Abstract
Black music, primarily the hip-hop and R&B genres, is prominent at the forefront of the U.S. and global music landscapes, evidencing an influential cultural footprint. Black music refers to music that is innovated by African American people in the United States, derived from Black experiences, stories, and culture, is created to speak to Black audiences, and is created or performed by a Black composer, artist, producer or other Black music creative. Gaps in the collective music business narratives of America fail to acknowledge the critical role African Americans play in shaping our country’s heritage and culture. The National Museum of African American Music (NMAAM) commissioned an analysis as part of its annual State of Black Music programming, in concert with its mission to tell the story of the role of African Americans in creating America’s Soundtrack. In doing so, NMAAM and the authors recognize that this is a story of both business enterprise and artistic endeavor.

Keywords: Black music, National Museum of African American Music, music industry

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Proceedings of the 44th International Summit of the Music & Entertainment Industry Educators Association

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