



MISSISSIPPI: THE BIRTHPLACE OF AMERICA'S MUSIC

- The University of Mississippi Blues Archive (Oxford) contains the world's largest collection of blues music. The Mississippi Delta is the birthplace of Blues music, the only music recognized as truly original to America.
- The Mississippi Blues Trail, a virtual trail with markers throughout the state and beyond, now has nearly 130 official markers across Mississippi and in Muscle Shoals, Ala.; Helena, Ark.; Tallahassee, Fla.; Ferriday, La.; Rockland, Maine; Grafton, Wis.; Los Angeles; Chicago; and Memphis.
- The B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center is a major success story for Indianola and the Mississippi Delta as a whole. Boasting more than 30,000 visitors in its opening year (2008-2009), the museum continues to maintain a high level of traffic. In 2010, over 17,000 visitors came to the museum; they represented all 50 states and 25 countries.
- Born in Laurel, Leontyne Price was the first African American to achieve international stardom in the field of opera. Ms. Price was with the New York Metropolitan Opera and gave her last performance on January 3, 1985, in the role of Aida.
- Jimmie Rodgers of Meridian has long been recognized as "The Father of Country Music." He was the first inductee into the Country Music Hall of Fame in Nashville, Tennessee. His guitar, along with other memorabilia of his life and career, are on display at a museum in Meridian that has been dedicated to "The Singing Brakeman."
- The Mississippi Country Music Trail, which continues to build on the state's slogan "Birthplace of America's Music," is similar to the Blues Trail with Web information and other directives for visitors to take self-guided tours around the state. To date, eight of the 30 designated markers have been placed around the state: Jimmie Rodgers (Meridian), Marty Stuart (Philadelphia), Ben Peters, Elsie McWilliams, Leake County Revelers, Mac McAnnally, Charley Pride and Jerry Clower (.).
- Elizabeth Taylor Greenfield, known as the "Black Swan" was American's first African American singer of classical music. She was born in Natchez in 1809.
- Tupelo is the birthplace of Elvis Presley, "King of Rock and Roll." Visitors may tour the Elvis Presley Museum, chapel and the two-room house where "The King" was born.
- William Grant Still of Woodville composed the Afro-American Symphony, the first symphony work by an African American performed in the United States.

TO START YOUR MUSICAL JOURNEY IN MISSISSIPPI, GO TO

www.VisitMississippi.org