

# Diversity in the World of Piano

## 1. Question & Research Task

Talented composers and pianists from diverse cultures have had a significant impact on piano music and its performance.

For example, African American composer Scott Joplin wrote many piano compositions including both jazz and ragtime pieces. Listen to one of Scott Joplin's songs, "[The Entertainer](#)." Think about where you might have heard a variation of this song before. Hint: Think of a vehicle where you can get a popular sweet frozen treat!

A musician's work may be influenced by a variety of biographical, social, cultural, and historical factors.

**In this Slam Dunk, you will conduct brief, focused research to respond to the inquiry question:**

How are biographical, social, cultural and historical influences reflected in a musician's work?



Listen to Scott Joplin's "[The Entertainer](#)".

reative Commons Licensed Image:  
[www.ragtimepiano.ca](http://www.ragtimepiano.ca)

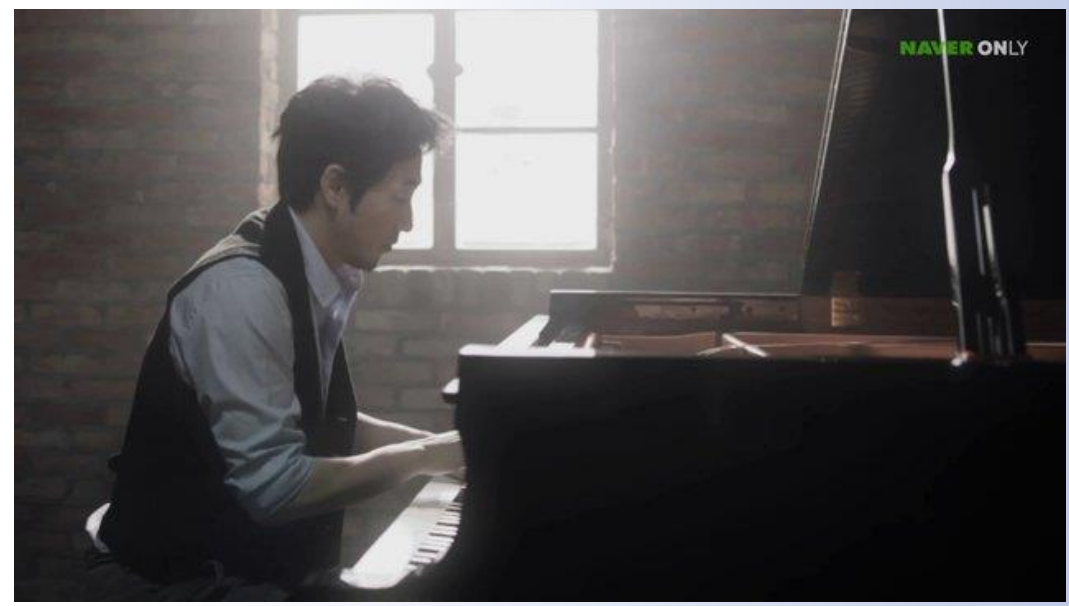
# 2. Information Sources

Use the information sources linked here to complete the Student Activity on Slide 3.

Choose several sources to gather information about a notable composer/pianist from one of the following cultures. As you research, you will examine influences on this person’s musical work. You or your teacher may select a different piano musician from one of these groups if you like. You may also search online for additional information and music videos or sound recordings.

Black/African American	Latinx/Hispanic	Asian
<a href="#"><u>Eubie Blake</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Natalia Lafourcade</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Ng Chong Lim</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Eubie Blake</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Natalia Lafourcade</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Ng Chong Lim</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Duke Ellington</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Daniela Liebman</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Tan Dun (via BCPL)</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Duke Ellington</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Ariel Ramírez</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Chen Yi</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Duke Ellington</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Ariel Ramirez (via BCPL)</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Chen Yi</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Duke Ellington</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Kiki Sanchez</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Yiruma</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Herbie Hancock</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Heitor Villa-Lobos</u></a>	
<a href="#"><u>Herbie Hancock</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Heitor Villa-Lobos</u></a>	
<a href="#"><u>Herbie Hancock</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Heitor Villa- Lobos</u></a>	
<a href="#"><u>Scott Joplin</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Heitor Villa-Lobos</u></a>	
<a href="#"><u>Scott Joplin</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Heitor Villa-Lobos</u></a>	
<a href="#"><u>Scott Joplin</u></a>		
<a href="#"><u>Thelonius Monk</u></a>		
<a href="#"><u>Thelonius Monk</u></a>		
<a href="#"><u>Fats Waller Regrets</u></a>		
<a href="#"><u>Fats Waller</u></a>		

Please note that some of the resources may use terms or labels that are no longer preferred but were considered acceptable at the time the resource was initially published.



South Korean piano music composer, Yiruma, plays the piano.

Creative Commons-licensed Image: [www.vimeo.com](http://www.vimeo.com)

### 3. Student Activity

You will choose one of the composers/pianists listed on Slide 2 to research that person's life and works. Use this [graphic organizer](#) to take notes.

As you research, think about how biographical, social, cultural and historical influences are reflected in the musician's career, compositions and/or performances.

Slam Dunk Research Notes

#### Diversity in the World of Piano

Select one African American, Hispanic, or Asian composer/pianist to research his/her life, career, musical works and influences, using information sources on Slam Dunk Slide 2 and any other reliable sources you find. Cite your sources for a Bibliography/Works Cited.

Research Topics	Notes & Sources
Name	Type notes here
Birth	Type notes here
Death	Type notes here
Nationality/ Culture Group	Type notes here
Era	Type notes here
Age when began composing/playing	Type notes here
Education	Type notes here
Major work(s) or performances	Type notes here
Honors/Awards	Type notes here
Biographical influences	Type notes here
Social influences	Type notes here
Cultural influences	Type notes here
Historical influences	Type notes here
Interesting Fact #1	Type notes here
Interesting Fact #2	Type notes here
Interesting Fact #3	Type notes here
Interesting Fact #4	Type notes here

## 4. Assessment Activity

Use one of these tools to share information about the composer/pianist you researched:

- [Profile Publisher](#) ([Teacher resource](#))
- [Trading Card](#) ([Teacher resource](#))
- [BioCube](#) ([Teacher resource](#))
- [Discovery Education Board](#)
- Another digital or non-digital tool approved by your teacher
- Google Slides

Refer to the success criteria on this [rubric](#) as you create your final product.

Be prepared to share your new knowledge with your teacher and classmates.



Most people know of Nina Simone from her songs of social justice, but her first aspiration was classical piano. Click the image to launch a video of her interjecting a Bach Fugue into another song.

[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA-NC](#)

## 5. Enrichment Activities



Heitor Villa-Lobos teaches a singing class.

Creative Commons Licensed Image Source: [www.sul21.com.br](http://www.sul21.com.br)

### Extend your learning ...

- Compare and contrast the composer/pianist you researched with another one from the same or a different culture group on Slide 2. Use the [Virtual Venn Diagram](#) to do your analysis.
- Using your piano or a [virtual piano](#), compose your own piece in a similar style to the composer/pianist you researched and/or to reflect your own personal influences.
- Many of the African American composers and pianists created and performed jazz and ragtime pieces. Check out this Discovery Education [video](#) to learn more about the birth of jazz and this [video](#) to learn more about ragtime.

# 6. Teacher Resources

<a href="#">1</a>	<a href="#">2</a>	<a href="#">3</a>	<a href="#">4</a>	<a href="#">5</a>	<a href="#">6</a>
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## Learning Standards Alignment

### [Maryland State Music Standards](#)

Standard 8: Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.

Standard 10: Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.

Standard 11: Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding.

### [MCCRELA Standards for Grades 9-12](#)

**Reading: 1.** Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

**Writing: 7.** Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

### [AASL Standards for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learner](#)

**1.1.6** Read, view, and listen for information presented in any format (e.g. textual, visual, media, digital) in order to make inferences and gather meaning.

**2.1.3** Use strategies to draw conclusions from information and apply knowledge to curricular areas, real-world situations, and further investigations.

### [P21 Framework: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Student Outcomes](#)

**3. Information, Media & Technology Skills: Information Literacy:** Access information efficiently (time) and effectively (sources); Use information accurately and creatively for the issue or problem at hand.

**ICT Literacy:** Use technology as a tool to research, organize, evaluate and communicate information.

## High School Piano: Grade 10-12

**Objective:** Students will conduct brief, focused research in order to describe how biographical, social, cultural and historical influences are reflected in a musician’s career and works.

**Time Frame:** 2-3 class periods

### Notes to the teacher:

- Collaborate with your school library media specialist to plan and implement this lesson.
- Have students use learning supports provided in any BCPS-licensed Digital Content from the [Apps Portal](#) included in this lesson. Refer to [Digital Content Snapshots & Support resources](#) for guidance as needed. Some resources (ie. Scholastic Go) open from the PDF after authenticating.
- Consider [using the Schoology Assignment Apps feature](#) to assign Microsoft and Google documents and files for students to access, edit, and submit through Schoology Teacher should preview all links for content.
- If you will be providing paper copies of the graphic organizer on Slide 3 for note-taking, delete the words “Type Notes Here” and expand the rows to provide room for hand-written notes.