

Before Beyoncé: Celebrating Black Women in American Music

Not all sources are written by Black women, but I've tried to prioritize Black women's voices telling their own stories alongside other thoughtful biographies and academic studies that give important context while avoiding baseless or salacious gossip. I've focused on full books here. There's a multitude of amazing articles on these themes too—this is a just an introduction to point towards Black women's essential contributions to/creation of American music. Beyoncé stands on the back of all this important history:

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