



AFTERGLOW: SONGS OF PROTEST AND THE STYLE OF SOUND



An analysis of how music,
fashion, and social change are
intrinsically interconnected »»

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THE INTERSECTION OF MUSIC AND SOCIAL CHANGE



The intersection of music and social change is a powerful catalyst for cultural transformation. Music has historically served as a resonant medium through which artists convey messages of protest, resilience, and hope. From anthems that fueled civil rights movements to protest songs that echoed sentiments of political dissent, music has a unique ability to amplify social narratives. Artists often act as societal mirrors, reflecting the struggles and aspirations of their time. Whether through lyrics that challenge the status quo or melodies that evoke collective emotions, music has the potential to unite people, inspire activism, and bring attention to social issues.





SONGS OF PROTEST

For the series, "Songs of Protest," I wrote about the 2019 R&B album "A Tree Planted by Water" by musician Eryn Allen Kane who sings alongside spoken word poet Aja Monet to craft a magical blend of acoustic neo-soul rhythms and rhymes, telling a story of liberation. Through the use of spoken word poetry, free jazz influence, and symbolic imagery of the natural world, Kane and Monet express tones of atonement, fostering the listener towards finding inner sanctitude, peace, and strength in resistance to global conditions. These stylistic choices work well together to speak simultaneously of society and against it as they touch on the true power of words and ideas, and how these in-turn become our material reality.



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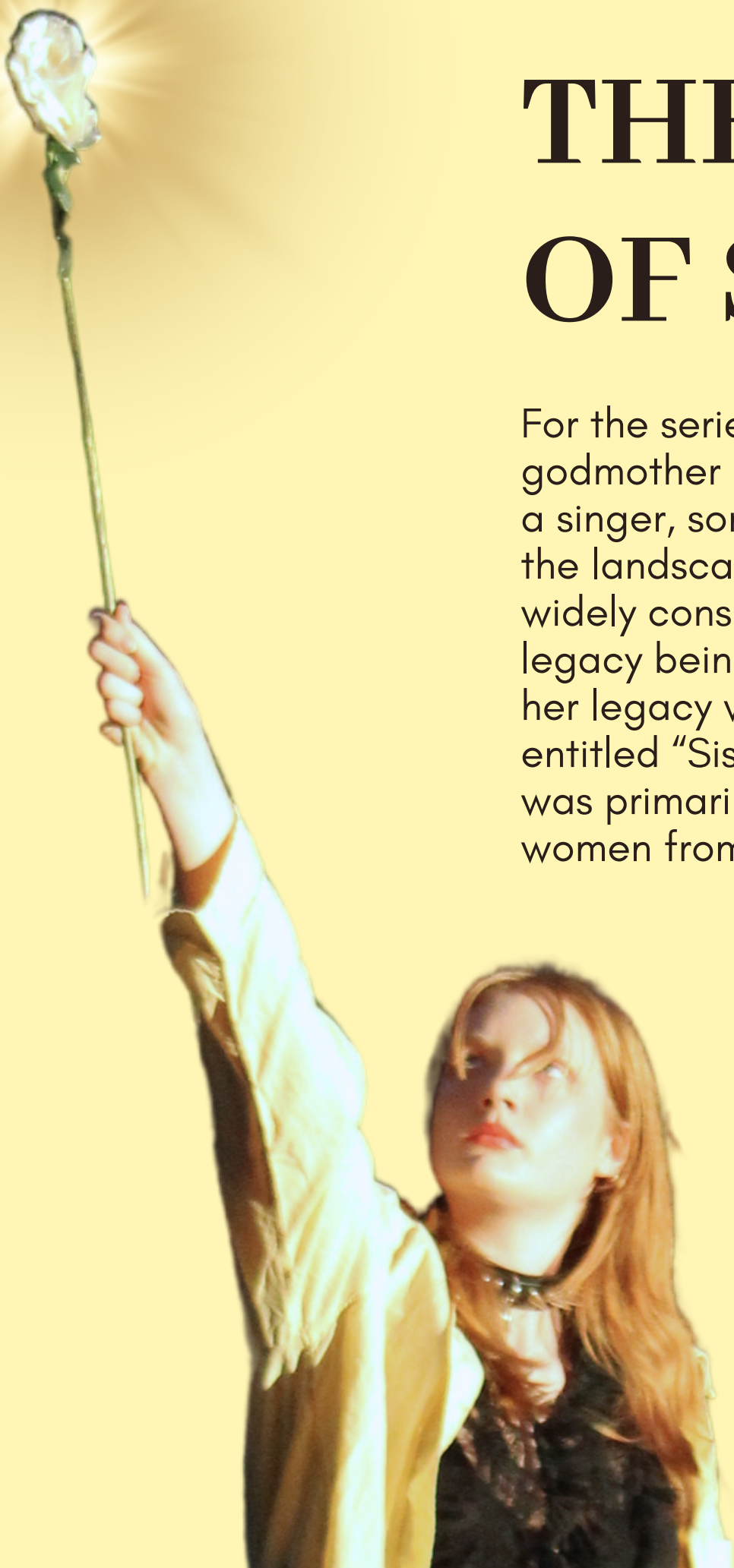


THE STYLE OF SOUND

For the series "The Style of Sound," I paid tribute to the godmother of rock and roll, Sister Rosetta Tharpe, who was a singer, songwriter, and guitarist who completely changed the landscape of music. As a queer Black woman, Tharpe is widely considered to be the "original soul sister" despite her legacy being widely forgotten about in music history. Thus, her legacy was honored in a 2020 Pyer Moss fashion show entitled "Sister," which was a celebration of Blackness and was primarily created to counter erasure of Queer Black women from music and pop culture.



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NOISE AS AN ECHO & WITNESS

In a loud world inundated with the sounds of humankind, noise serves as a witness, an echo, and most importantly, a disorder of silence. From the soft, ultrarapid flapping of a bird's wings, to the slow, steady clamoring of a factory machine, most essential things happen in the presence of noise. noise captures and embodies the chaotic, diverse, and dissonant aspects of our surroundings. In a metaphorical sense, noise becomes a testimony to the complexity of our experiences, symbolizing the cacophony of life events that shape our existence. Whether as a reverberating echo or a witness to the multifaceted nature of our surroundings, noise encapsulates the dynamic and ever-changing nature of the world we inhabit.



Have more
questions
about music
and social
change?

