



## Count Basie

William James "Count" Basie was an American jazz pianist, organist, bandleader, and composer. He was born on August 21, 1904 in Red Bank, New Jersey.

His family always owned a piano and his parents paid twenty-five cents each week for him to learn to play. He quickly made a name for himself as a pianist after filling in on the piano for a local silent film theatre.

In 1935, Basie formed his own band called The Barons of Rhythm. During a live radio broadcast, the announcer wanted to give Basie a name that sounded a little better, thus the name "Count" which ended up helping his career and social status. Basie's own composition, One O'Clock Jump, became the band's signature piece to play.

Basie lead his band, renamed The Count Basie Orchestra, for 50 years and recorded over 480 albums. He died on April 26, 1984 in Hollywood, Florida.



## Ludwig van Beethoven



Ludwig Van Beethoven was born in Bonn, Germany in December 1770. He began making money as an organist and composer by the time he was 12. He moved to Vienna in 1792 and began studying composition with Franz Joseph Haydn.

In his lifetime, Beethoven wrote 722 pieces of music including concertos, string quartets and symphonies. His Third Symphony was unlike any other symphony written before this time and changed music forever.

By the late 1790's, Beethoven began to lose his hearing and by 1819, he became completely deaf. However, despite his hearing loss, he continued to compose some of his greatest pieces including his Fifth through Ninth Symphonies.

Beethoven died in Vienna on March 26, 1827.



# Resource Page

## Gustav Holst

Gustav Holst was born in Cheltenham, England in 1874. He wanted to become a pianist but suffered from nueritis which caused his right arm "like a jelly overcharged with electricity". So at 12 years old he began playing the trombone.



Holst's lifelong friend was Ralph Vaughn Williams whom he met in 1895. The two were each other's music critics. Holst was well known for his teaching positions, his most famous post being at the St. Paul's Girls School. He opened a new music wing in 1913 and to commemorate this wrote his famous St. Paul Suite. Holst began composing The Planets in 1914 and finished the piece in 1916. Holst died at the age of 59 due to heart complications.



## Chinelo

Chinelo Cary Tyler is the Co-Executive Director of Kaleidoscope, an organization designed & created for diverse spaces where communities support local organizers.

He is the former President of the International President of the Young People's and Children's Division of the black methodist church.

His love of music began in the church singing in the choir. He has developed that love of music into an initiative to help young artists.

In 2022, Tyler released a handful of singles and two EPs, "Born Again" and "Seasonal Depression," as well as a full-length album titled "Time Is Limited." He also holds a residency at Denver's Dazzle with Kerrie Joy, and named Westword's best hip hop artist of 2023.



# Resource Page

## Jessie Montgomery

American composer, chamber musician, and educator Jessie Montgomery was born on December 8, 1981 in New York City. She holds a bachelor's degree in violin performance from the Juilliard School, and completed a master's degree in Composition for Film and Multimedia at New York University.



She is the recipient of the Leonard Bernstein Award from the ASCAP Foundation and the Sphinx Medal of Excellence, and her works are performed frequently around the world. In 2024, Jessie Montgomery won the Grammy Award for Best Contemporary Classical Composition for her Rounds. She is the current Mead Composer-in-Residence of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

## References

For more detailed information about these composers, please go to the following:

- <https://thebasie.org/countbasiebio/>
- <https://www.valeriecoleman.com/>
- <https://www.jessiemontgomery.com/>
- <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Ludwig-van-Beethoven>
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ludwig\\_van\\_Beethoven](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ludwig_van_Beethoven)
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gustav\\_Holst](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gustav_Holst)
- <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Gustav-Theodore-Holst>
- <https://denverite.com/2023/07/05/the-richest-black-man-in-the-u-s-paid-chinelo-tylers-student-loans-the-rappers-been-trying-to-pay-it-forward-ever-since/>

### Denver Neighborhoods

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- <https://www.fivepointsbid.com/history---culture>
- <https://denversartdistrict.org/>
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- <https://www.denvercenter.org/about-us/history-of-dcpa/>