WJSU BLACK MUSIC MONTH PROGRAMMING – JUNE 2013

**The Belles of the Blues**

The four blues vocalists in this hour are not well known. That certainly doesn’t mean they aren’t worthy of praise and recognition. Alberta Hunter, Victoria Spivey, Ida May Mack, and Bessie Tucker are accompanied by the finest jazz musicians, including Fats Waller, Louie Armstrong and Lonnie Johnson, to new a few, in this special presentation.

Alberta Hunter longed to be a singer before she was in her teens. In fact, she ran away from home to follow that dream.  Vocalist and composer Victoria Spivey enjoyed a long and varied career. Ida May Mack and Bessie Tucker both hailed from Texas, and made their first recordings on the same date in 1928.

Not to take anything away from “The Mother of the Blues,” Mamie Smith, or “The Empress of the Blues,” Bessie Smith, but there were many extremely talented vocalist of the blues genre. This show shines the spotlight on four of those wonderful women of song.

**Musical Works**

| **Title** | **Artist** | **Album** | **Label** | **Year** | **Length** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| I'm Gonna Lose Myself Way Down in Louisville | Alberta Hunter | Better Boot That Thing. | RCA | 1927 | 00:00 |
| I’ll Forgive You ‘Cause I Love You | Alberta Hunter | Better Boot That Thing. | RCA | 1927 | 00:00 |
| My Daddy’s Got a Brand New Way to Love | Alberta Hunter | Better Boot That Thing. | RCA | 1927 | 00:00 |
| Sugar | Alberta Hunter | Better Boot That Thing. | RCA | 1927 | 00:00 |
| Stringaree Blues | King Oliver & his Orchestra  | LP. |  | 1929 | 00:00 |
| Better Boot That Thing | Bessie Tucker  | Better Boot That Thing. | RCA | 1929 | 00:00 |
| Bogey Man Blues | Bessie Tucker  | Better Boot That Thing. | RCA | 1929 | 00:00 |
| Whistling Woman Blues | Bessie Tucker  | Better Boot That Thing. | RCA | 1929 | 00:00 |
| Elm Street Blues | Ida May Mack | Better Boot That Thing. | RCA | 1928 | 00:00 |
| When You Lose Your Daddy | Ida May Mack  | Better Boot That Thing. | RCA | 1928 | 00:00 |
| Basin Street Blues | Louis Armstrong Hot Seven  | LP. |  | 1928 | 00:00 |
| Blood Hound Blues | Victoria Spivey | Better Boot That Thing. | RCA | 1929 | 00:00 |
| Telephoning the Blues | Victoria Spivey | Better Boot That Thing. | RCA | 1929 | 00:00 |
| Black Snake Blues | Victoria Spivey | 78 RPM. |  | 1926 | 00:00 |
| Moanin’ the Blues | Victoria Spivey | Better Boot That Thing. | RCA | 1929 | 00:00 |
| Dirty Tee Bee Blues (excerpt) | Victoria Spivey | Better Boot That Thing. | RCA | 1929 | 00:00 |

The program airs Monday, June 10th, at 8a.

**Deep River: The African American Choral Spiritual**

From the days of slavery 150 years ago, the African American spiritual grew out of the earliest days of Black America.

Over time, spirituals spread across denominations, cultures, and concert venues around the country and the world. Many of us have heard this music without being aware of how deep the meaning and history run beneath the surface.

Listeners will enjoy an hour of spirituals, including the well-known "Let My People Go," compositions from Undine Smith Moore and more. The compelling songs are contextualized and given new life by spirituals expert and former choral ensemble director Dr. Jim Mumford.

Spirituals, according to Dr. Mumford, are “books in the library of primary sources of the real experiences of enslaved Africans.” Spirituals can tell us “how they felt about slavery, were able to endure it; define it; adapt it; hate it; to fight it, and to eventually come out of it.”

The language in spirituals, their poetry, comes out of the necessity to use double entendre in order to veil the messages hidden in each song. As Dr. Mumford says, “one finds in the Spirituals the polarities of hope and despair, joy and sorrow, death and life.”

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| **Title** | **Artist** | **Album** | **Label** | **Year** | **Length** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Wade In The Water | Fisk Jubilee Singers | Wade in the Water, Vol. 1: African-American Spirituals: The Concert Tradition. | Smithsonian Folkways Recordings | 2005 | 02:24 |
| Great Day | IU African American Choral Ensemble | n/a. | n/a | 0 | 00:00 |
| Go Down Moses  | Fisk Jubilee Singers | Song of American. | Thirty Tigers | 2007 | 03:44 |
| Give Me Jesus | Barbara Hendicks/Moses Hogan Singers | Spirituals Vol. 2. | EMI Classics | 2004 | 03:58 |
| Ain't-a That Good News | Barbara Hendicks/Moses Hogan Singers | Spirituals Vol. 2. | EMI Classics | 2004 | 01:41 |
| Daniel, Daniel, Servant of the Lord | IU African American Choral Ensemble | n/a. | n/a | 0 | 00:00 |
| Soon Ah Will Be Done | Fisk Jubilee Singers | In Bright Mansions. | Curb Records | 2003 | 03:16 |
| I've Been Buked And I've Been Scorned | Tuskegee Institute Singers | Tuskegee Institute Singers (1914-1927). | Document Records | 1997 | 03:25 |

The program airs Monday, June 17, at 8a.M.

**Zydeco Nation**

AARP's Prime Time Radio documentary traces how the Louisiana Creole music known as zydeco found a new home 2,000 miles from its birthplace. Independent producers Richard Ziglar and Barry Yeoman interviewed the people who migrated from Louisiana to California starting in World War II to escape the racial discrimination prevalent in the South and find jobs in the shipping and defense industries. Once in California, they worked hard to keep their culture alive, especially their musical traditions. The musicians and dancers who underwent this migration tell their stories of rebuilding their lives and their community. And they talk about how younger musicians are transmitting zydeco to the next generation-in the hopes that Creole traditions will continue to thrive in California.

The program airs Monday, June 24, at 8 a.m.