Black Sacred Music is a semiannual (Spring and Fall) publication devoted to scholarly articles, essays, and book and record reviews in the areas of black sacred music, religious music of Africa and of the African diaspora, and black secular music and musicians analyzed theologically.

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We are learning to be black, African, and being proud of it, we are realizing that God created us as glorious originals and not as carbon copies of other races. And we are learning that we have been redeemed as African human beings and that God wants us to worship, adore, and serve God and God’s world as authentically African persons.

I am glad that we are taking seriously the task of being authentically Christian and African in all sorts of ways. I want to commend the proceedings of a conference of earnest African scholars and Christians dealing with the issue of authentic African Christian worship, entitled “The Worshipping Church in Africa.” Let us go ahead to implement its recommendations. The people are impatient.

— from the foreword by Archbishop Desmond M. Tutu

This special issue of Black Sacred Music: A Journal of Theomusicology presents the proceedings of an important conference held in Blantyre, Malawi, in November 1992, sponsored by the Association of Christian Lay Centers in Africa.

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