



Representing the Underrepresented

The development of a new socially conscious collection tag for the George F. DeVine Music Library



THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE

George F. DeVine Music Library



Kathryn Shepas

Library Supervisor



Nathalie Hristov

Music Librarian



Ethan Graham Roeder

Former Library Supervisor



The Impetus

In 2020, a group of students from the School of Music put together a petition calling for increased programming of under-represented composers.

This caused a ripple effect, eventually leading the George F. DeVine Music Library to re-evaluate its holdings through a diverse lens.

The Evolution

1. Student petition is received by School of Music
2. Unstructured data gathering
3. Ideation of Collection Tag
4. Outreach to Cataloging
5. Development of Framework
6. Incorporation of collection tag
7. Continued process



The Framework



Reference

Music Library staff identified reputable lists of composers from underrepresented demographics.



Engagement

Student Library Assistants (SLA) were taught advanced search strategies to comb through these materials.



Development

The identified scores were added to the collection tag. Missing scores/composers were documented for collection development.



The Collection Tag

Every effort was made to be inclusive of the disparate ethnicities and races represented by the collection tag

Particular emphasis was placed on ensuring composers' individual works weren't *inherently attributed* to a **geographic location's historically relevant styles**

The final local collection tag:

“Music by Black and Latinx Composers”

A cityscape at sunset with a bridge over a river. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue, with scattered clouds. The city buildings are silhouetted against the bright sky. A large steel truss bridge spans across the river in the foreground.

415+

physical scores added to
collection tag

The Outreach

- Black Musicians Alliance panel discussion
- Inclusion in newsletters
- Subject guides

Continued Development

- Phase 1: Represented composers
- Phase 2: Missing composers
- Phase 3: New demographic areas



THANK YOU
