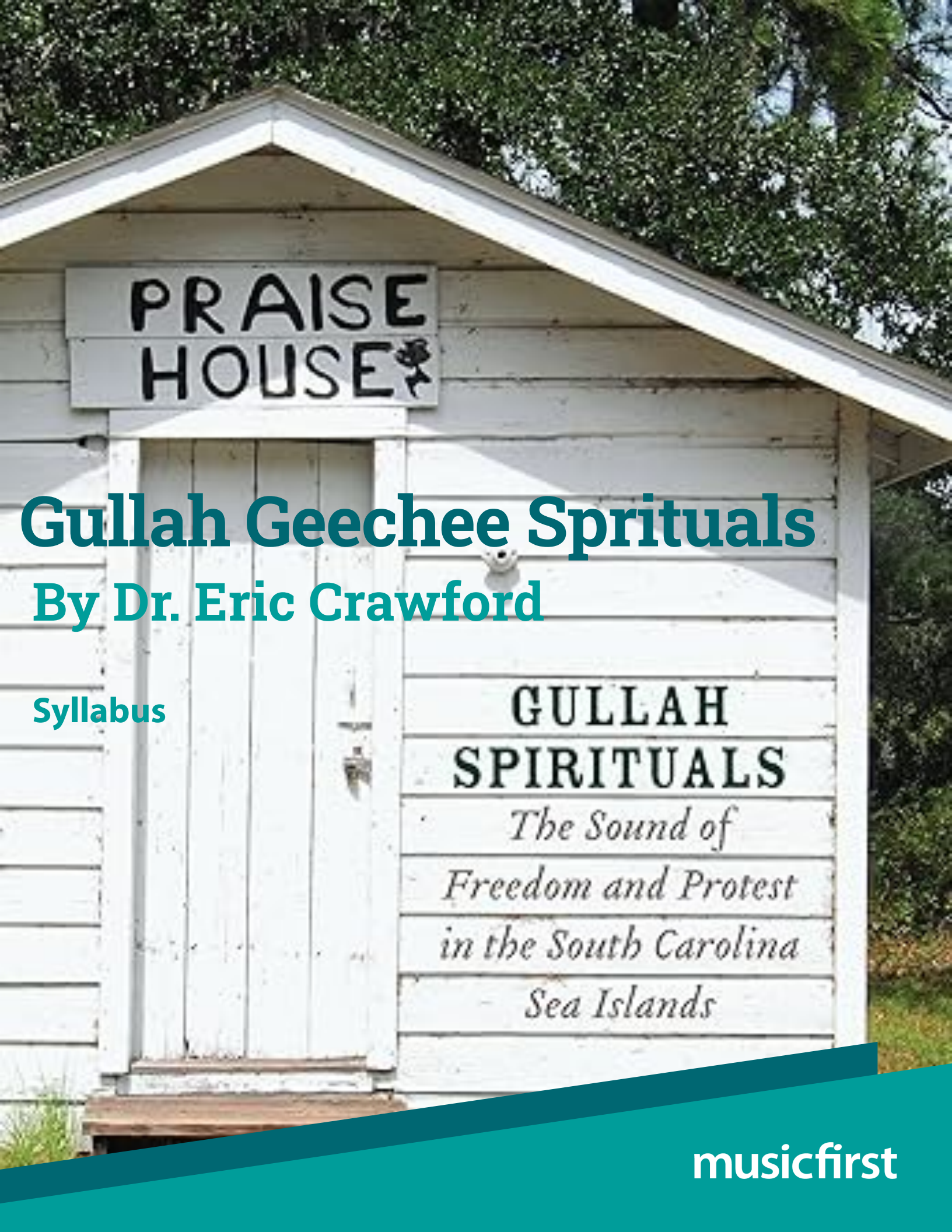




PRAISE
HOUSE

Gullah Geechee Sprituals

By Dr. Eric Crawford

Syllabus

GULLAH
SPIRITUALS

*The Sound of
Freedom and Protest
in the South Carolina
Sea Islands*

musicfirst

Gullah Geechee Spirituals

By Dr. Eric Crawford

Do you know the true origins of songs including Michael, Row the Boat Ashore. Kumbaya, Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit, Go Tell It on the Mountain, and even We Shall Overcome?

This course is designed to provide history and musical experiences related to the song tradition of the Gullah Geechee culture--including many songs we now refer to as spirituals.

Great care has been taken to present the materials in an authentic manner, with accurate historical and social context for all persons involved.

For younger students or if you have instructional time constraints, look for the shorter version of this course.

Content author: Dr. Eric Sean Crawford, associate professor of Musicology, Claflin University

Additional content and audio recordings by Dr. Gregory Gardner, assistant professor of voice, Norfolk State University

For additional information and resources, refer to *Gullah Spirituals: The Sound of Freedom and Protest in the South Carolina Sea Islands* by Eric Sean Crawford (University of South Carolina Press, 2021).

Connection to the singing tradition is at the heart of this course. The course authors recommend engaging students in singing the included songs as much as possible. Feel free to add additional songs from the spiritual tradition, and challenge students to learn the origins of those songs too.

Where feasible and appropriate, create cross-curricular connections for students. Gullah Geechee music and culture provides natural connections American History and opportunities with language arts, dance, and other curricular areas.

Mini-Course:

For younger students or to accommodate instructional time constraints, use the shorter version of this course.

The course authors recommend starting with "Gullah Geechee Culture" to provide basic background for all students. Feel free to pick and choose lesson activities as appropriate for your students and available instructional time.

Gullah Geechee Spirituals (full course)

1. Gullah Geechee Culture

- Who & Where - Gullah Geechee people
- When Rice Was King" video response
- Sing "Peas and Rice"
- Family traditions/Hoppin' John

2. Rowing Songs

- Ghana Fisherman video response
- Sing "Michael Row the Boat Ashore"
- "Michael Row" response
- Create & record rowing song lyrics

3. Ring Shout: Introduction

- Igbo Landing art - response
- "Aye Nevah" response
- Ring Shout traditional vs. contemporary response
- Be a reporter: Ring Shout

4. Ring Shout: Adam in the Garden

- "Adam in the Garden": Listen & compare
- Sing "Adam in the Garden"

5. Gullah Roots

- Priscilla's Story video response
- Roots of Mende Song response
- Sing the "Mende Song"

6. Concert Versions of Gullah Geechee Songs

- Fisk Jubilee Singers video response
- Fisk Jubilee Singers and Queen Victoria response
- Sing "In Bright Mansions Above"
- Traditional vs. Concertized Spirituals video response/reflection

7. Penn School

- Penn School video response
- Proper English Only activity
- Describe the Differences analysis (lyrics)
- Search then Sing (student choice of songs)

8. World War I Gullah Geechee Songs

- WWI & African Soldiers video response
- Compare Versions (listen/analyze)
- Sing "We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder"

9. Civil Rights Songs Part I

- Citizenship Schools video response
- Sound Chart creative activity
- Sing "Woke Up This Mornin'"
- "Woke Up This Mornin'" video response

10. Civil Rights Songs Part II

- Sing "Welcome Table"(option to create new lyrics)
- "We Shall Overcome" video/song origins response
- Sing "Kumbaya"
- Respond: Gullah Geechee Song Connections

Gullah Geechee Spirituals Mini-Course

By Dr. Eric Crawford

Mini-Course:

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The course authors recommend starting with "Gullah Geechee Culture" to provide basic background for all students. Feel free to pick and choose lesson activities as appropriate for your students and available instructional time.

Gullah Geechee Culture

- Who & Where - Gullah Geechee people
- When Rice Was King" video response
- Sing "Peas and Rice"
- Family traditions/Hoppin' John

Rowing Songs

- Ghana Fisherman video response
- Sing "Michael Row the Boat Ashore"
- "Michael Row" response
- Create & record rowing song lyrics

Ring Shout: Introduction

- Igbo Landing art - response
- "Aye Nevah" response
- Ring Shout traditional vs. contemporary
- Be a reporter: Ring Shout

Penn School

- Penn School video response
- Proper English Only activity
- Describe the Differences analysis (lyrics)
- Search then Sing (student choice of songs)

Concert Versions of Gullah Geechee Songs

- Fisk Jubilee Singers video response
- Fisk Jubilee Singers and Queen Victoria response
- Sing "In Bright Mansions Above"
- Traditional vs. Concertized Spirituals video response/reflection

Freedom Songs

- Sing "Welcome Table"(option to create new lyrics)
- "We Shall Overcome" video/song origins response
- Sing "Kumbaya"
- Respond: Gullah Geechee Song Connections