

VIP

☆ VERY IMPORTANT PEOPLE ☆

MAHALIA JACKSON



DENISE LEWIS PATRICK

INTERIOR ILLUSTRATIONS BY
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HARPER

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VIP: Mahalia Jackson

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First Edition

Timeline: Mahalia Jackson

1911

Mahalia Jackson is born in New Orleans, Louisiana

1916?

Charity Clark, Mahalia's mother, dies

1927

Mahalia leaves for Chicago with Aunt Hannah

1929

The Johnson Gospel Singers form

1932

Thomas A. Dorsey writes "Take My Hand"

1936

Mahalia and Isaac Hockenhull marry

1937

Mahalia records two gospel songs with Decca and goes on the road with Thomas A. Dorsey

1941

The United States enters WWII; Mahalia and Isaac divorce

1946

Mahalia records her first four songs with Apollo Records in New York

1947

Mahalia records "Move On Up" with Apollo

1950

Mahalia sings at Carnegie Hall

1952

Mahalia's first European tour to England, France, Holland, Belgium, and Denmark; Mahalia becomes ill

1953

Mahalia leaves Apollo Records, signs with Columbia Records

1954

The Mahalia Jackson Show is first broadcast on radio in Chicago

1955

Rosa Parks refuses to give up her bus seat; the Montgomery, Alabama, bus boycott begins

1956

Mahalia meets Martin Luther King Jr. and Ralph Abernathy at the National Baptist Convention

1956

Mahalia sings at a rally to support the Montgomery bus boycott

Timeline: Mahalia Jackson

1959

President Dwight D. Eisenhower invites Mahalia to sing at the White House for the first time

1961

Mahalia's second European tour, including the Holy Land

1962

Mahalia receives the first Grammy for gospel music

1963

Mahalia sings at the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom

1963

Sixteenth Street Church is bombed in Birmingham, Alabama; four girls are killed

1963

President John F. Kennedy Jr. is shot and killed in Dallas, Texas

1964

Mahalia and Sigmund Galloway marry

1965

President Lyndon B. Johnson invites Mahalia to the White House

1968

Martin Luther King Jr. is shot and killed in Memphis, Tennessee

1971

Mahalia tours Asia and meets the emperor of Japan and prime minister of India

1971

Mahalia visits army bases in Germany; she falls ill

1972

Mahalia dies on January 27, 1972



VIP Hall of Fame

Mahalia Jackson is one of many Black female singers and musicians who became activists and championed important antiracist causes. Here are a few more you should know about!



Marian Anderson was an award-winning vocalist who faced injustice and prejudice, along with many other Black artists, during the Jim Crow era. In 1939, after an organization would not give her permission to perform because she was

Black, Marian sang for a crowd of 75,000 at the Lincoln Memorial, with the support of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt.



H.E.R. is the stage name of Gabriella Wilson, a Black and Filipina singer, songwriter, and activist. Her award-winning 2020 song “I Can’t Breathe” demands an end to police brutality toward Black and brown people in

the U.S. while calling out the privileged people who enable it.

Nina Simone was a classical pianist and celebrated jazz icon and a powerful member of the civil rights movement. Her song “To Be Young, Gifted, and Black” became an anthem during the late 1960s, and she



often performed at rallies, including the Selma to Montgomery marches.



Sister Souljah is a hip-hop artist, political commentator, and activist who held concerts and protests against racial discrimination and violence in the 1980s. She is also a writer, and her debut novel, *The Coldest Winter Ever*, was a bestseller.

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