

# G&S Reflections: What does Black History Month mean to Ayesah Johnson?

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When I think about Black History Month, I keep it positive, taking time to reflect on the amazing resilience and beauty of my people. I am awestruck by how my ancestors survived despite mountainous obstacles and unyielding denial of our humanity. I am a thankful descendant of these survivors.

A central aspect of our survival was, and still is, music. From the tribal songs of enslaved Africans that kept the memory of the homeland alive, and the guiding melodies of freedom songs; to the woeful moans of "Strange Fruit," and the bold proclamation of "I'm Black and I'm Proud," our music unapologetically acknowledges and gives full expression to our varied experiences as Black people in the United States.

This Black History Month at Goulston & Storrs, we shared a bit of the Black experience in a music playlist called *Joy is the New Black* – a compilation of music by Black artists, curated by Black business professionals and attorneys at the firm. We are excited to share this playlist with you. We hope the music shines a light for better understanding and brings a little joy to everyone who listens. What does Black History Month mean to you?

[\*\*\*Joy is the New Black\* playlist \(Apple Music\)\*\*](#)

[\*\*\*Joy is the New Black\* playlist \(Spotify\)\*\*](#)