

**CAROLINA LIVE!—OUR MUSICAL HISTORY**  
**POST-SHOW WRITING PROMPTS**  
**6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade English/Language Arts**

**Time:** 20–30 minutes

**Standards:** ELA: Informative/Explanatory and Argument/Opinion Writing

**Directions:** *I. The class will read the following passage out loud.*

Did you know that since early days in North Carolina, black and white musicians have played music together and have learned from each other?

Did you know that the banjo came to North Carolina from **Africa**, and the fiddle came from **Europe**? Banjo players and fiddlers created a new American music—what we call “old-time” music.

Did you know that old-time music led to blues, jazz, bluegrass, gospel, and R&B? All these styles borrowed from and shared with each other. They all blended **African** and **European** music. Did you know that these music styles are at the root of the music you listen to today, including country and hip-hop?

Did you know that these North Carolina musicians changed music forever?:

- The Salem Band and Moravian brass music
- Tommy Jarrell and old-time music
- Blind Boy Fuller and Piedmont blues
- John Coltrane and jazz
- Doc Watson and bluegrass
- Shirley Caesar and gospel
- “5” Royales and R&B

The musicians you’re learning about are some of the most important musicians in American history. Their influence continues. North Carolina is still home to some of the best musicians in the country. People come here from all over the world to learn about our great North Carolina music!

*II. Pick one of these prompts:*

**Option #1: How did North Carolina get to be such a great place for music?**

**Option #2: North Carolina is the best state in the country for music because...**

**Directions:** *Think about the following and add details as you write your paragraph:*

- settlers brought their instruments from Europe and Africa
- people shared their music to create new American music
- “old-time” music led to the music styles you heard in the show
- these music styles are at the root of today’s music
- NC music legends were some of the best musicians playing in these styles
- NC is still a great place for music