

# *Honoring* **Black History Month** African Americans and the Arts



## *Blues Music and Musicians*

The Blues is a genre of music whose genealogy can be traced back to call-and-response work songs and spirituals. Its DNA persists in jazz, rock and roll, R&B and more. The Blues style can be recognized by the common usage of polyrhythms, scales with flatted “blue notes,” and AAB-structured lyrics that often pertain to the hardships experienced by African Americans.

## *We celebrate:*

*B. B. King*



Hailed as the “King of Blues,” Riley B. King was a Blues singer, guitar player, and record producer. He was renowned for his soulful guitar playing and solos, which made ample use of string bending and staccato picking. With hits like “The Thrill is Gone,” not only did he bring Blues to a broader audience, he indelibly influenced generations of musicians.

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*Blues Music and Musicians*  
Continuing the Journey!



Join Clint Smith, author of *"How the Word is Passed,"* for a crash course on *"The Great Migration: Crash Course Black American History #24."*

In 1910, 90% of Black Americans lived in the South, but by 1970, only 52% remained, with 1.5 million having migrated for various reasons, shaping 20th-century America.

Engage in this insightful exploration through the podcast *"Crash Course Black American History,"* or by watching the accompanying video.

**CLICK HERE**



The video explores blues music's origins in the Mississippi Delta, its migration to Chicago, and its profound influence on various genres like jazz, rock, pop, heavy metal, and country, emphasizing key musical elements like the 12-bar blues chord progression.

Key Segments:

**2:33** "The Great Migration and Influence of Chicago Blues"

**7:45** "Influence of Blues Music on Various Genres and Artists"

**CLICK HERE**



Embark on a musical journey through Black history with our [curated playlist for Black History Month](#).

Explore the origins of blues, delve into the impact of "The Great Migration" on Chicago Blues, and savor the smooth notes of jazz and the rhythmic beats of rock and roll.

Featuring legends like Robert Johnson, Howlin' Wolf, Miles Davis, and Chuck Berry, this playlist [honors the profound influence of Black musicians](#).

Feel free to suggest more songs as we celebrate the rich tapestry of Black musical heritage together!

**CLICK HERE**