

GWEN LASTER'S VIOLIN SPEAKS.

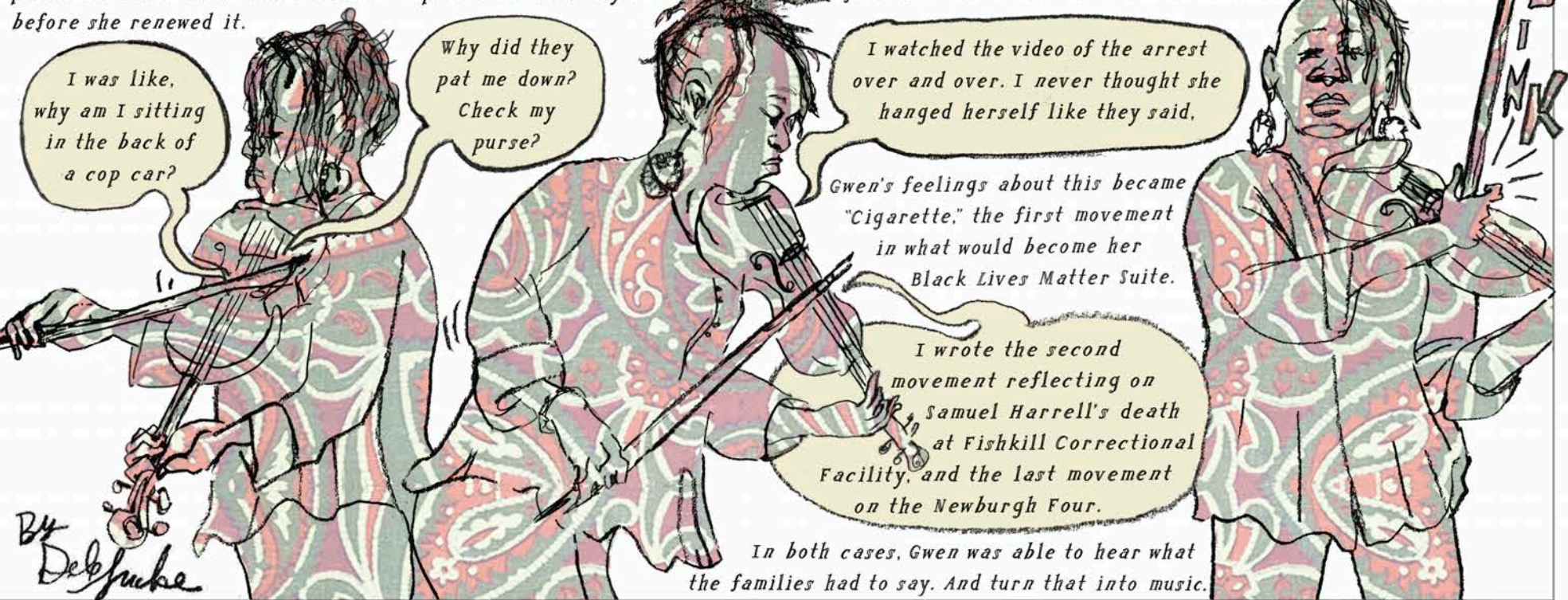
Gwen Laster
Violinist/Activist
Composer/
Teacher
Beacon,
NY



One of those situations was being pulled over by the police on Route 9 for reasons unknown. Gwen's car was then towed after police said her insurance had been expired for nine days before she renewed it.

A few months after that, Sandra Bland was pulled over for a traffic violation in Texas and put in a jail cell where she was later found dead.

Harvey
Wirht



I was like,
why am I sitting
in the back of
a cop car?

Why did they
pat me down?
Check my
purse?

I watched the video of the arrest
over and over. I never thought she
hanged herself like they said,

Gwen's feelings about this became
"Cigarette," the first movement
in what would become her
Black Lives Matter Suite.

I wrote the second
movement reflecting on
Samuel Harrell's death
at Fishkill Correctional
Facility, and the last movement
on the Newburgh Four.

In both cases, Gwen was able to hear what
the families had to say. And turn that into music.