

NICHOLAS PAYTON

THE BLACK AMERICAN SYMPHONY

The objective of The Black American Symphony is to highlight the contribution Black American music has made to the world. The idea is to use as many forms of Black American music, from its inception to date, to illustrate that Black musics as they have been categorized (blues, gospel, jazz, Rhythm & Blues, Hiphop, etc.) are all a part of a continuum. They are not stylized genres, but rather, the communal expression of a people that has simply changed form with the times.

Unlike William Grant Still's *African American Symphony*, (which respectfully adopts a European aesthetic), Nicholas was committed to composing a symphony that would draw exclusively from the canon of great Black American music from Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Gil Evans, Charles Stepney, Michael Jackson, etc...

Black American Symphony is not a repertory work, but a timely statement that sums up the last 100 years of Black American music and suggests the possibilities of what is ahead for the next 100 years.

The Black American Symphony had its debut in Prague with the Czech National Symphony Orchestra on June 16, 2012. The recording you are listening to is from that performance.

Instrumentation

1 Conductor	12 Violin I
2 Flutes	12 Violin II
1 Alto Flute	10 Violas
2 Oboes	8 Cellos
1 English Horn	4 Contrabasses
2 Clarinets in Bb	
1 Bass Clarinet	<u>Nicholas Payton Band:</u>
2 Bassoons	Trumpet, Nicholas Payton
1 Contra Bassoon	Piano
4 French Horns in F	Fender Rhodes Suitcase 73
4 Trumpets in C	Bass
2 Trombones	Drums
1 Bass Trombone	Percussion
1 Tuba	
1 Timpani	
1 Percussionist (<i>Orchestra Provided</i>)	
1 Acoustic-Electric Harp	