

Faculty Research Grant Report
Lincoln University
Recipient: Dr. Makeda Hampton
Department: Music
Grant Amount: \$8,000

Project Overview

This faculty research grant funded 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, this seven-song vocal work represents a groundbreaking fusion of music and poetry as an expression of Black artistic identity following the Emancipation of Slavery in America.

The recording features Dr. Makeda Hampton as the soprano vocalist, alongside a pianist and a Zimbabwean mbira player. The album aims to advance understanding and appreciation of Black classical vocal music, enriching music education and interdisciplinary studies across the Humanities.

Project Milestones and Status

Recording Process

- **Recording Date:** November 7, 2024
- **Location:** Gore Recital Hall, University of Delaware
- **Personnel:**
 - Pianist: Contracted and completed
 - Mbira Player: Contracted and completed
 - Audio Engineer: Contracted and completed
- **Status:** Completed

Live Performance at Lincoln University

- **Performance Date:** November 20, 2024, at 6:30 PM
- **Venue:** Ware Center Theater, Lincoln University
- **Audience:** Students, faculty, and Lincoln University President Allen
- **Status:** Completed

Post-Production

- **Studio:** Swan Studios NYC
- **Edits Submitted:** December 18, 2024
- **Masters Revision:** January 23, 2025
- **Status:** Active
- **Projected Album Release:** March 14, 2025

Marketing and Distribution

- **Album Release Platform:** Swan Studios Record Label
- **Status:** Pending

Graphic Design & Marketing

- **Photography & Liner Notes:** Pending
- **Marketing & PR Initiatives:** Pending

Expense Breakdown

Expense Category	Amount (\$)
Recital Hall Rental	1,107.15
Audio Engineer	2,500.00
Mbira Player	400.00
Pianist	350.00
Post-Production	2,400.00
Album Release (Swan Studios)	650.00
Photography & Liner Notes	700.00
Marketing & PR	800.00
Total Expenses	\$8,907.15

Budget Summary & Grant Utilization

The faculty research grant of \$8,000 has been allocated toward the recording, production, and marketing efforts for this historic album. While the total projected expenses exceed the grant amount by \$907.15, additional funding sources have been acquired to cover outstanding costs. Dr. Hampton was awarded a 2025 Individual Artist Grant from Delaware Division of the Arts.

Conclusion & Impact

This project represents a significant contribution to Black classical vocal music and interdisciplinary scholarship. The *African Romances, Opus 17* album will ensure the accessibility and preservation of this historically significant work for future generations. The recording and accompanying scholarship will serve as vital resources for educators, students, and arts consumers, reinforcing Lincoln University's commitment to cultural and artistic excellence.

The album's anticipated release on March 14, 2025, will mark a milestone in the recognition and celebration of Black art song, expanding its reach to wider audiences through digital platforms, live performances, and academic discourse.

Prepared by:

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Lincoln University
January 31, 2025