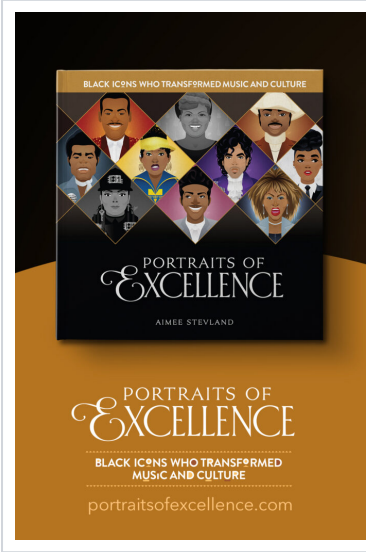


Portraits of Excellence: Black Icons Who Transformed Music and Culture

By Aimee Stevland



BOOK DETAILS

Genre	Non-Fiction
Tropes	Music & Pop Culture Illustrated Biographies
Release Date	October 1, 2026

LOGLINE

Portraits of Excellence reimagines cultural royalty and invites you to meet the Black creators behind our culture through this vibrant collection of FIFTY stunning portraits. No other title blends recognizable portraiture, cultural history, and playful nostalgia to share the truth behind American culture.

SUMMARY

Cultural Royalty Reimagined. Portraits of Excellence is a vibrant “art gallery in a book” featuring fifty Black creators who shaped our world. From household names like Prince and Janet Jackson to unsung pioneers like Sister Rosetta Tharpe and Dapper Dan, this collection reimagines cultural royalty. Each full-page portrait blends the nostalgic charm of Saturday morning cartoons with the nobility of classical Greek busts. This unique style creates a visual record of affirming imagery, inviting readers to discover the faces behind the music, style, and stories that define our culture today. This book is an essential collection for art lovers, music fans, and educators seeking a more truthful look at pop culture. This project aims to return resources to the community that inspired it, directing half of net proceeds from book sales to Black-led cultural and educational organizations.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Aimee Stevland is a San Francisco Bay Area artist with decades of design experience in music merchandising, brand design, and illustration. She grew up near Detroit, where she began creating portraits of her musical heroes—an interest she has quietly nurtured for over 30 years. Living with focal dystonia, a neurological condition affecting her drawing hand, she adapted to digital art, bringing renewed perspective, care, and authenticity to her vibrant portraits.

LINKS & CONTACT

Official Site:
<http://portraitsofexcellence.com/>

Buy Artist Direct:
<http://portraitsofexcellence.com/>

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