

So You Want to Sing Spirituals

Appendix 1 – Recommended Recordings

By Randye Jones

There are no indications that the high regard attained by the Spirituals will be followed by any marked decline in interest. The vogue of these songs is by no means a suddenly popular fad; it has been reached through long and steady development in the recognition of their worth. Three generations ago their beauty struck a few collectors who were attuned to perceive it. A little while later the Fisk Jubilee Singers made them known to the world and gave them their first popularity, but it was a popularity founded mainly on sentiment. The chief effect of this slave music upon its white hearers then was that they were touched and moved with deepest sympathy for the “poor Negro.” The Spirituals passed next through a period of investigation and study and of artistic appreciation. Composers began afterwards to arrange them so that their use was extended to singers and music-lovers. And then they made their appearance on concert programs and their appeal was greatly broadened. Today, the Spirituals have a new vogue, but they produce a reaction far different from the sort produced by their first popularity; the effect now produced upon white hearers is not sympathy for the “poor Negro” but admiration for the creative genius of the race. The Spirituals have passed through and withstood many untoward conditions on the long march to the present appreciation of their value; they have come from benighted disregard through scorn, apathy, misappraisal, even the ashamedness and neglect of the race that created them, to where they are recognized as the finest distinctive artistic contribution America can offer the world.¹

The singer, vocal instructor, or even library that supports those musicians, will find a growing range of options for obtaining recordings of spirituals. From the earliest days of sound recordings, concert artists have preserved their performances on 78 rpm, long-playing or 45 rpm discs, as well as contemporary compact discs and digital downloadable files available on academic and commercial database services. So, the listener has the option of playing not only contemporary artists on compact discs and streamed files, but even exploring these old recordings that are now being restored for playback through modern systems.

Below is a selection of recordings recommended for those beginning a collection of spirituals. The list is mostly limited to recordings available on compact disc, though other formats were included if they were not available on CD. It covers a variety of voice types, time periods, interpretative styles, and accompaniment. There are also several compilations at the end of the list that offer a variety of different singers and composers spanning the decades.

This is far from a comprehensive listing, especially for the performer or teacher seeking recordings that reflect specific vocal characteristics. Some recording artists have numerous albums with songs that have been reissued over the years, and, thus, there are opportunities to

either hear a singer's performance of the same songs over a span of years or to find the same song compiled with a variety of other selections.

Certainly, one can examine how different singers approached the same song. For example, "Deep River" has been the source chosen by several composers, and it has been recorded on hundreds of albums. Studying the interpretative decisions made—including use of dialect, melodic improvisation and tempos—for that one song can help define the extensive range of options available to the performer of the concert spiritual.

Here, the reference to "traditional" is different than has often been found on recordings. On a number of recordings, the composers who set the spirituals have not been listed. Instead, they designate the songs as traditional—Singers, please, if the work is worthy of your performance, its composer is worthy of credited acknowledgement. In this case, the term "traditional" is used when the vocalist sang the work a cappella, which tends to bring the performance closer to the original folk song rendering.

SOPRANOS

Kathleen Battle (b. 1948)

Angels' Glory (1996) – Sony Classical SK 62723

CD, with guitar or a cappella

Songs by

Jacqueline Hairston – Mary and Her Baby Chile ; Mary Had a Baby ; The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy ; Wasn't That a Mighty Day

Robert MacGimsey – Sweet Little Jesus Boy (Hairston, arr.)

Angela Brown (b. 1963)

Mosaic: A Collection of African-American Spirituals with Piano and Guitar (2004) - Albany Records TROY721

CD, variously with piano, guitar

Songs by

Margaret Bonds – He's Got the Whole World in His Hands ; Lord, I Just Can't Keep from Cryin' (arr. A. Brown, T. Cooper)

Angela Brown/Tyron Cooper – City Called Heaven ; Give Me Jesus

Roland Hayes – Roun' about de Mountain (arr. A. Brown, T. Cooper)

Moses Hogan – Deep River ; Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit ; He Never Said a Mumblin' Word ; Walk Together Children

Joseph Joubert – This Little Light of Mine

Betty Jackson King – Ride up in the Chariot (arr. J. Joubert, T. Cooper)

Florence Price – My Soul's Been Anchored (arr. A. Brown, T. Cooper)

Evelyn Simpson-Curenton – Lord, How Come Me Here (A. Brown, arr.) ; O Glory (A. Brown, arr.)

Undine Smith Moore – Come Down Angels ; Watch and Pray

Barbara Hendricks (b. 1948)

***Give Me Jesus* (1998) - EMI Classics 7243 5 56788 2 9**

CD, variously with chorus, a cappella

Songs by

Edward Boatner – I'm Troubled in Mind

Harry T. Burleigh – I've Been in de Storm So Long ; My Lord, What a Mornin'

Roland Hayes – He Never Said a Mumberlin' Word

Moses Hogan – Ain't That Good News ; Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel ; Give Me Jesus ; Great Day ; He's Got the Whole World in His Hands ; I Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray ; I Got a Robe ; I Stood on the River of Jordan ; Lord, I Want to Be a Christian ; My God Is So High ; Old Time Religion ; Steal Away ; Study War No More ; There Is a Balm in Gilead ; There's a Man Goin' Round ; Wade in the Water

Jessye Norman (b. 1945)

***Spirituals* (1990) - Philips 416 462-2**

CD, variously with piano, chorus, a cappella

Songs by

Dalton Baldwin/Jessye Norman/Willis Patterson – Ev'ry Time I Feel de Spirit ; Gospel Train ; There Is a Balm in Gilead

Thomas Kerr, Jr. – Great Day

Willis Patterson – Do Lawd, oh Do Lawd ; Give Me Jesus ; Hush! Somebody's Callin' My Name ; I Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray ; Live a Humble ; Mary Had a Baby ; My Lord, What a Morning ; Soon Ah Will Be Done ; Willis Patterson

Traditional – There’s a Man Going Round ; Were You There

Leontyne Price (b. 1927)

Leontyne Price Sings Spirituals (2012) - RCA Red Seal 88691928242

CD, variously with chorus, orchestra, a cappella

Songs by

Edward Boatner – On Ma Journey (de Paur, arr.)

Margaret Bonds – He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands ; Sinner, Please Don’t Let
This Harvest Pass ; Sit Down, Servant ; This Little Light o’Mine

Harry T. Burleigh – Everytime I Feel the Spirit (de Paur, arr.) ; Let Us Cheer This Weary
Traveler (R. Vene, arr.) ; My Way Is Cloudy

Dick Dallas – I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel to Be Free (Bonds, arr.)

Leonard de Paur – A City Called Heaven ; Deep River ; Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

William L. Dawson – Ev’ry Time I Feel the Spirit ; There Is a Balm in Gilead

Fred Hall – My Way Is Cloudy ; Nobody Knows the Trouble I’ve Seen

Roland Hayes – Roun’ about de Mountain (de Paur, arr.)

Hall Johnson – His Name So Sweet (de Paur, arr.) ; Honor! Honor! (de Paur, arr.) ; I
Couldn’t Hear Nobody Pray (de Paur, arr.) ; Ride on, King Jesus (de Paur, arr.) ;

William Lawrence – Let Us Break Bread Together on Our Knees (de Paur, arr.)

Robert MacGimsey – Sweet Little Jesus Boy

Florence Price – My Soul’s Been Anchored in de Lord (de Paur, arr.)

Traditional – Were You There

Louise Toppin (b. 1961)

***He’ll Bring It to Pass: The Spirituals of Hall Johnson for Voice and Piano (2006) - Albany
Records TROY846***

CD, with piano

Songs by Hall Johnson – Ain’t Got Time to Die ; Certainly Lord ; City Called Heaven ;
Crucifixion ; Ev’rytime I Feel de Spirit ; Fix Me Jesus ; Give Me Jesus ; Heaven Is One

Beautiful Place ; He'll Bring It to Pass ; His Name So Sweet ; I Got to Lie Down ; I'm Gonna Tell God All My Troubles ; Le's Have a Union ; Mother to Son ; My God Is So High ; Oh, Glory ; Po Mo'ner Got a Home at Las ; Roll Jord'n Roll ; Wade in de Water

MEZZO-SOPRANOS

Denyce Graves (b. 1964)

Angels Watching Over Me (1997) - NPR Classics CD 0006

CD, variously with piano, chorus, a cappella

Songs by

Shelton Becton – Laid Down My Burdens

Harry T. Burleigh – Deep River

Roland Hayes – Round about the Mountain

Hall Johnson – City Called Heaven ; Le'Have a Union ; Oh, Glory ; Witness

Robert MacGimsey – Sweet Little Jesus Boy

Marvin Mills – All Good Things Will Be Added Unto You ; Every Time I Feel the Spirit ; Give Me Jesus ; Live-a-Humble ; Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow ; Roll, Jordan, Roll ; Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

Evelyn Simpson-Curenton – Git on Board ; Li'l David ; Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child

Composer Not Identified – This Little Light of Mine

Marilyn Horne (b. 1934)

Marilyn Horne: The Complete Decca Recitals (2008) - Decca 478 0165

CD, with chorus

Song by Carl Davis – I've Just Come from the Fountain

Florence Quivar (b. 1944)

Ride On, King Jesus: Florence Quivar Sings Black Music of America (2010) - EMI Classics 9 67138 2

CD, variously with piano or chorus

Songs by composers not identified (see *Negro Spirituals* entry below)

De Gospel Train ; Give Me Jesus ; Here's One ; He's Got the Whole World in His Hands ; His Name So Sweet ; Hold On! ; Honor, Honor ; I am Seeking for a City ; I'm Gonter Tell God All o' My Troubles ; In Bright Mansions Above ; I've Been 'Buked ; Joshua Fit da Battle of Jericho ; Lit'l Boy ; On My Journey ; Plenty Good Room ; Ride on, Jesus ; Ride on, King Jesus! ; Roun' about de Mountain ; Sit Down, Servant ; Sweet Little Jesus Boy ; Witness

CONTRALTOS

Marian Anderson (1897-1993)

Spirituals (1999) - RCA Victor Red Seal 09026-63306-2

CD, recorded between 1936 and 1952, with piano

Songs by:

Edward Boatner – City Called Heaven ; O What a Beautiful City! ; On Ma Journey ; Plenty Good Room ; Soon-a Will Be Done ; Trampin',

Lawrence Brown – Dere's No Hidin' Place Down Dere ; Every Time I Feel de Spirit ; Hear de Lam's a-Cryin' ; Nobody Knows the Trouble I See ; Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child ;

Harry T. Burleigh – Deep River ; Go Down, Moses ; De Gospel Train ; Hard Trials ; Heaven, Heaven ; My Lord, What a Morning ; Ride on, King Jesus ; Sinner, Please ; Were You There?

R. Nathaniel Dett – Poor Me

Hamilton Forrest – He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

Roland Hayes – Lord, I Can't Stay Away

Hall Johnson – Hold On! ; Honor, Honor ; Roll, Jerd'n, Roll!

William Lawrence – Let Us Break Bread Together

Robert MacGimsey – If He Change My Name

John C. Payne - Crucifixion

Florence Price – My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord

Maureen Forrester (1930-2010)

The Art of Maureen Forrester (1997) - Mastersound IMP 70170

CD, with piano

Songs by

Roland Hayes – L'il Boy

Composer not identified – Mary Had-a Baby

COUNTERTENORS

Derek Lee Ragin (b. 1958)

***Negro Spirituals* (2006) - Virgin Classics 0946 363305 2 5**

CD, variously with piano or chorus

Songs by

R. M. Carter – Come Here, Jesus, If You Please

Jester Hairston - Amen

Moses Hogan – Ain't That Good News ; Great Day (w/B. Bazile) ; He's Got the Whole World in His Hand ; Let Us Break Bread Together on Our Knees ; My Lord, What a Morning ; Swing Low, Sweet Chariot ; Wade in the Water

Hale Smith – Ride the Chariot (w/C. Clansy) ; Walk Together Children

R. E. Williams – Lord, I Can't Turn Back

Composer not identified – Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

Darryl Taylor (b. 1964)

***How Sweet the Sound* (2011) - Albany TROY1244**

CD, with piano

Songs by

Margaret Bonds – Ezekiel Saw the Wheel ; Go Tell It on the Mountain ; I'll Reach to Heaven (from *Five Creek-Freedmen Spirituals*) ; Peter, Go Ring dem Bells (from *Five Creek-Freedmen Spirituals*)

Harry T. Burleigh – Deep River

Roland Carter – Is There Anybody Here?

Jacqueline Hairston – Guide My Feet ; Lord, I'll Go

Moses Hogan – He Never Said a Mumberlin' Word ; Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child

Betty Jackson King – Climbing High Mountains

Hall Johnson – I Cannot Stay Here by Myself ; I Got to Lie Down (from *Son of Man*)

Thomas Kerr, Jr. – Git on Board

Robert Morris – Lament (from *Lyric Suite*)

Deon N. Price – Nobody Knows de Trouble I See

Hale Smith – I Want to Die Easy

Maria Thompson Corley – Steal Away

George Walker – Mary Wore Three Links of Chain

TENORS

Roland Hayes (1887-1977)

Favorite Spirituals (1995) - Vanguard Classics OVC 6022

CD, with piano

Songs by Roland Hayes

Deep River ; Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel ; Dry Bones ; Give-a Way Jordan ; Going Up to Heaven ; Heard of a City Called Heaven ; Heaven ; I'll Make Me a Man ; I'm Troubled ; Let My People Go! ; The Life of Christ (Prepare Me One Body ; Three Wise Men to Jerusalem Came ; Lit'l Boy ; Live-a-Humble ; He Raised Poor Lazarus ; You Hear the Lambs a-Cryin' ; Plenty Good Room ; The Last Supper ; Who Betrayed My Lord? ; They Led My Lord Away ; He Never Said a Mumberlin' Word ; Did You Hear When Jesus Rose? ; Were You There?) ; Lit'l David, Play on Your Harp ; Lord, is This Heaven? ; Steal Away ; Two Wings ; A Witness ; You Must Come in by and through the Lamb ; You're Tired, Child

BARITONES

Todd Duncan (1903-1998)

Todd Duncan Sings Spirituals (1952) - Allegro ALG3022

LP, with piano

Songs by

Edward Boatner – Oh, What a Beautiful City ; On Ma Journey

Lawrence Brown – Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel? ; Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit ; Goin' to Ride up in de Chariot ; I Know de Lord's Laid His Hands on Me ; I'm Goin' to Tell God All My Troubles ; Joshua Fit de Battle of Jericho ; Nobody Knows de Trouble I've Seen ; Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

Harry T. Burleigh – By an' By ; Deep River ; My Lord, What a Mornin'

William C. Hellman – New Born Again

Hall Johnson – Roll, Jerd'n Roll ; Witness

J. Rosamond Johnson – All God's Chillun Got Wings ; Clim'in Jacob's Ladder

Philip Lima

Songs of a Wayfarer – Private Label (2017)

Digital download, with piano

Songs by Mark Hayes

Deep River ; Give Me Jesus ; I Feel the Spirit Moving (medley: Old Time Religion/Every Time I Feel the Spirit) ; Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho ; My Lord, What a Mornin' ; Steal Away to Heaven (medley: Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen/Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child/Steal Away) ; There Is a Balm in Gilead

Benjamin Matthews (1933-2006)

A Balm in Gilead (2000) - Ebony Classic Recordings ECR 0001

CD, with piano

Songs by

Edward Boatner – Ain't That Good News ; On My Journey ; Trampin'

Margaret Bonds – Ezekiel Saw the Wheel

Roland Carter – Is There Anybody Here Who Loves My Jesus?

Leo Edwards – Balm in Gilead ; The Gospel Train ; Run Sinner Run

Jacqueline Hairston – God Is God ; My Good Lord Done Been Here

Roland Hayes – Lil' Boy, How Old Are You? ; They Led My Lord Away

Betty Jackson King – Way By an' By

Willis James – He's Got the Whole World

Eva Jessye – An' I Cry

Hall Johnson – I Can Not Stay Here by Myself

Lena McLin – Hold Out Your Light

Florence Price – I Am Bound for the Kingdom

Elmer A. Simpson – I'll Never Turn Back

Charles Tindley – Balm in Gilead/The Storm Is Passing Over

Robert McFerrin (1921-2006)

Deep River and Other Classic Negro Spirituals (1959) - Washington WLP 466

LP, with piano

Songs by

Harry T. Burleigh – Deep River

Hall Johnson – Ain't Got Time to Die ; A City Called Heaven ; Ev'ry Time I Feel de Spirit ; Fix Me, Jesus ; His Name Is So Sweet ; I Got to Lie Down ; I'm Gonter Tell God All o' My Troubles ; Oh, Glory ; Ride on, King Jesus! ; Swing Low, Sweet Chariot ; Witness

William Lawrence – Let Us Break Bread Together

William Grant Still – Here's One

Sherrill Milnes (b. 1935)

Abide with Me (1976) - RCA Red Seal ARL1-1403

LP, with organ

Song by Harry T. Burleigh – Were You There?

Robert Sims (b. 1965)

Robert Sims Sings the Spirituals of Roland Hayes (2015) - Canti Classics 2014-01

CD, variously a cappella, with piano

Songs by Roland Hayes

Did You Hear When Jesus Rose (from *The Life of Christ*) ; Ezekiel Saw the Wheel ; Good News ; Hear de Lambs a-Cryin' (from *The Life of Christ*) ; Keep Me from Sinkin' Down ; The Last Supper (from *The Life of Christ*) ; Lit'l Boy (from *The Life of Christ*) ; Lit'l David ; Live a-Humble (from *The Life of Christ*) ; Lord I Can't Stay Away ; My God Is So High ; Mumberlin' Word (from *The Life of Christ*) ; Pity a Po' Boy ; Plenty Good Room (from *The Life of Christ*) ; Prepare Me One Body (from *The Life of Christ*) ; Sister Mary Had-a but One Child (from *The Life of Christ*) ; Stand Steady ; Swing Low/Mornin' Train ; They Led My Lord Away (from *The Life of Christ*) ; Two Wings ; Were You There (from *The Life of Christ*)

BASS-BARITONES/BASSES

Paul Robeson, bass-baritone (1898-1976)

Paul Robeson: The Complete EMI Sessions, 1928-1939 (2008) - EMI Classics 2 15586 2
CD, variously with piano, vocal duet, orchestra. chorus

Songs by

Edward Boatner – On My Journey

Lawrence Brown – Dere's a Man Goin' Round Takin' Names ; Dere's No Hidin' Place ; Every Time I Feel de Spirit ; Ezekiel Saw de Wheel ; Goin' to Ride Up in de Chariot ; Joshua Fit de Battle ob Jericho ; Li'l David ; Oh, Didn't It Rain ; Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child ; Steal Away

Brown, Ray – Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

Harry T. Burleigh – Bye and Bye ; Go Down, Moses ; I Stood on the Ribber Jordan/Peter Go Ring dem Bells ; I Want To be Ready ; My Lord, What a Mornin' ; Scandalize My Name ; Sinner, Please Doan' Let Dis Harves' Pass ; Weepin' Mary ; Were You There?

Ruthland Clapham – Roll de Ole Chariot Along

[Unk] Gilbert – Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel?

Ernest Irving – Deep River

Hall Johnson – Mary Had a Baby (Yes, Lord)

James Weldon Johnson – De Old Ark's a Movering

Walter White/J. W. Johnson – Bear de Burden/All God's Chillun Got Wings

Composer not identified – Medley of Spirituals (I'm Rolling and Sing-a-Ho/Hail de Crown/Joshua Fit de Battle of Jericho/I Got a Robe/Oh Lord I Done/De Gospel Train/Black Sheep/Heav'n Bells Are Ringin'/I'll Hear de Trumpet Sound/Swing Low, Sweet Chariot/Walk Together, Children) ; No More ; Paul Robeson Medley (Pt. 1) (Roll de Ole Chariot/Mary Had a Baby/Swing Low, Sweet Chariot/Heav'n, Heav'n)

Eugene Thamon Simpson, bass (b. 1932)

Hall Johnson Spirituals and Other Folk Songs (2016) – Private Label
CD, with piano

Songs by

Edward Boatner – I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

Hamilton Forrest – He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

Hall Johnson – Ain't Got Time to Die ; City Called Heaven ; Fix Me Jesus ; Honor, Honor ; I Got to Lie Down (from *Son of Man*) ; I'm Gonter Tell God All of My Troubles ; Le's Have a Union ; My Good Lord Done Been Here ; Oh Glory ; Roll Jerd'n, Roll ; Take My Mother Home ; Wade in the Water ; Witness

Willard White, bass-baritone (b. 1946)

Willard White Sings: Copland ; American Spirituals ; Folk-Songs (1991) Chandos Records
CHAN 8960
CD, with piano or a cappella

Songs by

Charles Ives – In the mornin'

Hall Johnson – Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit ; Gospel Train ; When I Lay My Burden Down

Melanie Marshall – Deep River ; Go Down, Moses ; I Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray ; Steal Away to Jesus ; Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?

Traditional – Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

VARIOUS VOCALISTS

Black Christmas: Spirituals in the African-American Tradition (1990) - Essay Recordings
CD1011

CD, selections by mezzo-soprano Vanessa Ayers, tenor Thomas Young and bass-baritone Robert Mosley, variously with piano, chorus

Songs by

William Dawson – Behold the Star (Ayers)

Roland Hayes – Lit'l Boy (Christ in the Temple) (Young) ; Sister Mary Had-a But One Child (Young)

Willis James – Reign, King Jesus (Ayers/Young)

Hall Johnson – Mary Had a Baby (Ayers)

Wendell Whalum – Mary Was Queen of Galilee (Ayers)

Thomas Young – Glory, Hallelujah (Young) ; Rise Up, Shepherd (Young)

Composer not identified – Glory to the Newborn King (Ayers) ; Sweet Little Jesus Boy (Mosley) ; Wasn't That a Mighty Day? (Ayers)

Black Europe: Sounds & Images of Black People (2013) - Bear Family Productions BCD 16095

CD, selections by contralto Evelyn Dove, Tenor Roland Hayes, baritone John Payne, accompanied by piano

Songs by Composer not identified

Couldn't hear nobody pray (Dove) ; Every time I feel the spirit (Dove) ; Go down Moses (Payne) ; Standin' in de need o' prayer (Payne) ; My Lord, what a morning (Payne) ; My way is cloudy (Payne) ; Go down, Moses (Hayes) ; Steal away to Jesus (Hayes) ; Sit down (Hayes) ; Swing low, sweet chariot (Hayes)

Deep River: Featuring 10 Spirituals Arranged for Solo Voice.... (2000) - MGH Records 5000

CD, selections by soprano Henrietta Davis, baritone Robert Sims, bass Alfred Walker, accompanied by piano

Songs by Moses Hogan

Deep River (Davis) ; Give Me Jesus (Walker) ; He Never Said a Mumblin' Word (Walker) ; He's Got the Whole World in His Hands (Sims) ; Let Us Break Bread Together (Sims) ; My Good Lord's Done Been Here (Sims) ; Somebody's Knockin' at Yo' Door (Walker) ; Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child (Walker) ; Walk Together Children (Davis) ; Were You There? (Walker)

First Time Buyer's Guide to American Negro Spirituals (2006) - Primo Collection PRMCD6038

CD, selections by sopranos Ellabelle Davis and Dorothy Maynor, contralto Marian Anderson, tenor Roland Hayes, baritone Jules Bledsoe, bass-baritone Paul Robeson

Songs by

Lawrence Brown – Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child (Robeson) ; Witness (Robeson)

Harry T. Burleigh – Deep River (Anderson) ; Go Down Moses (Hayes) ; I Stood on de Ribber ob Jerdon (Davis) ; My Lord, What a Morning (Anderson) ; Were You There When They Crucified My Lord? (Robeson)

R. Nathaniel Dett – Steal Away to Jesus (Maynor)

Roland Hayes – Hear de Lambs a-Cryin’/Plenty Good Room (Hayes) ; Lit’l Boy (Christ in the Temple) (Hayes)

James W. Johnson/Lawrence Brown – Ole Ark’s a-Movering/Ezekiel Saw de Wheel

John C. Payne – Crucifixion (Anderson)

Composer not identified – Nobody Knows the Trouble I’ve Seen (Maynor) ; Swing Low, Sweet Chariot (Bledsoe)

Lost Sounds: Blacks and the Birth of the Recording Industry, 1891-1922 (2005) – Archeophone Records ARCH 1005

CD, with piano

Only two selections, but the collection included a recording by H. T. Burleigh of his own work, which was the first known recording of the composer/baritone’s voice, plus another Burleigh selection performed by a young Edward Boatner

Songs by Harry T. Burleigh – Go Down, Moses (Burleigh) ; Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child (Boatner)

Negro Spirituals (1998) - EMI 7243 5 72790 2 4

CD, selections by sopranos Martina Arroyo, Kathleen Battle, Barbara Hendricks, mezzo-soprano Florence Quivar, contralto Marian Anderson, variously with chorus, piano, a cappella

Songs by

Edward Boatner – On Ma Journey (Quivar)

Margaret Bonds – He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands (Quivar) ; Joshua Fit da Battle of Jericho (Quivar)

Lawrence Brown – Dere’s No Hiding Place Down Dere (Anderson) ; Ev’ry Time I Feel de Spirit (Anderson)

Harry T. Burleigh – Deep River (Anderson) ; De Gospel Train (Quivar) ; I Stood on de Ribber of Jerdon (R. Vené, arr. ; Arroyo) ; Were You There? (Anderson)

Leonard de Paur – In Bright Mansions Above (H. Roberts, arr. ; Quivar) ; On Ma Journey (Arroyo)

R. Nathaniel Dett – There’s a Meeting Here Tonight (Arroyo)

Roland Hayes – I Can’t Stay Away (Anderson) ; Lt’l Boy (Quivar) ; Plenty Good Room (Quivar) ; Roun’ about de Mountain (Quivar)

Hall Johnson – Give Me Jesus (Quivar) ; His Name So Sweet (H. Roberts, arr. ; Quivar) ; Hold On! (Quivar) ; Honor, Honor (H. Roberts, arr. ; Quivar) ; I’ve Been ‘Buked (H. Roberts, arr. ; Quivar) ; Ride On, King Jesus! (Quivar) ; Witness (Quivar)

Howard Johnson – I’m Gonter Tell God All o’ My Troubles (Quivar)

William Lawrence – Let Us Break Bread Together (Arroyo)

Robert MacGimsey – Sweet Little Jesus Boy (Quivar)

James Miller – I Am Seeking for a City (Quivar)

Howard Roberts – Sit Down, Servant (Quivar)

Still, William Grant – Here’s One (Quivar)

Composer not identified – A City Called Heaven (Arroyo) ; Ev’ry Time I Feel the Spirit (Arroyo) ; He Is King of Kings (Arroyo) ; I Couldn’t Hear Nobody Pray (Arroyo) ; I Gotta Robe (Arroyo) ; I Want Jesus to Walk with Me (Arroyo) ; Little David, Play on Your Harp (Arroyo) ; Mary Had a Baby (Battle) ; My Lord, What a Morning! (Arroyo) ; Rise Up, Shepherd (Battle) ; Steal Away to Jesus (Arroyo) ; There Is a Balm in Gilead (Arroyo) ; Were You There? (Arroyo)

Traditional – Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child (Hendricks)

Negro Spirituals: The Concert Tradition, 1909-1948 (1999) - Frémeaux & Associés FA 168
CD, selections by sopranos Ellabelle Davis and Dorothy Maynor, contraltos Marian Anderson and Evelyn Dove, tenors Jules Bledsoe and Roland Hayes, baritone John Payne, and bass-baritone Paul Robeson

Songs by

Lawrence Brown – Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child (Robeson) ; Witness (Robeson) ;

Harry T. Burleigh – Deep River (Anderson) ; Go Down Moses (Hayes) ; I Stood on de Ribber ob Jordan (Davis) ; My Lord, What a Morning (Anderson) ; Were You There? (Robeson)

R. Nathaniel Dett – Steal Away to Jesus (Maynor)

Roland Hayes – Hear de Lambs a-Cryin’/Plenty Good Room (Hayes) ; Lit’l Boy (Hayes) ; Lord, I Can’t Stay Away/Heav’n, Heav’n (Anderson)

James W. Johnson – De Ole Ark’s a-Movering/Ezekiel Saw de Wheel (L. Brown, arr. ; Robeson)

R. P. Parham – Roun’ ‘Bout de Mountain (Hayes)

John C. Payne – Crucifixion (Anderson)

Composer not identified – Couldn’t Hear Nobody Pray (Dove) ; Go Down Moses/Deep River (Payne) ; Nobody Knows the trouble I’ve Seen (Maynor) ; Swing Low, Sweet Chariot (Bledsoe)

Spirituals in Concert (1991) - Deutsche Grammophon 429 790-2

CD, solo and duet selections by sopranos Kathleen Battle and Jessye Norman, variously accompanied by orchestra, organ, chorus, flute, harp, piano

Songs by

Margaret Bonds – He’s Got the Whole World in His Hand (D. Marsh/P. Russ, arr. ; Battle/Norman) ; You Can Tell the World [Five Creek Freedmen Spirituals] (M. Fax, arr. ; Norman)

William L. Dawson – Talk about a Child (H. Smith, arr. ; Battle)

Hall Johnson – My God Is So High (H. Smith, arr. ; Battle) ; Ride on, King Jesus (M. Fax, arr. ; Norman)

Kurt Kaiser – Gospel Train (D. Marsh/P. Russ, arr. ; Battle/Norman)

Thomas Kerr, Jr. – Great day (D. Marsh/P. Russ, arr. ; Battle/Norman) ; Oh, What a Beautiful City (C. Brown, J. Gianono, arr. ; Battle/Norman)

Charles Lloyd, Jr. – I Believe I’ll Go Back Home/Lordy, Won’t You Help Me (Battle/Norman)

Don Marsh – In That Great Getting Up Morning (P. Russ, arr. ; Battle/Norman)

Sylvia Olden Lee/Evelyn Simpson-Curenton – Lord, How Come Me Here (Battle) ;
Scandalize My Name (Battle/Norman)

Evelyn Simpson-Curenton – Calvary/They Crucified My Lord (Norman) ; Oh, Glory
(Battle) ; Over My Head/Lil' David (Battle) ; Sinner, Please Don't Let This Harvest Pass
(Norman) ; Swing Low, Sweet Chariot/Ride up in the Chariot (Battle)

Hale Smith – There Is a Balm in Gilead (Battle/Norman)

Steal Away (2014) - Yellow Einstein

CD, solo and duet selections by mezzo-soprano J'nai Bridges and baritone Will Liverman,
variously with piano, flute, viola

Songs by Shawn Okpebholo

Balm in Gilead (Liverman) ; Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray/Standin' in the Need of Prayer
(Bridges/Liverman) ; Deep River (Liverman) ; Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit (Liverman) ;
Great Day (Liverman) ; I Want to Die Easy When I Die/Sometimes I Feel Like a
Motherless Child (Bridges/Liverman) ; Lord, I Want to Be a Christian/Give Me Jesus
(Liverman) ; Oh, Freedom (Liverman) ; Steal Away (Liverman) ; Wade in the Water
(Liverman) ; Were You There (Liverman)

***Watch and Pray: Spirituals and Art Songs by African-American Women Composers (1994) -
Koch International Classics 3-7247-2H1***

CD, selections by mezzo-soprano Pamela Dillard, contralto Ruth Hamilton, baritone Robert
Honeysucker, accompanied by piano

CD of songs published in the 1995 music score compilation, *Art Songs and Spirituals by African-
American Women Composers*. Various songs suited to high, medium or low vocal ranges

Songs by

Margaret Bonds – Dry Bones (Hamilton) ; He's Got the Whole World in His Hand
(Dillard) ; Lord, I Just Can't Keep from Cryin' (Hamilton)

Betty Jackson King – Calvary (Honeysucker) ; It's Me, O Lord (Honeysucker)

Julia Perry – Free at Last (Honeysucker) ; I'm a Poor Lil' Orphan (Hamilton)

Florence Price – My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord (Dillard)

Undine Smith Moore – Come Down Angels (Honeysucker) ; Is There Anybody Here
That Loves My Jesus (Dillard) ; Watch and Pray (Dillard)

¹ James Weldon Johnson and J. Rosamond Johnson, *The Books of American Negro Spirituals* ([Boston]: Da Capo Press, 1977), 17-18.

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