

Many twentieth-century musicians have roots in Mississippi. For this project, students will research one of these musicians and the contributions the musician has made to the musical world. The musician must have been born in Mississippi or have lived an important part of his/her life in Mississippi. The student will write a biography of the musician and produce a timeline of the most important events in the life of the musician using traditional resources as well as technological resources such as computers that access on-line library card catalogs, CD-roms, or the wide world web. The student may also use videos. At the end of the biography, the student will include a bibliography/works cited page of all related sources discovered by the student in his research on the musician and his/her works. The students should attempt to directly contact the musician if possible by mail, email, phone or fax. We will try to invite some of the musicians to the class. An important part of the project will be to find as many as possible useful related web sites. All information will be placed on the project of Starkville High School on the Web called *Mississippi Writers and Musicians* where it will be available for other students and interested persons accessing the web site. The site can be viewed at <http://www.SHS.Starkville.K12.MS.US/mswm/MSWritersAndMusicians/> (It might be easier to just type in Mississippi musicians in quotation marks in a search box).

Objectives

- To increase the students' awareness of their own cultural heritage, both literary and musical.
 - To improve the research and writing skills of the students
 - To involve students in research which makes use of computers, CD-roms, the internet, on-line catalogs, and videos as well as traditional resources.
 - To encourage the reading of more books by students and others who may access the resulting web site.
 - To create a classroom environment in which technology supports the learning and teaching process.
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The Finished Project Will Include

1. A biography of the musician (with sources properly cited) and a photograph (photos or images must also give credit to source) if you can obtain one.
2. A list of the major musical works performed or written by the musician.
3. An interview with the musician or someone who knows the musician personally (if possible)
4. A timeline of important events in the life of the musician.
5. A bibliography of all traditional-type resources.
6. A list of all useful addresses for sites on the web which are related to the musician or his works (Note: These addresses will be hyperlinked from our page to the actual web site). Write a sentence or two explaining what can be found on the related web site. The best way to correctly copy and link the address is to do a copy/paste when you use the link button in Composer.

7. A class presentation which details the research done by the student on the musician, using appropriate visual aids.

*Please note: The musicians on the list may not be complete. If you know of another Mississippi musician, please feel free to suggest that musician, even if it is not a musician you wish to use for your project.

Additional Instructions

Sources used for this project must be turned in so **print them out or xerox them**, (whichever is most convenient). All materials in final project must be typed on a computer, saved on a floppy disk, and printed out. In addition, the project must be saved on a 3 1/2 floppy disk **IN THE SAME FILE** and turned in with the project. You will turn in **two hard copy versions** of your project (one to be placed in your writing portfolio and one to be graded and used for the web project). If possible, type your paper using **Netscape Navigator Gold or Netscape Communicator**. This browser has a **Composer** which is easy to use. If your computer will not support this method, try to use Microsoft Word or Word Perfect. Save in HTML if your version allows you to do this. If you do not have any of these programs, save your project in TEXT as it will make it easier for us to turn the information into HTML for the web.

Follow This Order For Final Paper

SAVE the following in the **SAME FILE under your musician's last name.html**

1. MAJOR WORKS listing ALL important works by your musician.
2. BIOGRAPHY of your musician, using parenthetical notes when necessary. Use research paper guidelines.
3. INTERVIEW with your musician or someone who knew the musician personally. See <http://www.shs.starkville.k12.ms.us/mswm/aboutus/mquestions.pdf> for ideas about questions you might want to ask your musician. Revise to fit musician.
4. TIMELINE of the most important events in the life of the musician. (Update it to April, 2000)
5. RELATED WEB SITES with **sentence or two description of what is available** on that sites. Remember to click on all highlighted words for additional sites/information/addresses. Choose the best sites for inclusion in your project, not those just mention the person or are **only** ads for his work. Some pages that sell things do include valuable information. You be the judge of the value of the site.
6. BIBLIOGRAPHY/**Works Cited** page which follows MLA form.

***DO NOT USE OUR SHS WEB SITE AS A SOURCE. WE ALREADY HAVE THAT INFORMATION!!**

Suggestions For a Web Search

1. Do traditional research using **library books, magazines, newspaper clippings, the Groves or Guinness Encyclopedias of Music**. You can use this information for your web searches. This information will also be useful as sources or references for your entire project. You need at least two traditional sources. More would be better.
2. Try the search engines (Lycos, google.com , Hot Bot, Go Search, Looksmart, Lycos, Infoseek, HotBot, Excite, Magellan, Yahoo, Alta Vista, Web Crawler, etc.

An excellent search is <http://www.google.com> Please realize that you may have to go through 100 entries to find what you really need.

From home you can also access the Magnolia database at <http://nt.library.msstate.edu/magnolia>

Other ideas:

- Begin by searching using the MUSICIAN'S NAME OR WORK.
- Search for the home page of the musician's HOMETOWN. They often include famous people who were born or who lived in the town.
- Check the COLLEGE web site from which your musician graduated
- Check the TOWN WHERE HE/SHE NOW LIVES
- Check the COLLEGE where he/she is teaching or has taught
- Check the PRIZES OR AWARDS HOME PAGE that your musician has won.
- Check the RECORDING COMPANY for which your musician records. They often have web sites.

Use all the information you find in your reading and searching as well as your interview and to write a biography of this person's life. Do not plagiarize!! **Paraphrase and summarize in your own words. Put quotation marks around direct quotations**, etc. Document using parenthetical notes!

* NOTE: IF YOU NEED HELP USING THE WEB OR OTHER COMPUTER PROGRAMS FOR FINDING INFORMATION, BE SURE TO LET ME KNOW. WE HAVE SEVERAL STUDENTS WHO ARE EXPERTS AT USING THE INTERNET, AND THEY OR I WILL BE HAPPY TO HELP YOU. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO A COMPUTER, YOU MAY USE THE COMPUTERS in the SHS library. YOU CAN ALSO USE THE MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY or Starkville Public Library.) Part of the purpose of this project is to help you become familiar with the computer and the internet, so do not hesitate to request aid.

Remember that ALL sources must be properly documented.

You Will Also Turn in the Following With Your Final Project

1. **All your note cards and source cards** whether you used them in the final paper or not-- but **DO NOT TURN IN ANY BLANK NOTE CARDS**, keep them for next year!
2. All your rough drafts for your biography.
3. Xerox copies of all your information from traditional sources (books, newspaper articles, encyclopedias, etc.)
4. Printouts of all web sites used in paper as well as those included in related web sites section that are about your musician or that refer to your musician.
5. **DISK** on which you saved your project. **Be sure your name and your musician's name is on a label on the disk.** Place disk in an envelope and tape it to the inside folder of your project.

Do Your Best Work. Remember the whole wide world will be looking at your project!!

Suggestions For a Web Search

1. Do traditional research for your biography using **books, magazines, encyclopedias, newspapers**, etc. You can use this information to begin your search on the web as well. Your paper should have at least **three traditional sources**.
2. Try the netscape searches (google, Lycos, Infoseek, Go Search, LookSmart, HotBot, Excite, Magellan, Yahoo, Alta Vista, Web Crawler, etc. An excellent search is <http://www.google.com> Please realize that you may have to go through 100 entries to find what you really need.
3. From home you can also access the Magnolia database at <http://nt.library.msstate.edu/magnolia>

Other ideas:

- Begin by searching using the **AUTHOR'S NAME OR WORK** placing quotation marks around the words
 - Search for the home page of the author's **HOMETOWN**. They often include famous people who were born or lived in the town. You will find this info after doing some research.
 - Check the **COLLEGE** web site from which your author graduated
 - Check the **TOWN WHERE HE/SHE NOW LIVES**
 - Check the **COLLEGE** where he/she is teaching or has taught
 - Check the **PRIZES OR AWARDS HOME PAGE** that your author has won.
 - Check the **PUBLISHER'S WEB SITE**. They often have web sites and even press kits with info on writer (if you ask).
 - Check amazon.com The site often has book reviews and list all books by the author, whether or not they are in print.
4. Use information you get in your interview to complete the biography!

Remember that ALL sources, including photographs, must be properly documented!

Other Things Due

1. **All your note cards and source cards**, whether you used them in the final paper or not-- but **DO NOT TURN IN ANY BLANK NOTE CARDS**. Keep them for next year!
 2. **All your rough drafts** for your biography and your book analysis/review.
 3. **Xerox copies of all your information** from traditional sources (books, newspaper articles, encyclopedias, etc.)
 4. **Printouts of all web sites** used in paper as well as those included in related web sites section that are about your author or that refer to your author.
 5. **DISK** on which you saved your project. Be sure **your name and your author's name is on a label** on the disk. Place disk in an envelope and tape it to the inside folder of your project.
 6. **Two hard copy printouts** of your project.
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ORAL PRESENTATION

The day after your project is due, you will give an oral presentation to the class of your findings. This presentation will be a test grade. Practice what you are going to say. Find appropriate visual aids. Read an important passage from the book to show the author's style, characterization, plot, etc. Eye contact, voice, preparedness, choice of visuals, will be important for this grade as well as your research.