

MUSICIANS & COMPOSERS

BLACK VIOLIN

"RECOGNIZE YOUR POWER. DO WHAT YOU LOVE. LOVE WHAT YOU DO. AND DO IT UNAPOLOGETICALLY."



Members: Kevin Sylvester

Pronunciation: (keh-VIN suhl-VEST-er)

and Wilner Baptiste

Pronunciation: (WIL-nuhr bap-TEEST)

Formed: 2004 - present

Location: Fort Lauderdale, FL

Known for: Classically-trained string instrumentalists, & Music composition

MATH HEROES

Kevin and Wilner use math when playing and writing music to:

- Read music charts and count the beats per minute. Some of the beats are whole notes and some are fractions.
- Follow patterns to decide the order of notes when composing music.
- Determine the speed or tempo of a song. This means how fast or slow to play and which chords they need to play in a certain amount of time.

HAVING FUN PLAYING STRINGS

- Black Violin is the name of a musical group. Group members are Kevin, who plays the violin, and Wilner, who plays the viola.
- Black Violin mixes classical music with hip-hop music. They demonstrate how these styles of music compliment each other.
- Black Violin's goals are to help kids see the positives in all types of music. They use their music to teach kids that it is okay to do something you love and to do it in a way that no one has ever done it.
- Kevin and Wilner met in their high school orchestra class. They live in Florida and play music all over the world.

REFERENCES

- Black Violin (2020). <https://blackviolin.net/>
- Black Violin. (2016, May 12). *Behind the Scenes with Black Violin* [Video]. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_YzHk9NZep8
- Totty, L. (2015). With 'stereotypes,' a duo raised on hip-hop and classical has it both ways. NPR. <https://www.npr.org/2015/09/17/440603268/with-stereotypes-a-duo-raised-on-hip-hop-and-classical-has-it-both-ways>
- Unknown (2021). Black Violin [Photograph]. Courtesy of the artist