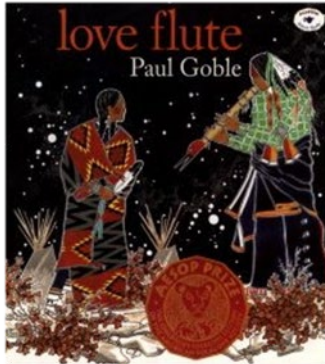


# We Read



## Love Flute

Retold and illustrated by Paul Goble, 1992

Winner of the 1993 Aesop Prize

For all flute lovers, a beautifully illustrated book about love to be read ourselves and shared with others in our lives, particularly children. It also makes a very lovely decoration for a music studio.

This is a beautiful story of love based on a legend of the Plains Indians about the first flute, a gift from the birds and animals of the forest. A young man who knew not how to express his love now has a way of expression where words had failed.

<https://www.simonandschuster.com/books/Love-Flute/Paul-Goble/9780689816833>

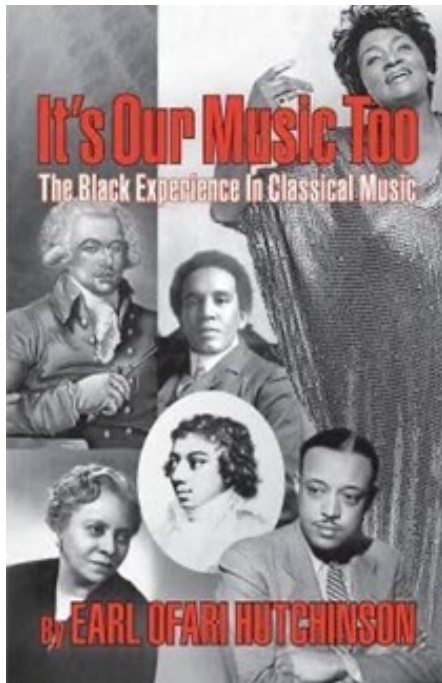
“He walked for four days, and all the while he listened closely to the songs of the birds and animals. Sometimes he blew into the flute, imitating their tunes and weaving them together until he had made his own melodies. Every bird and animal loved the songs he played.... On the fourth day...he began to play his flute...the spirit of the breeze carried his wonderful songs straight to the girl he loved...and the girl knew the songs were speaking to her.”



## I live in music

Poem by [Ntozake Shange](#) and Paintings by [Romare Bearden](#)

This short poem can be read on [this webpage](#) of *The Friday Influence* website, but life is even better if you see the books illustrations. Whether you lean toward poetry or not, as a musician, you will find this piece speaks to you very rhythmically and fluidly. It is sound and color inducing. The feel of it will shadow you next time you step up to your music stand! It starts with the words – “i live in music is this where you live....” Later – “...i walk around in a piano like somebody else be walkin on the earth....”



## It's Our Music Too: The Black Experience in Classical Music

By Earl Ofari Hutchinson, 2016, 120 pages

This is a unique, deeply thoughtful and refreshing approach to the topic of influences on classical music. It reads very easily. While [It's Our Music Too](#) is better read cover to cover, each section can largely be embraced individually. It has alluringly titled chapters: More than the Black Mozart; Charlie Parker Meets Stravinsky; The Chocolate Scheme; From Bach to the Blues; The Invisible People?

Accompanying each section are two or three spot on recommended listening suggestions. It is also a pleasure simply getting to know, "hearing the voice," of this author. More can be learned more about him through [this website](#).

In the words of the author – "My intent is to tell how the greats from Beethoven and Mozart to the jazz influenced big name pieces by George Gershwin, Igor Stravinsky, Maurice Ravel, and Aaron Copland have borrowed from and paid homage to jazz, blues, ragtime, boogie woogie and Negro spirituals. Throughout, I recommend many pieces to listen to by the greats of classical music who were directly inspired by black musical forms, as well as the works of black composers who have written exceptional works that have influenced the works of other classical composers."

Separate from this book, another source of potential interest to readers is this [web resource focused on black composers](#) -



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