

*Arnekua Jackson,*  
*Hartsfield Elementary*

2019 FMEA Professional Development Conference

*On the Shelf: African American Children Picture Books in the  
General Music Classroom*

Email: [jacksona4@leonschools.net](mailto:jacksona4@leonschools.net)

This session will examine how to identify appropriate African American picture books that interest and inspire all students in and outside the classroom. In the classroom, it is important for children to relate to characters and experiences found in picture books so connections can occur between the literature and their own culture. As music teachers we have to continue incorporating African American resources that can positively affect the lives of all children.

### How are Picture Book Authors Conceptualizing African Americans?

- ❖ Misleading images
- ❖ Not Authentic
- ❖ Lack of African American presence
- ❖ Marginal Social Roles
- ❖ Text not relatable



### Tips for Selecting African American Music Picture Books

- Ensure that text is appropriate
- Find books where African Americans are the dominant character in a positive role
- Search for African American Authors
- Find relatable text and images of today's minority youth



## *Transformative Thinking the Classroom*

\* *Transcultural Learning*      \* *Selecting Authentic Children's books*      \* *Powerful tool for teaching*

### **My Favorites On The Shelf:**

#### **Suggested African American Picture Books for the Music Classroom**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>ISBN</b>	<b>Grade Level</b>
Charlie Parker played be bop	Chris Raschka	9780531070956	K-3
Squeak, Rumble, Whomp! Whomp! Whomp!	Wynton Marsalis	97807636399	K-2
Ben's Trumpet	Rachel Isadora	0-688-80194-3	1-3
At the Crossroads	Rachel Isadora	0-688-05271-1	3-5
The Blues of Flats Brown	Walter Dean Myers	0-8234-1480-9	K-3
Let it Shine	Ashley Bryan	0-689-84732-7	K-2
Heaven's All-Star Jazz Band	Don Carter	0-375-81571-6	K-5
Stompin' at the Savoy	Alan Govenar	0-7636-2244-3	3-5
(The Musician who is Deaf) The Deaf Musicians	Pete Seeger & Paul Jacobs	0-7636-2244-3	K-5
Skit-Scat Raggedy Cat	Roxane Orgill	9780763664596	1-5
Max Found Two Sticks	Brian Pinkney	9780689815935	K-5
Before John Was a Jazz Giant	Carole Boston Weatherford	9780805079944	K-5
Little Melba and Her Big Trombone	Katheryn Russell-Brown	9781600608988	1-5
I Got the Rhythm	Connie Schofield-Morrison	9781619631786	K-2
The Blues Singers	Julius Lester	0-7868-0463-7	K-5
When the Beat Was Born	Laban Carrick Hill	9781596435407	1-5
My Family Plays Music	Judy Cox	9780823440399	K-5
Jazz ABZ	Wynton Marsalis	0-7636-2135-8	1-5
A Band of Angels	Deborah Hopinkson	0-689-81062-8	K-5
The Sound That Jazz Makes	Carole Weatherford	0-8027-8720-7	K-5