

Blues in the Garden

This lecture explores the roots of American Blues music. The Blues tell us about the hardships of this path we call life but they also ask questions, the same questions we ask our Father. Why does God allow suffering? Can this pass? In the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus shows us His true humanity. He shows us what struggle looks and feels like. Jesus gives us a great gift of knowing that through our struggles we can also experience the journey from anguish to joy.

Ruth Naomi Floyd has been at the forefront of creating vocal jazz settings that express Christian theology for 20 years. A Vocalist and Composer on the international music scene, Ruth has dedicated a discography of five compact discs explicitly dedicated to a jazz expression of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Critics have praised Ruth's discography for its distinctive sound of progressive ensemble jazz that is seamlessly blended with explicit Biblical messages of unwavering faith in God. Ruth leads her own multi-faceted ensemble and her music consists primarily of original compositions. Ruth conducts several vocal clinics as well as lectures on the history and celebration of the African American Spirituals. Ruth is Adjunct Professor of Vocals in the Church Music Program at Cairn University. For almost two decades, Ruth has been devoted and active in providing compassionate care and spiritual support to people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS in United States and Africa. Ruth is also a noted fine art photographer (www.RNFimages.com). She is married to Kenyatta, an ordained minister, and they have two children, Isaiah and Grace. www.RuthNaomiFloyd.com

- I. History of the Blues
 - A. African American Spirituals
 1. Sorrow Songs
 2. Work Songs
 3. Escape Songs
 - B. Freedom and The Blues
 1. Emancipation Proclamation

2. Forerunner to African American Gospel Music

3. Redemptive Blues

II. Blues and The Old Testament

A. Lament

a. David's Lament

b. Job's Grief

c. Jeremiah's Blues

III. Jesus In The Garden of Gethsemane

A. Abandonment

1. Watch and pray

B. Despair & Struggle

1. Let this cup pass from me

C. Relinquishment

1. Not as I will, but as you will

IV. Suffering

A. Why does God allow suffering?

B. Enduring loss, afflictions and grief

C. The Burden of the Cross

D. The Joy of the Cross