

## **Nissim Black**

[Enjoy some of his music while you read](#)



Nissim Baruch Black (born Damian Jamohl Black) is an American-Israeli rapper, songwriter, and record producer. Raised in inner city Seattle, WA, music is quite literally in his blood. His grandparents were musicians and had played alongside Ray Charles and Quincy Jones, and his parents James “Captain Crunch” Crone and Mia Black were both pioneering members of Seattle hip hop groups Emerald Street boys and Emerald Street girls. His grandfather was a devout Muslim, which was Black’s first introduction to religion. At the age of 14 he converted to Christianity after attending an evangelical summer camp. Black released several albums under his stage name D. Black before retiring in 2011 to focus on his conversion to Orthodox Judaism. You can now find music of his under his new legal name Nissim Black. He now lives in Israel and one of his songs “[Motherland Bounce](#)” serves as a declaration of who he. Black shared he wrote this song to answer the numerous questions he always gets, “are you still black? How black are you? How does that work? But you’re also Jewish? Jews are white?” Black shares he often has to remind people Jews are not white. Black is an advocate and uses his music to spread positivity.

# Wheatley-Provident Hospital

## ***The New Wheatley Provident Hospital***



THIS IS THE BEAUTIFUL HOME WE ARE TRYING TO PURCHASE FOR THE WHEATLEY-PROVIDENT HOSPITAL AND IT REQUIRES \$25,000.00 TO DO IT. WILL YOU DO YOUR BIT TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE?

Wheatley-Provident Hospital is the sole surviving hospital building in Kansas City that was established for and run by the African-American community during the period of 1902 to 1972. Located at 1826 Forest, it is one of the first hospitals in the nation entirely staffed by African-American doctors, nurses, and administrators. It is also one of the few hospitals training African American doctors and nurses in the early 1900s, and the first model children's ward in the nation.

In 1902 Dr. J. Edward Perry founded a small hospital and training school for nurses, by 1910 it evolved into the Perry Sanitarium and Nurse Training Association. As the community continued to grow, Dr. Perry worked with civic associations to move to the former St. Joseph's Parochial School. In 1918 this building became the original wing of the training association and was then renamed Wheatley-Provident Hospital.

# John Jordan “Buck” O’Neil



John Jordan "Buck" O'Neil Jr. (November 13, 1911 – October 6, 2006) was an American first baseman and manager in the [Negro American League](#), mostly with the [Kansas City Monarchs](#). O'Neil earned a spot as the first baseman for the Kansas City Monarchs, one of the elite teams of the Negro Leagues. From 1939 to 1942, Kansas City won four consecutive Negro American League pennants. O'Neil told Sports Illustrated about the glory years of the Monarchs: "We were like the New York Yankees. We had that winning tradition, and we were proud. We stayed in the best hotels in the world. They just happened to be owned by Black people. We ate in the best restaurants in the world. They just happened to be run by Blacks." in the Negro American League, mostly with the Kansas City Monarchs. O'Neil earned a spot as the first baseman for the Kansas City Monarchs, one of the elite teams of the Negro Leagues. From 1939 to 1942, Kansas City won four consecutive Negro American League pennants. O'Neil told Sports Illustrated about the glory years of the Monarchs: "We were like the New York Yankees. We had that winning tradition, and we were proud. We stayed in the best hotels in the world. They just happened to be owned by Black people. We ate in the best restaurants in the world. They just happened to be run by Blacks."

After his playing days, he worked as a scout for the Chicago Cubs and became the first African American coach in Major League Baseball. After 33 years with the Cubs, he joined the Kansas City Royals as a scout. In his later years he became a popular and renowned speaker and interview subject, helping to renew widespread interest in the Negro leagues, and played a major role in establishing the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City, Missouri.

The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum honored him posthumously in 2008, creating the Buck O'Neil Lifetime Achievement Award. He was named to the Hall of Fame in 2022.

## The Fisk Jubilee Singers

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Fisk University is a historically black liberal arts college in Nashville, Tennessee. It was founded in 1866 to educate freed slaves during the Reconstruction era and is the oldest institute of higher education in Nashville. It was the first school constructed for Freed slaves in the south. Unfortunately, by 1871 the storied HCBU was on the verge of financial collapse. Professor George White, who was also the treasurer at the time, believed the students had something special that might save the university. He organized the Fisk Jubilee Singers, an African American a cappella ensemble that sang folk hymns or jubilees composed for worship and solace. The original chorus included 7 of 9 former slave children. Their music conveyed the black struggle of slaves, and messages of hope, love, healing, and resilience. These songs with deep cultural roots later became known as the Negro Spirituals. Facing continued racism and opposition, it certainly wasn't picnics or walks in the park, but these students took the world by storm as they toured the U.S. and Europe. Among others, they performed for President Ulysses Grant, Queen Victoria, and the most popular preachers of the day. The Fisk Jubilee Singers not only saved their university from financial collapse but introduced the world to a beautiful genre of music that cut across racial barriers and brought culturally diverse people together at an improbable time in history. They also earned enough to build the celebrated Jubilee Hall in 1876. Now, more than 125 years later, the chorus continues to inspire with their rich tradition of spiritual music. They have collaborated with numerous contemporary artists. In 2000, they were inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame. They have had several Grammy nominations over the years, and won their first, long-overdue Grammy in 2021. They were the first group of traveling artists out of Music City and each individual member since 1871 has a unique story that embodies their powerful jubilees.

## Larry Doby “The Forgotten Hero”



Jackie Robinson broke baseball's color barrier when he took the field for the Brooklyn Dodgers in April 1947. Few have heard the name Larry Doby, the second black player to take the field just months after Robinson. On July 5, 1947, Doby's Cleveland Indians teammates averted their eyes as the WWII veteran entered the clubhouse. None of his teammates offered him a glove. Doby had to go to the visitor's clubhouse to get his first base glove that day. Doby had to suffer the same indignities that Robinson did but was never jealous of the attention or accolades Robinson received. In 1978, Doby was second to yet another Robinson as he became the second black manager in MLB behind Frank Robinson. After being called up from the Negro Leagues and integrating American League ballparks, Doby was voted to 7 All-Star games, won 2 World Series titles, and was inducted to the Hall of Fame in 1998. In December 2023, the late Larry Doby was awarded a rare bipartisan congressional medal of honor. On one side of the medal, is a picture of Doby embracing a white teammate, on the other side, per his family's request, is an inscription that reads "We are stronger together as a team, as a nation, as a world." Larry Doby may have been second twice, but he certainly didn't play second fiddle. Larry Doby endured the road less traveled with grace and dignity, leaving an indelible mark on the history of America's favorite pastime.

## Miss Major Griffin-Gracy



Miss Major is a Black transgender activist who has been fighting for the transgender and gender non-conforming community for over 50 years. She is likely the most well known living veteran of the Stonewall Riots, a former sex worker, and a survivor of Dannemora Prison and Bellevue Hospital's "queen tank." Her global legacy of activism is rooted in her own experiences, and she continues her work to uplift transgender women of color, particularly those who have survived incarceration and police brutality.

Miss Major's fierce commitment and intersectional approach to justice brought her to care directly for people with HIV/AIDS in New York in the early 1980s, and later to drive San Francisco's first mobile needle exchange. During this time, caring for people with HIV/AIDS was one of the only "legitimate" jobs that transgender woman, particularly transgender women of color, were able to sustain. As director of the Transgender, Gender-Variant, and Intersex (TGI) Justice Project, she'd return to prisons as a mentor to her 'gurls' inside. She now runs House of GG-TILIFI, a retreat center for trans and gender nonconforming leaders from the Southern U.S., in Little Rock, Arkansas. She recently released a memoir about her lifelong activism composed of interviews by journalist Toshio Meronek: *Miss Major Speaks: Conversations with a Black Trans Revolutionary*.

References:

<https://missmajor.net/>

*Miss Major Speaks: Conversations with a Black Trans Revolutionary*

<https://www.them.us/story/transvisionaries-miss-major>

## School-to-Prison Pipeline



The “school-to-prison pipeline” refers to the policies and practices that push our nation’s schoolchildren, especially our most at-risk children, out of classrooms and into the juvenile and criminal justice systems. This pipeline reflects the prioritization of incarceration over education, particularly for Black and brown children and other marginalized communities.

The American Civil Liberties Union outlines several "stops" on this pipeline, including:

### **Public Schools:**

--Inadequate resources: For most children, this begins with inadequate resources such as overcrowded classrooms, lack of qualified teachers, and lack of funding for "extras" like counselors or even needed materials (e.g., textbooks). This lack of resources leads to higher rates of disengagement and dropout: a vicious cycle, as test scores and other student performance measures can directly impact the funding the school receives. This, coupled with "zero-tolerance" policies that automatically impose severe punishments on students (e.g., suspension or expulsion) for breaking school policies, regardless of scale of offense (e.g., bringing scissors to school).

--Harsh policies: For many students, overly harsh policies can push students down the "pipeline." Suspended and expelled children are often left unsupervised and without constructive activities; they also can easily fall behind in their coursework, leading to a greater likelihood of disengagement and drop-outs. All of these factors increase the likelihood of court involvement.

### **Policing School Hallways:**

-Many under-resourced schools become gateways by increased reliance on police rather than teachers and administrators to maintain discipline, as there is often not capacity for them to do so. Increasingly, districts employ school resource officers (SRO) to patrol school hallways, often with little to no training working with youth.

-As a result, children in these settings are far more likely to be subject to school-based arrests—the majority of which are for non-

violent offenses, such as disruptive behavior. The rise in school-based arrests is the quickest route from the classroom to the jailhouse and most directly exemplifies the criminalization of school children.

### **Disciplinary Alternative Schools:**

-In some districts, students that have been suspended or expelled have no other options but to be sent to disciplinary alternative schools. These alternative schools, which are often private and run by for-profit companies, are often immune from educational accountability standards (such as minimum classroom hours and curriculum requirements) and often fail to provide meaningful educational services to the students in increasingly vulnerable situations.

-From here, students may return to their schools at a further disadvantage, having fallen behind even further. Alternatively, they are funneled directly from alternative schools into the juvenile justice system.

### **Court Involvement and Juvenile Detention:**

-Youth involved in the juvenile justice system are often denied procedural protections, such as having lawyers. They also may end up in secured detention facilities for violating probation for minor offenses, such as disobeying teachers or missing school.

-Students of color are far more likely than their white peers to be suspended, expelled, or arrested for the same kind of conduct at school. Those with disabilities are particularly likely to travel down this pipeline, as well.

-Students who enter the juvenile justice system face many barriers to their re-entry into traditional schools. The vast majority of these students never graduate from high school.

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