

"M" IS FOR MUSIC AND...

...for talented musicians whose first name or last name begins with the letter "M"...



"MA" Gertrude Rainey (1886-1939) started her career in vaudeville, but became an influential blues singer during the 1920's. Rainey performed with her husband, William "Pa" Rainey, and the couple worked under Paramount Records. "Ma" Gertrude Rainey's contribution to blues music has been acknowledged by the music community through her inductions into the Blue Foundation Blues Hall of Fame (1983), Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame (1990), and the Georgia Music Hall of Fame (1992). Jazz and blues legends were honored with the eight 29¢ stamps in Legends of American Music Stamp Series issued on September 17, 1994, in Greenville, Mississippi, at the Delta Blues Festival.

Famous opera singer from the 1930's, MARIAN Anderson (1897-1993) had a rough start to her career due to the discrimination and racism of her lifetime. Anderson received particularly strong discrimination in 1939 when the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) would not allow her to sing at the DAR Constitution Hall because she was Black. In response to this discrimination, first lady Eleanor Roosevelt set up a concert for Anderson on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial and also resigned from her position in the DAR. Anderson's concert on the Lincoln Memorial not only launched her personal career, but also remains as a landmark within the history of civil rights in America. After her concert, Anderson went on to become the first Black American singer in the Metropolitan Opera and had a very successful career as an opera singer. In addition to her singing career, Anderson also became a U. S. delegate to the United Nations, and in 1963 was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. The music community rewarded Anderson for her contributions to opera music by awarding her the Kennedy Center Award for lifetime achievements in the arts.



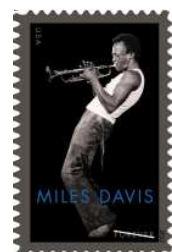
Known as the "queen of gospel music," MAHALIA Jackson (1911-1972) started singing in church choirs as a young child. Jackson's early life consisted of many trials and tribulations. Her mother died when she was still a child, and as a result of economic difficulties within her family, she did not even complete her elementary school education. Despite these hardships, Jackson grew up to have a very successful career in the music industry. A large part of her success came from the fact that she combined jazz and blues sounds with more traditional gospel music in order to achieve a sound that appealed to more secular audiences. She began recording in her early twenties, and received national recognition by appearing at Carnegie Hall and on *The Ed Sullivan Show*. An active participant in the Civil Rights Movement, she sang before Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I have a Dream" speech at the March on Washington in 1963 and also at his funeral. In 1972 Mahalia Jackson won a posthumous Lifetime Achievement Grammy to honor her contributions to American music. The Postal Service issued four 32¢ Gospel Singers commemorative stamps on July 15, 1998, in New Orleans, Louisiana. The stamps were issued as an addition to the Legends of American Music Series.



Born McKinley Morganfield in Mississippi in 1915, "MUDDY Waters" (1913-1983) was a leader in developing the Chicago blues sound that arose after World War II. His flair for transforming traditional Delta blues into electric blues helped him become a huge success throughout America and eventually around the world. In 1948, he began recording a string of Chicago blues hits, including "Rolling Stone," inspiration for Bob Dylan and Mick Jagger. Jazz and blues legends were honored with the eight 29¢ stamps in Legends of American Music Stamp Series issued on September 17, 1994, in Greenville, Mississippi, at the Delta Blues Festival.



MILES Davis (1926-1991) was at the forefront of jazz musicians for decades, setting trends and exploring musical styles from bebop through cool jazz, fusion and funk. His restless musical exploration made him a hero to jazz lovers throughout the world. Among his many influential recordings are "Birth of the Cool," "Kind of Blue," "Sketches of Spain," and "In a Silent Way." Miles also was a great bandleader, and many important musicians rose to prominence in his bands, including saxophonists John Coltrane and Wayne Shorter, drummers Tony Williams and Jack DeJohnette, and pianists Bill Evans, Chick Corea, and Herbie Hancock. The United States Postal Service and La Poste of France celebrated a joint issuance of the Miles Davis and Edith Piaf stamps. Edith Piaf, one of France's best-loved singers, became an icon in the United States. The renowned American jazz trumpeter Miles Davis is beloved in France, where he performed frequently and was made a Chevalier in the Legion of Honor. He also was awarded the Grande Medaille de Vermeil by the city of Paris, the equivalent of making him an honorary citizen.



MARVIN Gaye's (1939-1984), multifaceted music career took him to the top of the pop and R&B charts in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. Gaye found fame worldwide with hits such as "I Heard it Through the Grapevine," "What's Going On," "Let's Get it On," and "Sexual Healing." Known for his soulful vocals and his memorable live performances, he also wrote or co-wrote and produced many of his most successful singles. The non-denominated (55¢) Marvin Gaye forever stamp was issued April 2, 2019, at the Greek Theatre in Los Angeles, California.



...AND LET'S NOT FORGET...



A brilliantly unorthodox pianist and composer, Thelonious MONK was studied by musicians years before he was accepted by the public. His audacious use of dissonant chords and haunting melodies was unprecedented. His most famous composition is "Round Midnight." The Postal Service honored Jazz Musicians with the issuance of ten 32¢ commemorative stamps, in a pane of 20, on September 16, 1995, in Monterey, California, at the Monterey Jazz Festival.

As the original lead singer of the Drifters, Clyde McPHATTER (1932-1972) brought gospel-style vocals to popular music. After serving in the armed forces, he returned as a solo performer and recorded "A Lover's Question" in 1958 and "Lover Please" in 1962. The Postal Service celebrated Rock & Roll and Rhythm & Blues music with a sheet of thirty-five and a booklet of thirty 29¢ stamps. The stamps went on sale on June 16, 1993, in Cleveland, Ohio, and Santa Monica, California.



Roberta MARTIN (1907-1969) is a prominent African American gospel singer that is most well known for her versions of "Amazing Grace" and "If you Pray." In 1935 Martin started her legendary gospel group, the Martin-Fry Quartet. The quartet eventually changed their name to the Roberta Martin Singers, and the group was most well known for each singer having a distinctive voice in their songs. In addition to her successful singing career, Martin also founded the Roberta Martin Studio of Music, which produced and distributed sheet music for Black churches across America. The Postal Service issued four 32-cent Gospel Singers commemorative stamps on July 15, 1998, in New Orleans, Louisiana. The stamps were issued as an addition to the Legends of American Music Series.

Born Ferdinand Joseph La Menthe, "Jelly Roll MORTON" (1890-1941) was a composer, vocalist, pianist, and arranger. He made a permanent mark on the world of jazz music with compositions that include "Wolverine Blues," "Dead Man Blues," "Jelly Roll Blues," and "Harmony Blues." The Postal Service honored Jazz Musicians with the issuance of ten 32¢ commemorative stamps, in a pane of 20, on September 16, 1995, in Monterey, California, at the Monterey Jazz Festival.



A talented bass player, pianist, composer, and bandleader, Charles MINGUS (1922-1979) was a notable 20th century musician. He toured with some of the famous big bands of the 1940s (including the Louis Armstrong Orchestra), accompanied many pioneering jazz musicians such as Charlie Parker and Thelonious Monk, and led diverse ensembles. In the 1950s, to safeguard and archive his enlarging collection of original music, Mingus created his own recording and publishing companies. He toured extensively in the United States and abroad until 1977, when he was diagnosed with the rare nerve disease amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (also known as "Lou Gehrig's disease"). The Postal Service honored Jazz Musicians with the issuance of ten 32¢ commemorative stamps, in a pane of 20, on September 16, 1995, in Monterey, California, at the Monterey Jazz Festival.