



**St. Louis Symphony
Orchestra**

Volunteer Association

presents

Express & Picture the Music

for SVA Members

Florence Price

1887-1953



Born Florence Beatrice Smith in Little Rock, Arkansas in 1887, Florence Price was the first noted African American female composer to gain national status.

In 1904 at age 14, she graduated high school as valedictorian and left Little Rock to attend the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. She graduated with honors at 19 and returned home to teach music. Later, she moved to Chicago and continued her musical endeavors.

Symphony No. 1 in E Minor premiered at the Century of Progress Exposition at the Chicago World's Fair in 1933. The third movement, "Juba Dance," is archived in the Library of Congress.

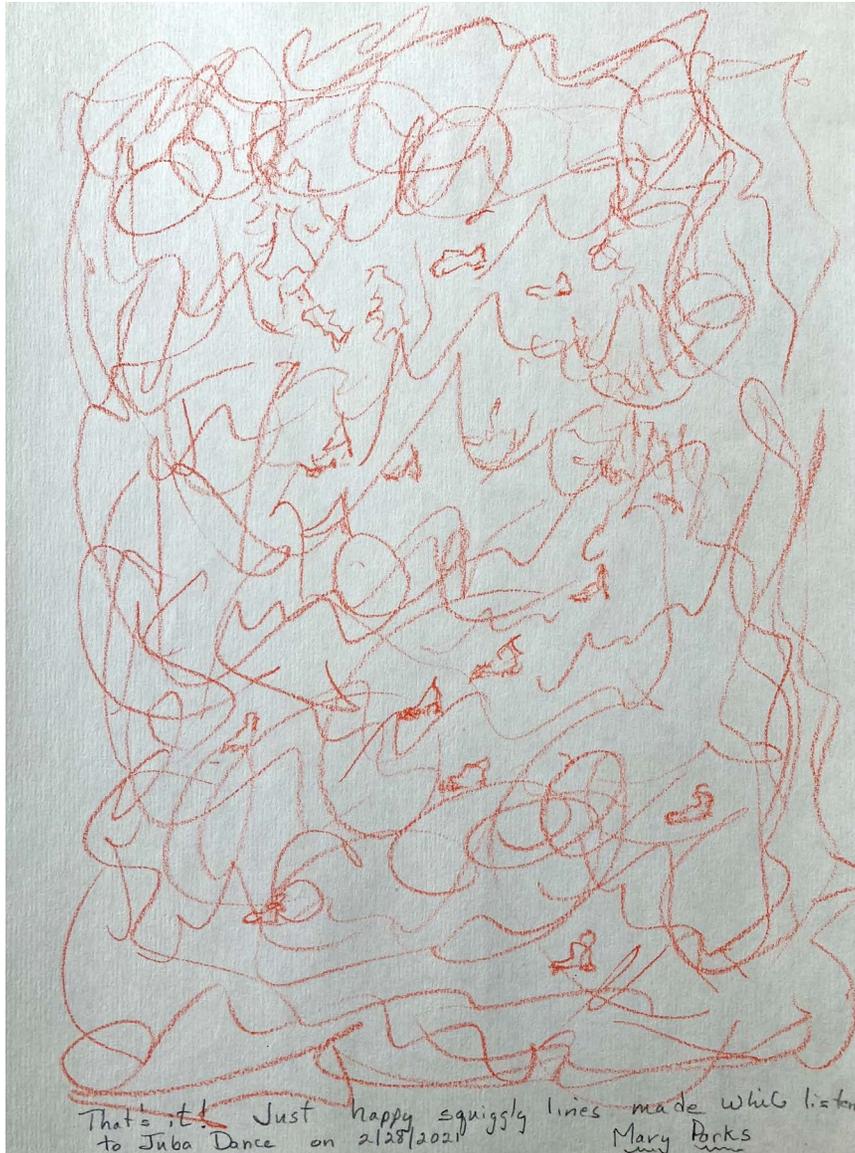
This year the SVA built upon the history of Express the Music and Picture the Music. Members were invited to listen to "Juba Dance" then respond with writing, painting, drawing, or other creative expression inspired by the piece.



Juba Dance
A Haiku
By Sue Darcy

Hips sway, feet stomp, stomp
Kente cloth snug on bodies
Laughter, music meld





Its name is Happy Feet!

I really didn't plan on taking part. But then I decided to sit down and see what happened. I pulled out my colored pencils with a bit of curiosity and expectation. A peachy salmon color drew my attention and joined my hand in making successive rising curvy lines from left to right across the page. Others followed, dancing round about happily, then slowing to quickly hint at a high heeled shoe before returning to sound inspired motion. When the music stopped, my pencil stopped.

No editing, no embellishment. No work of art, but truly an expression of my reaction to the music. And it was fun!

Mary Parks



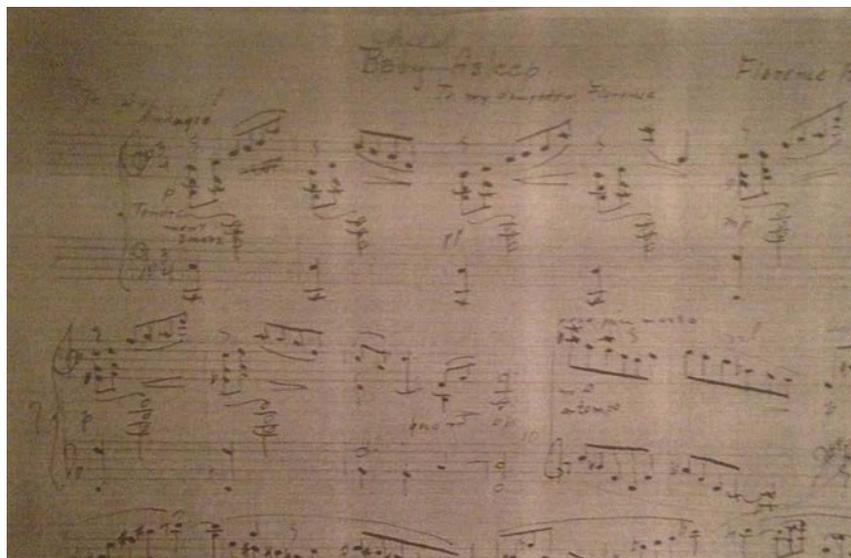
As I listened to Juba Dance being performed by a brass quintet, with it's perkiness making me tap my foot, I simultaneously surfed through old photos of family vacations. This photo, taken from a cruise ship as it was departing New Orleans not only spoke to me, it screamed at me! The dancing colors, the blurring passing structures and the end of another day just somehow went right along with the music of the trumpets, trombone, horn and tuba. Hope it speaks to others in the same voice.

Suzanne Seibel

Juba Dance makes me smile,
All the while I can picture plantation slaves
Clapping their hands, slapping their thighs
in syncopated rhythm, they immortalize
their history from which they came
with song and dance, they now reclaim
their pride, and oh, how they jubilate
Their movements make us celebrate
Juba Dance makes me stand and rejoice
The coming together with one singular voice.
Yes, Juba Dance makes me smile
Florence Price has made it all worthwhile.

By Phyllis Traub





Our thanks to the SVA members who submitted creative works for this project. Please send any questions to svaexpressthemusic@slso.org.

Learn more about Florence Price and her work at florenceprice.org and at womenyoushouldknow.net.

You can listen to “Juba Dance” on [YouTube](#) or [Spotify](#).



The St. Louis Symphony and the Symphony Volunteer Association collaborate on numerous education programs, including Express the Music and Picture the Music. Learn more at slso.org/express and slso.org/picture.