MUSIC by MBC **BLACK COMPOSERS**



VIOLIN VOLUME 1

Beginner to Elementary Level

For Violin with 2nd Violin or Piano Accompaniment









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1. Feeling the Pulse, 2014



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■ Ignatius Sancho

Ignatius Sancho (1729–1780) was born on a slave ship off the coast of Guinea, West Africa, and was taken to the Spanish colony of New Granada in South America. When he was two years old he was brought to England. He grew up enslaved to three sisters in the town of Greenwich. Later, the Duke of Montague bought him. Despite being Sancho's enslaver, the Duke helped him learn to read and write. When he was older, the Montagues taught him literature, writing, and music. After the Duchess of Montagu died, Sancho was freed. He married and opened a small grocery store. He was probably best known as a public intellectual, publishing many letters about abolishing slavery. Sancho was also responsible for

a number of important firsts. He was the first Black composer in history to ever have his music published. He wrote songs, minuets, and country dances and also published a book on music theory. He was also the first Black person to vote in a British election. When he died, he was the first Black person to have an obituary in the newspaper.

Abolish means to end a system or practice. Slavery was abolished in England and throughout the British Empire in 1833.



MUSIC BY BLACK COMPOSERS

Young musicians learning classical music seldom, if ever, have the opportunity to study and perform music written by Black composers.

Black composers have created masterful classical music for centuries, yet they are underrepresented in concert programming and in classical music education, silencing a rich vein of works from global consciousness.

With this in mind, in 2001, violinist Rachel Barton Pine's not-for-profit RBP Foundation committed to the Music by Black Composers (MBC) project. To date, MBC has collected more than 900 works by 350+ Black composers; much of this repertoire is out of print or only exists in manuscript.

MBC *Violin Volume 1* contains beginner- and elementary-level music. The works are by both men and women who come from North America, South America, the Caribbean, Europe, and Africa. The repertoire spans four centuries—from the 1700s to the present.

In addition to the music, this book also contains illustrated composer biographies, features on Black classical music making throughout history, and profiles of Black role models in classical music, past and present.

MBC *Violin Volume 1* is designed to supplement the current instrumental training methods by providing students of all races and ethnicities a broader perspective about who has written classical music throughout history, and who is writing it today.

Join us and #CelebrateBlackComposers! #ExpandTheCanon!





