



WASHINGTON
PERFORMING ARTS

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Upcoming Special Production

Hazel Scott at 100 (2020/21)

Washington Performing Arts commemorates the 100th birthday of unsung American cultural powerhouse, **Hazel Scott (1920-1981)**. Renowned during the 20th century as a brilliant jazz and classical pianist and singer, Scott was one of the most powerful artist-advocates our country has ever known. In addition to being a mainstay at New York's legendary Café Society, Scott appeared in film, on television, and on the radio. She was the first black woman to host a television show in the U.S., and during her time in Paris she organized one of the hottest salons, at which James Baldwin and close friend Mary Lou Williams were mainstays. The centennial will be commemorated with a series of main stage concerts and special events, educational programs, and a digital centennial portal promoting her legacy. These programs are being developed through archival research in consultation with Scott's son, Adam Clayton Powell III.

“There was something thrilling and subversive in Scott’s hybrid art... it seemed clearly rooted in her race and gender.” —*Time Magazine*



Hazel Scott (ca. mid-20th century)
(Scurlock Studio Records, Smithsonian Institution,
National Museum of American History)



Alicia Keys tribute to Hazel Scott
at the 2019 GRAMMY Awards
(Billboard)

CONTACT US TO GET INVOLVED

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Learn More About Hazel Scott

Los Angeles Times

“Who is Hazel Scott? Alicia Keys shouts-out a legendary double piano player”

Randall Roberts | Feb 10, 2019

“Keys acknowledged an expert pianist who made a career out of the maneuver, an entertainer and movie star whose accomplishments made her a household name during her prime.”

[Read the full story](#)



Smithsonian Magazine

“Hazel Scott’s Lifetime of High Notes”

Karen Chilton | October 15, 2009

“There was little separation between Hazel’s performance and her outspoken politics. She attributed it to being raised by very proud, strong-willed, independent-minded women. She was one of the first black entertainers to refuse to play before segregated audiences.”

[Read the full story](#)



**“Still Swinging, Still Classic:
A Musical Biography of Pioneering Pianist Hazel Scott”**

WNYC Arts | Feb 14, 2011

“Known as the “darling of Café Society,” Hazel Scott became a trailblazer in Hollywood; an outspoken civil rights activist which made her a political target...”

[Listen to the full story](#)

“Hazel Scott as Herself”

Fishko Files | Nov 12, 2015

“If Hazel Scott is remembered now, it tends to be for her moment in the film *Rhapsody in Blue: The George Gershwin Story* made in 1945.”

[Listen to the full story](#)