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USING CHICAGO-BASED VOCAL REPERTOIRE TO MEET HISTORICAL, PEDAGOGICAL, AND STYLISTIC LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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For nearly a century, Chicago has been fertile ground for both developing and established musicians. The city's residents have made significant, ongoing contributions to nearly all 20th- and 21st-century genres. By exploring a collection of Chicago-based vocal repertoire across a range of artists, eras, and idioms, this project will present historical, pedagogical, and stylistic elements that can be utilized in a music-teaching environment. In this instance, "Chicago-based vocal repertoire" can include, but is not limited to, the following: classical, gospel, blues, jazz, R&B, and other songs and styles developed by composers and artists with significant ties to Chicago. "Significant ties" can include, but is not limited to, the following: being born and raised in Chicago, being an area resident for a period of time, or visiting the area on a consistent basis so as to be influenced by Chicago music and culture. "Composers and artists" can include, but is not limited to, the following: Florence Price, Betty Jackson King, Lil Hardin Armstrong, Oscar Brown Jr., Freddy Cole, Donny Hathaway, Clarice Assad, and Ivy Ford. The presentation will be accompanied by a slide show and pre-recorded musical examples. For each song selection, three main areas for learning opportunities will be discussed (though not necessarily in this order). Included will be biographical information on the artist, and well as historical context of Chicago at that time. Addressed will be pedagogical considerations such as larynx and throat position, use of articulators, and general singing mechanics. Explored will be stylistic aspects such as use of vibrato, slides, squalls, shouts, vowel modification, and so forth. The goal of this presentation is to provide information that can be tailored to meet the needs of music students of all ages and abilities in the classroom, the private studio, in outreach and community programs, and wherever else vocal repertoire may be sung.