

Cover Page

Title

Emancipated Art: A Vocal Recording and Textbook of the Historic “African Romances” Song Cycle

Applicant Name

Dr. Makeda Hampton

Rank

Assistant Professor

Department

Music

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Faculty Development Proposal Application

1. Project Description

Emancipated Art: A Vocal Recording and Textbook of the Historic *African Romances* Song Cycle is a music project that aims to publish the first-ever recording of the Black art song cycle, *African Romances, Opus 17* by African-British composer Samuel Coleridge-Taylor and African American poet Paul Laurence Dunbar. Composed in 1897 as a profound expression of Black artistic identity following the Emancipation of Slavery in America, this vocal work of 7 songs represents a groundbreaking fusion of music and poetry at the turn-of-the-century. The recording will feature Dr. Makeda Hampton as the soprano vocalist, a pianist, and a string chamber orchestra.

This project represents a significant opportunity to advance understanding and appreciation of Black artistic expression following the Emancipation, enriching not only music education, but also interdisciplinary studies across the Humanities. Through this music album and companion textbook, my goal is to facilitate and participate in the lasting impact and accessibility of Black classical vocal music for future generations of students and arts consumers.

2. Measurable Goals and Objectives

- a. To complete a high-quality recording of the complete *African Romances* art song cycle.
- b. To revise my existing research to create an in-depth companion textbook for students and professors of music, history, and literature to deepen their understanding of Black artistic expression post-Emancipation of American Slavery.
- c. To promote the inclusion and performance of *African Romances* in college-level music programs, particularly at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).
- d. To contribute to the enrichment of and access to the classical music repertoire with works by Black composers and poets.

3. Timeframe

The project will be completed within an estimated 8-month timeframe, starting in November 2024 and concluding in July 2025. This schedule allows for comprehensive recording sessions, revising and editing the companion textbook, and preparation for music distribution.

4. Enhancement of Teaching and Research at Lincoln University

This project will enrich teaching and research at Lincoln University by:

- a. Providing valuable educational resources for music, history, and literature courses that focus on Black artistic expression and adding to the proposed Africana Music Studies degree curriculum in the Music Department.
- b. Facilitating interdisciplinary discussions on the cultural and historical context of *African Romances* and its significance within the canon of Black classical music.
- c. Offering performance opportunities for students to engage with historically significant repertoire.
- d. Elevating Lincoln University's reputation as a center for the study and performance of diverse musical traditions.

5. Measurement of Success

The success of the project will be measured through:

- a. The completion and distribution of the recorded album and companion textbook.
- b. Adoption of *African Romances* textbook into college-level music history and literature courses at supplementary materials, particularly at HBCUs.
- c. Feedback from educators and students on the effectiveness and relevance of the companion textbook in enhancing their understanding of Black artistic expression.
- d. Increased visibility and recognition of Lincoln University's contributions to the preservation and promotion of Black classical music.

6. Dissemination of Project Outcomes

The outcomes of the project will be shared through:

- a. Public release of the recorded album and companion text on digital platforms and physical distribution through selected retailers.
- b. Workshops and presentations at music conferences, academic institutions, and community events.
- c. Collaborations with HBCUs and other educational organizations to promote the inclusion of *African Romances* in music education programs.
- d. Online forums and social media platforms to engage with a wider audience and encourage discussion and performance of the repertoire.
- e. Submission to the Lincoln University Faculty Development Committee for further engagement with the campus community.

Budget

Total Requested: \$8,000

Studio Rental and Equipment: \$2,000

- Rental of a professional recording studio for a specified duration.
- Costs associated with equipment rental including microphones, mixing consoles, and recording software.

Musician Fees: \$2,500

- Compensation for skilled musicians including vocalists, instrumentalists, and orchestra members.
- Payment for rehearsal time and recording sessions.

Sound Engineering and Production: \$2,000

- Fees for sound engineers to oversee recording sessions, mixing, and mastering processes.
- Costs associated with post-production work including editing and finalizing tracks.

Marketing and Distribution: \$500

- Promotion of the recorded music through various channels including online platforms, social media, and traditional advertising.
- Distribution costs for physical copies of the recording such as CDs or vinyl records.
- Graphic Design

Companion Textbook: \$500

- Companion guide production costs cover research, writing, and design expenses necessary for creating a comprehensive educational resource.

Community Engagement Events: \$500

- Community engagement events foster connections with local audiences and promote appreciation for Black classical music.

This budget allocation ensures the necessary resources for a high-quality music recording project while remaining within the \$10,000 budget limit.

Appendix

Lecture-Performance (Virtual) with Opera Philadelphia & the International Florence Price Festival

Date: February 22, 2024

Topic: *African Romances* by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor and Paul Laurence Dunbar

<https://www.operaphila.org/whats-on/events/sound-of-america/lectures-noon/>

Research Readership Statistics:

Nearly 450 unique downloads of my *African Romances* Dissertation and Study Guide shows the demand of the written topic.

<https://readership.works.bepress.com/?dashboardToken=65d82a3ff30c4508973ecfeaV8OFB4ZyhWjspbvmZ54fxlCjGfxx1vISFykEF2Zv>

Faculty Development Review Scoring Rubric

Faculty Development Committee (FDC) Proposal
(To be used only by the Applicant)

Name of the Applicant: Dr. Makeda Hampton

Rank of the Applicant: Assistant Professor

Proposal Submission Date: February 23, 2024

Expertise Area: Music

Prior FD Proposal Outcomes: Not applicable

Proposal Submission Term: Fall 2024