And Now I See: Race, Racism and American Music
Post-Show Discussion Questions

1. Were any of the stories of racism influencing a specific style of music or musician familiar to you? Did any of them shock you? Are there other stories of how racism influenced music, musicians, or other artists in general that you were aware of and can share?

2. A number of musicians were mentioned in the show who used their influence to help raise awareness of social issues and make positive social change. Are there any musicians that you're aware of who have used their voice and influence for good?

3. What are some of the reasons why enslaved Africans would often sing while they were forced to work on plantations?

4. Can you think of a song that uses Call and Response?

5. What are some features of African-American music? How do these differ from the European traditions?

6. Next time you hear a song, listen carefully to see if you can pick out what styles of music might have influenced the band and/or songwriter. What specific elements of those influencing styles can you hear in the song?

7. With the cover songs of the 1950s, what were some of the ways that record labels changed the recordings and artists to make them more appealing to white audiences?

8. What are your thoughts on Elvis Presley and his legacy as the King of Rock n Roll? Was he culturally appropriating African-American music or did his contributions actually help African-American musicians?

9. Can you think of a song that uses swing rhythm rather than straight rhythm?

10. What are some specific ways that you can celebrate African-American excellence in the arts, and the amazing influence of African-Americans on so many American styles of music?