



Indigenous Musicians in American Popular Music

Materials related to “Indigenous Musicians in American Popular Music” in the collections of the Center for Popular Music, Middle Tennessee State University

Compiled by: Olivia Beaudry, June 2020. Updated July 2026.

Understanding this research guide

This research guide is to help you find more information and resources on musicians who are of Indigenous heritage. While the Center has items in the collection relating to the traditional musics of native tribes, as well as stereo-typed music of the American Indian, this guide focuses on American vernacular music created by those of Indigenous heritage. While this guide lists some artists, they are meant as starting points and is not a complete list of Indigenous heritage artists, musicians and bands. Please reach out to a member of the Center staff if you have questions relating to particular individual or band that you are looking to learn more about.

A note about terminology: Please identify and respect each artist/band in the way they wish to be identified. Most likely the individual will prefer to be identified by their tribe. CPM staff chose to use Indigenous as the blanket term in reference to the broader community. Also note that some individuals prefer identifiers of Native American, American Indian, Indian, or First Nation People. When referring and researching, please seek how the individual wishes to be identified. Tribes listed here are in their native language then the English translation.

The Center for Popular Music offers deep gratitude to the ancestral land and water of the Tsalagi/Cherokee and Sawanwa/Shawnee peoples that support us in what is present day Murfreesboro, TN. We also recognize the indigenous peoples of our community that continue call this area their home.

“How do I search for these primary source materials?”

Online Searching:

Most of these primary source materials may be searched online through the Center’s website.

To search for these materials online, visit the [CPM’s website](#). Click on “Archive Collection Search” This catalog will search for materials in the following collection categories: **Manuscript Collections, Rare Books and Scores; Sheet Music; Song Broad-sides; Posters, Playbills, and Programs; Trade Catalogs; Photographs; and Periodicals: Secondary Collection.**

You should search for individual titles, artists or songs in **Quick Search** or **Advanced Search**. If you do not have any specific names in mind, you should first examine secondary source materials. Searching for terms like “Native American,” “indigenous” or by genres like “rock” will yield long lists of items that may or may not directly correlate to the topics.

Some photographic and manuscript materials will also require staff assistance to locate. Please contact popular.music@mtsu.edu with questions.

“What secondary source materials do you have?”

To search for Secondary Source Materials available in the Center’s Reading Room– go to MTSU’s [Walker Library catalog](#) and use search terms like “Native American,” or “Bailey, Mildred.” If you need additional ideas for related search terms, Indiana University has provided a key based on the categories issued by The Library of Congress. You may also search for individual artists or genres. Materials include histories, song books and video.

If you are only interested in materials held at the CPM, select “Center for Popular Music” under the “Collection” menu.

Indigenous Musicians in American Popular Music Bibliography

Indigenous Peoples in Music: general knowledge

Primary Sources

Songbooks

Chahta uba isht taloa holisso/ Choctaw hymn book. Global Bible Society: Asheville, NC, 2023 printing.

Call number: SP-

Choctaw hymnal: Accompanist Version. Collected and Edited by Gaylia Seely Green, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Language Department. 2019.

Call number: SP-

Secondary Sources

Books

Indigenous Pop: Native American Music From Jazz to Hip Hop / Edited by Jeff Berglund, Jan Johnson, and Kimberli Lee. Tucson: The University of Arizona Press, 2016.

Call number: ML3557 I63 2016

Jacobsen, Kristina M. *The Sound of Navajo Country : Music, Language, and Diné Belonging*. The University of North Carolina Press, 2017.

Call number: E99.N3 J28 2017

Troutman, John William. *Indian Blues : American Indians and the Politics of Music, 1879-1934*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2009.

Call number: E98.D2 T76 2009

Wright-McLeod, Brian. *The Encyclopedia of Native Music : More Than a Century of Recordings From Wax Cylinder to the Internet / Brian Wright-McLeod*.

Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2005. Call number: EBOOK MTSU library.

Video Recording

Rumble: The Indians Who Rocked the World. DVD. Kino Lorber, 2017.

Related Special Sub-Topics: Significant Cultural Figures

Mildred Bailey [Schitsu'umsh (Coeur d'Alene)]

Primary Sources

Sound Recordings

Rockin' Chair / Love me Tonight. Mildred Bailey. 78 RPM. Victor 24117 (Black label (popular) 10-in. double-faced)

Squeeze Me / Down-hearted blues. Mildred Bailey and her Alley Cats. 78 RPM Decca 18109 (10-in. double-faced)

I'll never be the same again / We just couldn't say good-bye. Mildred Bailey ; Paul Whiteman Orchestra. 78 RPM. Victor 24088 (Black label)

Sheet Music

Nemo, Henry, Irving Mills, and Im-Ho. *Blame It On My Last Affair / By Henry Nemo and Irving Mills: By Henry Nemo and Irving Mills*. New York: Mills Music Inc., 1939. (Bailey on cover as performer) Call number: AVERY-000603

Rene, Leon., A. Clark, Clarence Muse, Leon Rene, and Otis Rene. *When It's Sleepy Time Down South*. Hollywood, CA: Freed & Powers Ltd., 1931. (Bailey on cover as performer) Call number: AVERY-000919

Carmichael, Hoagy. *Rockin' Chair / Words and Music By Hoagy Carmichael: Words and Music By Hoagy Carmichael*. N[ew] Y[ork] C[ity]: Southern Music, 1930. (Bailey on cover as performer) Call number: CPMSM-012144

Cornett, Alice, Eddie Asherman, Lee Kuhn, and Ray Anthony. *All That Glitters Is Not Gold / Lyric By Lee Kuhn ; Music By Alice Cornett, Eddie Asherman*. New York, N.Y.: Robbins Music Corp., 1946. (Bailey on cover as performer) Call number: CPMSM-013140

Books

Bailey, Mildred., and Paul Whiteman. *Joe Davis Folio of Paul Whiteman's Favorite Modern Rhythmic Spirituals / As Featured By Mildred Bailey: As Featured By Mildred Bailey*. New York: Joe Davis, 1932. Call number: SP-041138

Secondary Sources

Books

Taylor, Richard. *The Divine Ones: The Female Jazz Singers*. [London?]: City of London Phonograph and Gramophone Society, 2011. Call number: ML 400 .T394 2011

Mellers, Wilfrid Howard. *Angels of the Night: Popular Female Singers of Our Time / Wilfrid Mellers: Popular Female Singers of Our Time / Wilfrid Mellers*. New York: B. Blackwell, 1986. Call number: ML 82 .G4 A5676 1986

Blackfoot (band) [intertribal]

Primary Sources

Iconographic

Band Press Photo. Located in CPM Names Files.

Sound Recordings

Blackfoot Strikes. New York, N.Y.: Atco, 1979. ATCO—SD 38-112

Tomcattin'. New York: Atco, 1980. ATCO -- SD 32-101

Marauder / Blackfoot: Blackfoot. New York: ATCO, 1981. ATCO — SD 32-107

Randy Castillo (Ozzy Osbourne) [Shiewhibak (Isleta Pueblo) / Apache]

Primary Sources

Manuscript Material

Ozzy Osbourne Scrapbook. CPM Accession Number: 92-012

Sound Recordings

Osbourne, Ozzy. *The Ultimate Sin / Ozzy Osbourne: Ozzy Osbourne*. New York, N.Y.: CBS Associated Records, 1986. CBS -- OZ 40026

Osbourne, Ozzy. *No Rest for the Wicked / Ozzy Osbourne: Ozzy Osbourne*. New York, NY: CBS Records, 1988. CBS -- OZ 44245

Jesse Ed Davis [Ka'igwu/Kiowa / Nəmənən/Comanche]

Secondary Sources

Books

Miller, Douglas K., and Joy Harjo. Washita Love Child: The Rise of Indigenous Rock Star Jesse Ed Davis. First edition. Liveright Publishing Corporation, 2025.

Call Number: ML419.D389 M55 2025

Primary Sources

Sound Recordings

Davis, Jesse Ed. *Jesse Davis*. New York, N.Y.: Atco, 1970. ATCO -- SD 33-346

Taj Mahal (Musician) *The Natch'l Blues / Taj Mahal: Taj Mahal*. New York: Columbia, 1968. COLUMBIA -- CS 9698

Taj Mahal (Musician) *Giant Step Taj Mahal: Taj Mahal*. Brentford, Middlesex, England: Edsel Records, 1988. Edsel Records -- DED 264

Nokie Edwards [Tsalagi/Cherokee]

Primary Sources

Sound recordings

The Ventures Play Telstar, the Lonely Bull, and Others. Los Angeles: Dolton, 1963. Dolton Records -- BST-8019

The Ventures. Los Angeles: Dolton/Liberty, 1961. Dolton Records -- BST-8004

The Fabulous Ventures. Los Angeles, CA.: Dolton Records. RDE 003383

Go With the Ventures. Dolton. Dolton Records -- BST-8045

Wayne Newton [Patawomeck]

Primary Sources

Archival materials

The American Diabetes Association Middle Tennessee Chapter Is Proud to Present Wayne Newton [program Book]. [Place of publication not identified]: [American Diabetes Association], [1985-1990]. 000275-PERFORM

Sheet Music

Nemo, Henry, Irving Mills, and Im-Ho. *Blame It On My Last Affair / By Henry Nemo and Irving Mills: By Henry Nemo and Irving Mills*. New York: Mills Music Inc., 1939.
(Bailey on cover as performer) Call number: AVERY-000603

Sound Recordings

Newton, Wayne., Richard Behrke, and Jimmie Haskell. *Wayne Newton*. Hollywood, Calif.: Capitol, 1963. CAPITOL -- ST-1973

Newton, Wayne. *Wayne Newton-- Now!* [Hollywood, CA]: Capitol.
CAPITOL RECORDS -- ST-2445

Newton, Wayne., and Don Vincent. *Wayne Newton's Songs of Faith*. New York: MGM, 1968. RDE 005450

Newton, Wayne. *The Midnight Idol / Wayne Newton*. Los Angeles: Chelsea Records, 1975. CHELSEA -- CHL 507

Newton, Wayne., and Al Gorgoni. *Live At the Frontier, Las Vegas / Wayne Newton: Wayne Newton*. New York: MGM, 1969. MGM RECORDS -- SE 4608

Note: Other sound recordings by Wayne Newton in our catalog.

Books

Newton, Wayne., and Dick Maurice. *Once Before I Go / Wayne Newton With Dick Maurice*. New York: W. Morrow, 1989. ML420.N48 A3 1989

Video recordings

Rock and Roll Call Television Syndications, Inc: Television Syndications, Inc. [s.l.]:
Video Late Show, 1986. VID Rock and roll call
Includes Daddy don't you walk so fast / Wayne Newton

Jim Pepper [Kanza/Kaw-Creek]

Primary Sources

Sound Recordings

Out of Sight and Sound The Free Spirits: The Free Spirits. [New York]: ABC, 1967.
Call number: RDE 000789

Redbone (band) [Yaqui/Shoshone]

Primary Sources

Sound Recordings

Redbone. Redbone. New York City: Epic, 1970. EPIC -- EGP 501

Potlatch. Redbone. New York: Epic, 1970. Epic Records -- E 30109

Come and Get Your Redbone : The Best of Redbone. New York: Epic, 1972.
Epic Records -- KEG 33456

Wovoka / Redbone. New York City: Epic, 1973. Epic Records -- KE 32462

Keep On Keepin' On / Brenda Patterson. New York: Epic, 1970. Epic Records -- BN 26501
[This recording has Redbone as backing vocals and majority of songs are written by Lolly Vegas.]

Robbie Robertson [Kanien'kehá:k (Mohawk)]

Primary Sources

Books

The Rolling Stone Interviews. Compiled By the Editors of Rolling Stone: Compiled By the Editors of Rolling Stone. New York: Paperback Library, 1971.
Call number: ML 394 .R6 R644 1972

The Band. s.l.: s.n., 1970. ML54.6.B36 B3

Sheet Music

Robertson, Robbie. *The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down / Words and Music By J. Robbie Robertson*: Warner Bros. Music: Canaan Music, Inc. ; New York, N.Y., 1970. Call Number: CPMSM-001392

Sound Recordings

Robbie Robertson. Los Angeles, Calif.: Geffen Records, 1987.
Geffen Records -- GHS 24160

The Band. Hollywood, CA: Capitol Records, 2008. CAPITOL -- STAO-132

Music From Big Pink / [the Band]. Hollywood, Calif.: Capitol, 1968.

CAPITOL -- SKAO-2955

Moondog Matinee the Band. Hollywood, California: Arc Music Corp./BMI, 1973.
CAPITOL RECORDS -- SW-11214

The Best of the Band. Hollywood, Calif.: Capitol Records, 1976.
CAPITOL RECORDS -- SN-16331

Rock of Ages / The Band. Hollywood, Calif.: Capitol, 1972. CAPITOL -- SABB 11045

Stage Fright / the Band. Hollywood, CA: Capitol, 1970. CAPITOL RECORDS -- SW-425

Cahoots / The Band. [Hollywood, Calif.]: Capitol, 1971. CAPITOL -- SMAS-651

Dylan, Bob, Robbie Robertson, Rick Danko, Richard Manuel, Garth Hudson, Mickey Jones, and Sandy Konikoff. *The 1966 Live Recordings / Bob Dylan: Bob Dylan*. [Place of publication not identified]: Sony Music Entertainment, 2016.
Sony -- 889853581924

Note: Other Band (musician group) recordings available.

Video Recording

Robertson, Robbie., Martin Scorsese, and Rick Danko. *The Last Waltz / the Last Waltz Productions, Inc: The Last Waltz Productions, Inc*. Farmington Hills, MI: CBS/FOX Video Music, 1984. Call number: VID LAST WALTZ

Hall, Mark. *The Band the Authorized Video Biography / Capital Cities ABC Video Publishing, Inc. ; Produced By Gregory Hall ; Directed By Mark Hall ; Written By Martin Melhuish & Mark Hall*. Stamford, Ct.: Capital Cities/ABC Publishing Inc, 1995. VID BAND

The Antone Indian Family [Onyota'a:ka (Oneida) / Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawk) and Skarù-rę? (Tuscarora)]

Primary Sources

Performance Document

A Gospel Pow-Wow. The Antone Indian Family. Litho, Colorcraft Poster Co. Oklahoma City, OK. 000131-PERFORM

Klaudt Indian Family [Arikara]

Primary Sources

Sound Recordings

Klaudt Indian Family. *Where He Leads Me*. Doraville, GA: Family Tone Records KF907

Various. *Award Winning Gospel*. Nashville, TN. Gospel World Records, Inc. GW-100

Various. *Gospel Hall of Fame*. Nashville, TN. Big Gospel Records, Inc. BGR-100

Taboo (Black Eyed Peas) [Shoshone]

Primary Sources

Books

Taboo, and Steve Dennis. *Fallin' Up : My Story / Taboo With Steve Dennis* 1st
Touchstone hardcover ed. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2011.
ML420.T124 A3 2011

Link Wray [Sawanwa (Shawnee)]

Primary Sources

Sound Recordings

Link Wray: *Link Wray and the Wraymen*. New York, NY: Murray Hill, 1980.
CBS SPECIAL PRODUCTS -- P 18927

Wray, Link. *Link Wray*. New York, N.Y.: Polydor, 1971. POLYDOR -- 24-4064

Wray, Link. *Live At the Paradiso*. Magnum Force, 1980. RDE 004975

Secondary Sources

Books

Kienzle, Richard. *Great Guitarists / Richard Kienzle: Richard Kienzle*. New York City:
Facts on File, 1985. ML 399 .G8 G7334 1985

More Archival Resources

Other Databases and Online Repositories:

[Encyclopedia of Popular Music, 4th Ed.](#)

[Internet Archive](#)

[Library of Congress](#)

[Oxford Music Online](#)

[Rock and Roll Hall of Fame](#)

[Native American Music Awards](#)

[National Museum of the American Indian - Smithsonian](#)

[Woody Guthrie Center](#)

[Artist websites](#)

Other General Resources and Recommended Reading:

Carney, George O., and Hugh W. Foley. *Oklahoma Music Guide : Biographies, Big Hits, and Annual Events*. Stillwater, Okla.: New Forums Press, 2003.
ML200.7.O5 C41 2003