Dvorak in America
African Americans in American Music at the turn of the 20th Century

Introduction

Students will research African Americans in American Music at the turn of the 20th Century in order to practice the five areas of information literacy necessary for critical thinking and high level research required of them as they enter high school. They will use the resources compiled on the site http://dvorakinfolit.wordpress.com to conduct their research, including information literacy worksheets to guide their research process.

Objectives

Students will decide on a manageable research topic for this project.
Students will choose appropriate resources for their research topic.
Students will develop and implement an appropriate search strategy for this project.
Students will evaluate resources for quality, authority, organization, and relevance.
Students will properly cite resources used for their project.

Standards addressed

New York State Learning Standards
Arts: Standard 3 & 4
English Language Arts: 1, 2, 3 & 4
Social Studies: 1 & 2

American Association of School Librarians Standards for the 21st Century Learner
Standard 1- Inquire, think critically, and gain knowledge.
Standard 2- Draw conclusions, make informed decisions, apply knowledge to new situations, and create new knowledge.
Standard 3- Share knowledge and participate ethically and productively as members of our democratic society.

Information Literacy Standards in Higher Education
Standards 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5

Overview of the Project

Audience: Eighth grade students
Anticipated time frame: One week of research time, one week of product completion.
**Essential Questions:**
What issues did black musicians, performers, and composers face at this time in American history?
Who were the important African American performers, musicians, and composers of the time?
What kinds of music were being performed or created at this time?
What impact did this music have on American music at that time, and in the future?

**Topics to be explored include:**
Harry T. Burleigh
Black spirituals
Plantation songs
Minstrelsy
The American Music National Conservatory
Jeannette Thurber
Black Opera Companies
Black concert singers
Dvorak and the New World Symphony

**The research project will consist of choosing a topic, and exploring the following questions pertaining to the topic:**
WHO participated?
WHAT did they do?
WHY did they do it and why was it important?
WHERE did it take place?
WHEN did it happen?
Before beginning your research, you must have your topic approved in advance.

**Final Research Projects**
Students may choose to do any of the following, to present research to the class:
*Multimedia presentation:* slide-show, movie, podcast about your research findings.
*Music review:* write in the voice of a music critic, and review a “concert” by the performer you have researched.
*Performance:* you may perform a piece of music related to one of the musicians, but you must also include a written program biography for the performer.
Research Paper: you may write a formal research paper about the topic of your research. ALL PROJECTS must include a BIBLIOGRAPHY citing from which resources students retrieved information.

Each type of product will have specific guidelines for you to follow. These guidelines will be passed out upon consultation with the instructor, who will approve the topic and project before research is begun.

Possible Extensions:
Students may choose to not only answer the who, what, where, when, and why relating to their topic, but they may want to extend their learning by researching and comparing and contrasting the current state of African Americans in classical music today with that of the period of the late 19th century and early 20th century.

Resources
Links to Electronic Resources can be found at: http://dvorakinfolit.wordpress.com

Web Resources
Background Information
Dvorak and the New World Symphony
New World Symphony Columbia Orchestra Recording (audio files)
I. Adagio- Allegro Molto
II. Largo
III. Scherzo – Molto Vivace
IV. Allegro- Con fuoco
New World Symphony Score- Indiana University School of Music
Full Score Online
Individual Parts of Score
NPR Discussion of the New World Symphony (with audio)
NEH News Article on Dvorak in America Institute
Article on a performance of the New World Symphony & Dvorak (New York Magazine)
Jeanette Thurber- Brief Biography
African American Performers
Harry Burleigh
Harry T. Burleigh Society
Youtube Video on Harry Burleigh and Erie, PA
Brief Biography on Harry Burleigh
TIME Magazine Article on Burleigh from 1944
Article on Burleigh from the American Almanac
Art Song Central Harry Burleigh Arrangements
Sissieretta Jones
The Black “Patti” Biography
Library of Congress Primary Documents on Ms. Jones
History of African American Music
African American Sheet Music at Brown University
Lift Every Voice
Library of Congress Fisk Jubilee Singers
Library of Congress American Memory African American Sheet Music Collection Subject Guide
Library of Congress Online Guide African American Music
Library of Congress African American Band Music & Recordings, 1883-1923
Library of Congress Home Sweet Home: Life in 19th Century Ohio
American Music History
American Memory America Singing 19th Century Song Sheets

Print Resources
Dvorak in America: In Search of the New World – Joseph Horowitz
DVD
From the New World: A Celebrated Composer's American Odyssey- Robert Winter

Collaborative Components

School library media specialist (librarian) will work with classroom teachers, other librarians, and school music teachers to implement this project.

Assessment

Student research projects will be assessed by the librarian using a rubric that addresses how well they met each of the five objectives in the information literacy areas of: choosing topic, choosing resources, search strategy, evaluating resources and citing resources in a works cited list.

Student research projects will also be assessed by classroom/music teachers based on relevance and accuracy of content, writing and presentation, using a rubric developed for this process.

Students will be given the rubrics before beginning the projects.