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Bob Edwards reporting:

The 1990 Tony Awards will be presented Sunday night in New York. Several composers have been nominated for their work on Broadway musicals. But there is no category for the composers of musical scores in dramas. Yet the music of Dwight Andrews has played a significant role in the plays of August Wilson. Wilson's "Piano Lesson" is up for five Tonys in other categories. Phyllis Jaffe says composer Dwight Andrews tries to integrate his music with the playwright's vision.

Phyllis Jaffe reporting:

August Wilson sees his work as part of an oral tradition as old as African-American culture itself, going back to the storytellers who passed down tribal history and codes of conduct. Wilson layers his stories with songs. It's like the blues, he says, where music provides an emotional reference for ideas and attitudes.

August Wilson: There's certain information that you want to survive, that you want to pass on, so you do it through storytelling. And of course, if you tell a story--and the first thing you want is for whoever hears the story to go and repeat it to someone. So you have to make it memorable. Music was a way of doing it.

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(Jaffe continues reporting on Dwight Andrews' music for August Wilson's drama. He teaches music theory at Emory University in Atlanta.)

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