

SUSPENSION:

A SERIES OF MUSICAL REFLECTIONS

No:15

It's been a little while since the last *SUSPENSION*. I hope you have been safe and well since then.

Over the last couple of days, I've been struggling to think of the right piece to recommend as the focus of this week's edition. When I started writing these pieces, I planned to recommend a song or piece of music, in line with the liturgical calendar and the Church's teachings, which might act as a soundtrack to our spiritual lives through this time. I have found, more often than not, that the music inspired by these teachings seems always to have some kind of further connection with the current affairs of the day.

This week I have found this infinitely more challenging. What music, if any, can adequately articulate the innumerable feelings we might all have had since the death of George Floyd just over a week ago?

I have always believed music to be an inherently personal medium, despite the many ways in which it brings us together and unites us. Our musical tastes are shaped in many ways by the experiences we have and the lives that we have led. The means through which we enjoy and consume music depend greatly on where we are at in our lives, and what we're doing. A song that may speak to us on a deep and spiritual level may resonate with our peers entirely differently. So, with that said, I'll leave it to you to pick your own musical means of processing and navigating this time.

In place of my own musical recommendation, I am including below links to resources to listen to, and learn more about, the musical history of Black composers and musicians whose contributions have been largely excluded from the musical canon.

- <https://www.theguardian.com/music/musicblog/2015/jun/02/ten-black-composers-whose-works-deserve-to-be-heard-more-often>
- <https://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/articles/arts-culture/2015/03/06/58473/28-classical-music-moments-in-black-history/>
- <https://www.classicalmpr.org/topic/black-history-spotlight>
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/10/arts/music/black-composers-discuss-the-role-of-race.html>
- <https://www.wnyc.org/series/the-anthology-of-black-classical-music>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000j2bt/episodes/player>