, landmark songs, and significant movements.

## **Early Roots and Spirituals**

1. Question: What genre of music originated from the African American spirituals sung during slavery?  
- Answer: Gospel music.
2. Question: Which famous African American singer is known for popularizing the song "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot"?  
- Answer: Mahalia Jackson.
3. Question: What was the primary purpose of spirituals during the time of slavery?  
- Answer: Spirituals were used as a form of communication, expression of faith, and a means of coping with the hardships of slavery.

## **The Birth of Jazz and Blues**

4. Question: Who is often referred to as the "Father of Jazz"?  
- Answer: Louis Armstrong.
5. Question: What city is considered the birthplace of the blues?  
- Answer: Memphis, Tennessee.
6. Question: Which iconic blues musician is known for songs like "Crossroad Blues" and "Sweet Home Chicago"?  
- Answer: Robert Johnson.

## **Rock and Roll Revolution**

7. Question: Which African American artist is credited with helping to develop the genre of rock and roll in the 1950s?  
- Answer: Chuck Berry.
8. Question: What was the name of the song by Little Richard that became a major hit and is often considered a rock and roll anthem?  
- Answer: "Tutti Frutti."
9. Question: Which group was the first African American group to have a number one hit on the Billboard Hot 100 chart?  
- Answer: The Marvelettes with "Please Mr. Postman."

## **Motown and Soul Music**

10. Question: What record label, founded by Berry Gordy Jr. in 1959, played a crucial role in the success of African American artists in the 1960s?  
- Answer: Motown Records.

11. Question: Which artist is known as the "Queen of Soul"?

- Answer: Aretha Franklin.

12. Question: What is the title of Marvin Gaye's landmark album that addressed social issues, including poverty and war?

- Answer: "What's Going On."

## **Hip-Hop's Rise to Prominence**

13. Question: Who is often called the "Godfather of Hip-Hop"?

- Answer: DJ Kool Herc.

14. Question: Which hip-hop group is known for the hit song "Fight the Power," which became an anthem for the Civil Rights Movement?

- Answer: Public Enemy.

15. Question: What was the first rap song to win a Grammy Award?

- Answer: "Rapper's Delight" by The Sugarhill Gang.

## **Contemporary Black Artists and Their Impact**

16. Question: Who is the first Black woman to win the Grammy Award for Album of the Year?

- Answer: Billie Holiday (nominated), but the first to win was Whitney Houston for "The Bodyguard" soundtrack.

17. Question: Which artist's 2016 album, "Lemonade," received widespread acclaim for its exploration of Black womanhood and social justice?

- Answer: Beyoncé.

18. Question: What record-breaking song by Lil Nas X topped the Billboard Hot 100 chart for a record 19 weeks in 2019?

- Answer: "Old Town Road."

## **Understanding the Cultural Significance**

The trivia questions and answers above touch upon pivotal moments and figures in Black music history. But beyond the facts and figures, understanding the cultural significance of these contributions is essential. Black music has not only served as entertainment but has also provided a platform for discussing important social issues, including racism, inequality, and identity.

## **Key Contributions of Black Music**

- Cultural Expression: Black music has provided a voice for African Americans to express their joys, sorrows, and struggles.

- Social Change: Many songs have played a role in movements for civil rights and social justice, inspiring generations to fight for equality.

- Influence on Other Genres: Black musicians have influenced various music genres, from rock and pop to country and electronic music.

- **Global Impact:** The sounds of Black music have transcended borders, impacting artists and audiences worldwide.

## **Engaging with Black Music Trivia**

Black history music trivia can be a fun and educational way to engage with friends, family, or community groups. Hosting trivia nights with a focus on Black music history can foster discussions about the artists' contributions and the socio-political contexts of their work. Here are some tips for organizing a trivia event:

### **Tips for Hosting a Trivia Night**

1. **Choose a Theme:** Focus on specific genres, decades, or movements within Black music history.
2. **Create Diverse Questions:** Include questions that cover various aspects, such as artists, songs, cultural significance, and historical context.
3. **Encourage Discussions:** After each question, allow time for participants to discuss the significance of the answers.
4. **Incorporate Music Clips:** Play snippets of songs or performances to enhance the experience and trigger memories.
5. **Reward Participation:** Consider small prizes or recognition for participants to encourage engagement and learning.

## **Conclusion**

Black history music trivia questions and answers serve as a powerful reminder of the immense contributions of African Americans to the music industry and society at large. By exploring these questions, we not only celebrate the artists and their legacies but also deepen our understanding of the cultural and historical significance of their music. Whether through lively trivia nights or personal exploration, engaging with Black music history enriches our appreciation for the art form and the stories behind it.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

**Who is known as the 'Queen of Soul' and famously sang 'Respect'?**

Aretha Franklin

**Which artist is famous for the song 'Strange Fruit', highlighting the horrors of racism?**

Billie Holiday

**What genre of music did Chuck Berry help pioneer in the 1950s?**

Rock and Roll

**Which influential hip-hop group released the album 'Straight Outta Compton' in 1988?**

N.W.A.

**What is the name of the music festival that celebrates African American culture and history, held annually in Chicago?**

Chicago Blues Festival

**Who was the first African American woman to win a Grammy Award?**

Ella Fitzgerald

**Which song by Sam Cooke became an anthem for the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s?**

A Change is Gonna Come

**Which artist is known for the hit song 'Superstition' and is a pioneer in funk music?**

Stevie Wonder

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