

# Music Was the Soul

# of the Movement



Too often, the words of Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X drown out the mass of voices responsible for the success of the African American civil rights movement, and the black freedom struggle, that encompassed most of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

***Research is being undertaken to understand how the emergence of a black popular music form – rhythm & blues and soul – was substantially influential to the black freedom struggle of the 1950s and 1960s.***

*From Detroit's 'Motown' label, producing artists such as the Supremes, that eroded racial barriers and became the most successful black business ever to exist.*

*To Memphis' 'Stax' label, that proved that integration could not only work but thrive and that southern race relations were evolving.*

***Black music and its cultural politics is the perfect representation of the community spirit, collective identity, and the dreams of the ordinary that permitted the achievements of the civil rights movement.***

