

So You Want to Sing Spirituals

Appendix 4 – Song Literature Classification

By Randye Jones

My mother and spirituals are so deep inside of me, it's difficult for me to find words that are meaningful. Spirituals are a part of whatever I am. When I sing them my being sings them, not my throat. When I think of my mother, I think of when she caressed me, when she loved me, when she was teaching me at the piano, when she was giving me a whipping, when she was bathing me, when she was putting me to bed, and when she was kissing me good night. It is very difficult for me to put into words something that is at the bottom of my very being. My mother and spirituals both belong there.¹

Many of the anthologies listed below contain solely spirituals, but all have at least one concert spiritual selection. There is more bibliographic information--including complete spirituals listings--about each anthology available in Appendix 5.

SPIRITUAL ANTHOLOGIES

Code	Collection	Composer/Compiler
AAGS	<i>Great Spirituals: An Anthology or Program for Solo Voice and Piano for Concert and Worship</i>	Andy Albritton
ASSA	<i>Art Songs & Spirituals by African–American Women Composers</i>	Vivian Taylor
CLSA	<i>The Spiritual Art Song Collection</i>	Charles Lloyd, Jr.
CW40	<i>Forty Negro Spirituals</i>	Clarence Cameron White
DRSA	<i>Spirituals & Art Songs, v. 1</i>	Dave Ragland
DSSS	<i>Spiritual Sketches</i>	Damien Sneed
EJMS	<i>My Spirituals</i>	Eva Jessye
ESAA	<i>African American Music for the Classical Singer: Spirituals and Hymns</i>	Evelyn Simpson–Curenton
FH25	<i>Collection of 25 Selected Celebrated American Negro Spirituals</i>	Hugo Frey
FHFN	<i>Famous Negro Spirituals</i>	Hugo Frey
FP44	<i>44 Art Songs and Spirituals by Florence B. Price</i>	Florence Price
HCTN	<i>Treasury of Negro Spirituals</i>	H. A. Chambers
HJCO	<i>Hall Johnson Collection, The</i>	Hall Johnson
HJTS	<i>Thirty Spirituals</i>	Hall Johnson

HLBS	<i>Best of Spirituals & Gospels</i>	H. Luedeman
HT25	<i>25 Spirituals Arranged by Harry T. Burleigh</i>	H. T. Burleigh
HTBA	<i>Album of Negro Spirituals Arranged for Solo Voice</i>	H. T. Burleigh
HTBN	<i>Negro Spirituals: Arranged for Solo Voice (1917)</i>	H. T. Burleigh
HTBS	<i>The Spirituals of Harry T. Burleigh</i>	H. T. Burleigh
JARS	<i>Ready to Sing-Spirituals: : Eleven Spirituals Simply Arranged for Voice and Piano, for Solo or Unison Singing</i>	Jay Althouse
JB3a	<i>36 Solos for Young Singers</i>	Joan Boytim
JB3b	<i>36 More Solos for Young Singers</i>	Joan Boytim
JBBS	<i>First Book of Baritone/Bass Solos</i>	Joan Boytim
JBES	<i>Easy Songs for the Beginning Baritone/Bass</i>	Joan Boytim
JBMS	<i>First Book of Mezzo-Soprano/Alto Solos</i>	Joan Boytim
JBTS	<i>First Book of Tenor Solos</i>	Joan Boytim
JCCA	<i>Cantata</i>	John Carter
JJAN	<i>Album of Negro Spirituals</i>	J. Rosamond Johnson
JPNS	<i>Negro Spirituals</i>	John Payne
JSSp	<i>Spirituals</i>	Jerry Silverman
LB5N	<i>Five Negro Songs</i>	Lawrence Brown
LB6N	<i>Six Negro Folk Songs</i>	Lawrence Brown
LBNF	<i>Negro Folk Songs</i>	Lawrence Brown
LMSO	<i>Songs for Voice & Piano</i>	Lena McLin
MBCF	<i>Creek-Freedmen Spirituals</i>	Margaret Bonds
MBIH	<i>In His Hand: Seven Spirituals</i>	Margaret Bonds
MH10	<i>10 Spirituals for Solo Voice: for Concerts, Contests, Recitals and Worship</i>	Mark Hayes
MHDR	<i>Deep River Collection, The</i>	Moses Hogan
MM4S	<i>Four Spirituals for Denyce Graves</i>	Marvin Mills
PLSY	<i>Spirituals for Young Singers</i>	Patrick Liebergen
RHMF	<i>My Favorite Spirituals</i>	Roland Hayes
RNDS	<i>Spirituals</i>	R. Nathaniel Dett
RONS	<i>Negro Spirituals für Bass und Klavier [Negro Spirituals for Bass (baritone) and Piano]</i>	Robert Owens
RW15	<i>15 Easy Spiritual Arrangements for the Progressive Singer</i>	Richard Walters
SONS	<i>Collection of Negro Spirituals</i>	Shawn Okpebholo
SOTS	<i>The Story of the Spirituals</i>	Edward Boatner
SSS1	<i>Spirituals for Solo Singers, v. 1</i>	Mark Hayes
SSS2	<i>Spirituals for Solo Singers, v. 2</i>	Mark Hayes
UBOR	<i>O Redeemed</i>	Uzee Brown, Jr.
UBTM	<i>Tryin' to Make Heaven My Home</i>	Uzee Brown, Jr.

VLCH	<i>Concert Hall Spirituals</i>	Victor Labenske
WF70	<i>Seventy Negro Spirituals</i>	William Arms Fisher
WGST	<i>Twelve Negro Spirituals</i>	William Grant Still
WPNN	<i>The New Negro Spiritual Collection</i>	Willis Patterson
WRN8	<i>Two Negro Spirituals</i> [1918]	William Reddick
WWGG	<i>God Is a God: Six Negro Spirituals for Voice and Piano</i>	R. Carter/B. Jackson King/W. Whalum

SONG CLASSIFICATIONS

This list of concert spirituals has been classified in one of the categories referenced in Chapter 6: sorrow songs; songs of consolation and faith; songs of resistance, defiance, and deliverance; songs of jubilation and triumph, songs of judgment and reckoning, songs of regeneration, songs of spiritual progress, and songs of transcendence. Each entry the opening lines of the spiritual's text, scriptural references—if available—and the code(s) for the anthologies where the entry may be found.

Please note that the texts below come from different sources and may not match the texts in your musical scores, especially if the score text is in dialect.

Sorrow Songs

“The Blind Man Stood on the Road”

O, the blind man stood on the road and cried,
O, the blind man stood on the road and cried,
Crying “O, my Lord, save—a me;”
The blind man stood on the road and cried....

Available in: HTBA, HTBS, HJCO, CW40

“By and By”

Oh, by and by, by and by,
I'm going to lay down my heavy load.
I know my robe's going to fit me well,
I tried it on at the gates of hell....

Scripture reference(s): Matthew 11:30

Available in: HTBA, HT26, HCTN, FH25, CW40, WF70

“Calvary”

Calvary, Calvary, Calvary,
Surely He died on Calvary.
Everytime I think about Jesus,
Surely He died on Calvary....

Scriptural reference(s): Matthew 27:27–44; Mark 15:16–32; Luke 23:26–43; John 19:16–27
Available in: ASSA, CW40, DSSS, DRSA, RONS, WPNN, WWGG

“City Called Heaven”

I am a poor pilgrim of sorrow.
I’m in this wide world alone.
No hope in this world for tomorrow.
I’m trying to make heaven my home....

Scripture reference(s): Revelation 21:2
Available in: CLSA, CW40, SOTS

“Do, Lord, Remember Me”

Do, Lord, O, do Lord, Do remember me
Oh, Lordy;
Do, Lord, O, do Lord, Do remember me
Way beyond the sea....

Available in: PLSY

“Hard Trials”

The foxes have holes in the ground,
The birds have nests in the air,
The Christians have a hiding place,
But we poor sinners have none.
Now ain’t them hard trials, tribulations?...

Available in: HTBS, FHFN, JSSp

“Hear the Lambs a–Crying”

You hear the lambs a–crying,
Hear the lambs a–crying,
Hear the lambs a–crying,
Oh, shepherd, feed–a my sheep....

Scriptural reference(s): John 21:15–17

Available in: HTBS, RHMF, SOTS

“He Never Said a–Mumbling Word” [“Crucifixion”]
Wasn’t that a pity and a shame,
They nailed Him to the tree,
They pierced Him in the side,
But he never said a mumbling word....

Scriptural reference(s): Matthew 27:27–44; Mark 15:16–32; Luke 23:26–43; John 19:16–27;
Act 5:30

Available in: HCTN, HJCO, JBMS, JPNS, JSSp, MHDR, RHMF, RONS, SOTS, WF70

“I Couldn’t Hear Nobody Pray”

In the valley on my knees!
With my burden and my Savior!
And I couldn’t hear nobody pray,
O, way down yonder by myself,
And I couldn’t hear nobody pray....

Available in: FH25, HCTN, HJTS, HTBA, HTBS, HT25, JJAN, JPNS, SONS

“I’ve Been ‘Buked”

I’ve been ‘buked and I’ve been scorned, O Lord—
I’ve been ‘buked and I’ve been scorned, Children—
I’ve been ‘buked and I’ve been scorned,
I’ve been talked about sure’s you’re born....

Available in: EJMS

“I’m A–Rolling”

I’m a rolling, I’m a–rolling,
I’m a–rolling through an unfriendly world.
O, brothers, won’t you help me to pray?
O, sisters, won’t you help me in the service of the Lord?...

Scriptural reference(s): John 15:18–19; 1 John 3:13

Available in: FHFN, JJAN, JSSp, WF70

“I’m Going to Tell God All My Troubles”

I’m going to tell God all my troubles,
I’m going to tell God all my troubles,

I’m going to tell God all my troubles,
When I get home....

Available in: HJCO, LB6N, SOTS

“I’m Troubled in the mind”

I am a-troubled in the mind,
O, I am a-troubled in the mind,
I ask my Lord what shall I do,
I am a-troubled in the mind....

Scriptural reference(s): Matthew 27:55–56; II Corinthians 4:8–11, 12:8–9
Available in: FH25, SOTS, WF70

“Is Massa Going to Sell Us Tomorrow?”

Mammy, is massa going to sell us tomorrow?
Yes, yes, yes!
Mammy, is massa going to sell us tomorrow?
Yes, yes, yes!
Oh watch, watch and pray....

Available in: WF70

“Is There Anybody Here?”

Is there anybody here who loves my Jesus?
Anybody here who loves my Lord?
I want to know if you love my Jesus;
I want to know if you love my Lord....

Available in: ASSA, WWGG

“It’s Me, O Lord”

It's me, it's me, it's me, O Lord,
Standing in the need of prayer,
It's me, it's me, it's me, O Lord,
Standing in the need of prayer....

Available in: ASSA, CW40, HCTN, HJTS, HLBS, JJAN, JPNS, JSSp, WF70, WRN8

“I've Been in the Storm So Long”

I've been in the storm so long,
I've been in the storm so long, children,
I've been in the storm so long,
Oh, give me little time to pray....

Available in: FHFN, HTBS, JJAN, JSSp, WF70, WPNN

“The Last Supper,” “My Time Is Come”

Jesus was a-sittin' at the last Passover.
John, he rested upon His shoulder.
Jesus said one word that seemed to blight.
He said, “One of you goin' to betray me to-night....”

Scriptural reference(s): Matthew 26:14–30; Mark 14:12–25; Luke 22:1–23

Available in: RHMF

“Listen to the Lambs”

Listen to the lambs, Listen to the lambs,
Listen to the lambs, I want to go to heaven when I die.
Mind out brother how you walk on the cross,
Foot might slip and your soul get lost....

Scriptural reference(s): Isaiah 40:11; John 21:15

Available in: HCTN, JJAN, WF70, WGST

“Mary Had a Baby, Yes, Lord”

Mary had a baby, Yes, Lord!
Mary had a baby, Yes, Lord!
Mary had a baby, Yes, Lord!
The people keep a-coming

But the train done gone....

Scriptural reference(s): Matthew 1:18–25, Luke 2:1–20

Available in: HJTS, RW15

“My Way Is Cloudy”

O, brethren, my way, My way’s cloudy, my way,
Go send them angels down, O, brethren.
Satan’s mad and I am glad,
He missed the soul he thought he had....

Scriptural reference(s): Leviticus 25:8–13; Matthew 24:27, 31

Available in: FHFN, HTBN, HTBS, JSSp

“Nobody Knows the Trouble I’ve Seen”

Oh, nobody knows the trouble I’ve seen,
Nobody knows but Jesus,
Nobody knows the trouble I’ve seen,
Glory Hallelujah!
Sometimes I’m up, sometimes I’m down,...

Scriptural reference(s): Job 13:15; Thessalonians 5:25; Revelation 2:2, 9:1

Available in: CW40, FHFN, HCTN, HLBS, HT25, HTBA, HTBS, JARS, JBTS, JJAN, JSSp, LB5N, SOTS, SSS1, WF70

“Scandalize My Name”

I met my mother the other day,
I gave her my right hand,
An’ jus’ as soon as ever my back was turned,
She scandalize’ my name,...

Available in: DRSA, DSSS, HJTS

“Sister Mary Had—a But One Child”

Sister Mary had—a but one child,
Born in Bethlehem.
And—a every time—a baby cried,
She’d—a rocked Him in the weary land....

Scriptural reference(s): Matthew 1:18–25, Luke 2:1–20

Available in: RHMF

“Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child”

Sometimes I feel like a motherless child,
Sometimes I feel like a motherless child,
Sometimes I feel like a motherless child,
A long way from home, A long way from home;
True believer; A long way from home....

Available in: AASP, CW40, ESAA, FHFN, HLBS, HT25, HTBA, HTBN, HTBS, JBES, JCCA, JJAN, JSSp, LB5N, MHDR, PLSY, RW15, VLCH, WF70

“Soon One Morning”

Soon one mornin’, death comes a–creepin’ in my room.
O my Lord, O my Lord, what shall I do?
Death done been here, took my mother an’ gone,
O my Lord, O my Lord, what shall I do?...

Available in: WPNN

“Swing Low, Sweet Chariot”

Swing low, sweet chariot,
Coming forth to carry me home;
Swing low, sweet chariot,
Coming forth to carry me home.
I looked over Jordan and what did I see?
A band of angels coming after me....

Scripture reference(s): II Kings 2:11

Available in: AAGS, CW40, FHFN, HCTN, HJTS, HLBS, HT25, HTBN, HTBS, JBES, JJAN, JSSp, LB5N, MM4S, PLSY, RW15, SOTS, WF70

“There’s a Man Going Round Taking Names”

There’s a man going round taking names,
There’s a man going round taking names,
He’s a–taken my mother’s name, And he has left my heart in pain,

There's a man going round taking names....

Available in: CW40, DRSA, DSSS

“They Led My Lord Away”

They led my Lord away, away,
They led my Lord away, away,
Oh, tell me where to find Him, find Him.
The Jews and Romans in one hand, They crucified the Son of Man;...

Scriptural reference(s): Matthew 26:36–56; Luke 22:39–46, 54; John 18:28–38

Available in: RHMF, SOTS

“’Tis Me [“Standing in the Need of Prayer”], [“It’s Me, O Lord”]

‘Tis me, ‘tis me, O Lord, Standing in the need of prayer;
‘Tis me, ‘tis me, O Lord, Standing in the need of prayer.
Not my brother, not my sister, but it’s me, O Lord,
Standing in the need of prayer;...

Scriptural reference(s): James 5:13; Psalms 5:2

Available in: ASSA, CW40, FHFN, HCTN, HJTS, HLBS, HTBN, HTBS, HT25, JJAN, JPNS, JSSp, WF70, WRN8

“Were You There?”

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?...

Scriptural reference(s): Matthew 27:27–61

Available in: CLSA, CW40, DRSA, DSSS, FH25, HCTN, HJTS, HTBA, HTBN, HTBS, JJAN, MHDR, RHMF, RW15, SONS, VLCH, WF70

Songs of Consolation and Faith

“Balm in Gilead”

There is a balm in Gilead

To make the wounded whole,
There is a balm in Gilead
To heal the sin-sick soul.
Sometimes I feel discouraged And think my work's in vain,...

Scriptural reference(s): Jeremiah 8:22

Available in: DRSA, DSSS, ESAA, HCTN, HJTS, HT25, HTBN, HTBS, JSSp, MH10, PLSY, RW15, SONS, VLCH

“Come By Here, My Lord” [“Kumbayah”]

Come by here, my Lord, Come by here,
Come by here, my Lord, Come by here,
O, Lord, come by here.
Someone's crying, Lord, Come by here,...

Available in: HLBS, JARS, SSS1

“Done Found My Lost Sheep”

Done found my lost sheep,
Done found my lost sheep,
Done found my lost sheep, hallelujah.
My Lord had a hundred sheep,...

Scriptural reference(s): Matthew 18:13; Luke 15:1-10

Available in: SOTS

“Don't You Let Nobody Turn You Around”

Don't you let nobody turn you around,
Turn you around, turn you around,
Don't you let nobody turn you around,
Keep the straight and narrow way.
I was at the river of Jordan,...

Available in: CW40, HJCO, LMSO

“Give Me Jesus”

O, when I come to die, O, when I come to die,
O, when I come to die, Give me Jesus.

Give me Jesus,
You may have all this world; Give me Jesus.
In the morning when I rise,...

| **Scripture reference(s):** Matthew 27:17

Available in: AAGS, FH25, HCTN, HJCO, HTBS, MH10, MHDR, MM4S, SOTS, VLCH, WF70

“Give Me That Old Time Religion”

Give me that old time religion,
Give me that old time religion,
Give me that old time religion,
It’s good enough for me.
It was good for the Hebrew children,...

Available in: CLSA, JJAN

“Give Me Your Hand”

Give me your hand, Give me your hand,
All I want is the love of God;
Give me your hand, Give me your hand,
You must be loving at God’s command....

Available in: CLSA, SOTS

“He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands”

He’s got the whole world in His hands,
He’s got the big round world in His hands;
He’s got the whole world in His hands,
He’s got the whole world in His hands.
He’s got the wind and the rain in His hands,...

| **Scripture reference(s):** Genesis 1:1

Available in: ASSA, FHFN, HLBS, JB3a, MBIH, MHDR, PLSY, RW15, SOTS

“Let Us Cheer the Weary Traveler”

Let us cheer the weary traveler,
Cheer the weary traveler,

Let us cheer the weary traveler,
Along the heavenly way.
I'll take my gospel trumpet,...

Scriptural reference(s): Isaiah 50:4, 58:1; Job 31:32
Available in: FH25, HT25, HTBS, VLCH

“Lit’l Boy”

“Lit’l Boy, how ole are you?” “Lit’l Boy, how ole are you?”
“Lit’l Boy, how ole are you?”
“Sir, I’m only twelve years old.”
This Lit’l Boy had them to remember
That He was born the twenty-fifth of December,...

Scriptural reference(s): Mark 11:27–12:17; Luke 2:39–52; John 2:12–22
Available in: RHMF

“Little David”

Little David was a shepherd boy,
He killed Goliath and shouted for joy,
Little David, play on your harp, hallelujah.
Little David, play on your harp, hallelujah....

Scriptural reference: Exodus 33:11; I Samuel 16:23, 17:49–51; Psalm 137
Available in: CW40, HCTN, HT25, HTBS, JB3a, JJAN, JSSp, RHMF, SSS1, VLCH

“My Good Lord Done Been Here”

Adam in the garden, Eve, she disobeyed,
She broke the covenant,
And we got her debt to pay.
But my good Lord done been here,
Blessed my soul and gone away,...

Scriptural reference(s): Luke 18:37
Available in: HJCO, MHDR

“Oh, Mary, Don’t You Weep”

Oh, Mary, don’t you weep, don’t you moan,

Oh, Mary, don't you weep, don't you moan,
Pharaoh's army already got drowned,
Oh, Mary, don't you weep....

Available in: HJCO, WF70

“Plenty Good Room”

There's plenty good room, plenty good room,
Plenty good room in my Father's kingdom;
Plenty good room, plenty good room,
Just choose your seat and sit down....

| **Scriptural reference(s):** John 14:2

| **Available in:** RHMF, SOTS, SSS2

| “Round about the Mountain”

Round about the mountain,
O, 'round about the valleys,
O, 'round about the mountain,
And she'll rise in His arms....

Available in: LMSO, RHMF

“Sinner, Please Don't Let This Harvest Pass”

Sinner, please don't let this harvest pass,
Sinner, please don't let this harvest pass;
Sinner, please don't let this harvest pass
And die, and lose your soul at last.
My God is a might man of war,...

Available in: CW40, HCTN, HT25, HTBS

“Sit Down”

Sit down, servant; sit down, servant;
Sit down and rest a little while.
Sit down, servant; sit down, servant;
Sit down and rest a little while.
I know you are tired, sit down, servant....

Available in: MBCF, SSS2

“Walk Together, Children”

Oh, walk together, children, Don't you get weary;
Oh, walk together, children, Don't you get weary;
Oh, walk together, children, Don't you get weary;
There's a great camp meeting in the promised land.
Going to walk and talk with Jesus soon—a in the morning,...

Available in: MHDR, WF70

“Witness”

My soul is a witness for my Lord,
My soul is a witness for my Lord,
My soul is a witness for my Lord,
My soul is a witness for my Lord.
You read in the Bible and you understand,...

Scriptural reference(s): Genesis 5:27; Judges 16:17–19, 28–30; Proverbs 14:25; John 3:1–21

Available in: CW40, HCTN, HJCO, RHMF, SSS2

“You May Bury Me in the East”

You may bury me in the East,
You may bury me in the West,
But I'll hear the trumpet Sound
In that morning;
In that morning, my Lord, How I long to go,...

Scriptural reference(s): I Corinthians 15:52

Available in: HT25, HTBN, HTBS, RONS

Songs of Resistance, Defiance, and Deliverance

“The Blind Man Stood on the Road and Cried”

O, the blind man stood on the road and cried,
O, the blind man stood on the road and cried,
Crying, “O my Lord, save me.”

O, the blind man stood on the road and cried,
Crying, “What kind of shoes are those you wear?”...

Available in: CW40, HJCO, HTBS

“Deep River”

Deep river, my home is over Jordan,
Deep river, Lord,
I want to cross over into campground.
Oh, don’t you want to go to that Gospel feast,
That promised land where all is peace....

Scriptural reference(s): Deuteronomy 11:31

Available in: AAGS, CW40, FHFN, HCTN, HLBS, HT25, HTBA, HTBN, HTBS, JBBS, JJAN, JSSp, MH10, MHDR, RHMF, SONS, SSS2, VLCH, WF70, WPNN

“Didn’t My Lord Deliver Daniel”

Didn’t my Lord deliver Daniel,
Deliver Daniel, deliver Daniel,
And why not every man?
He delivered Daniel from the lion’s den,
Jonah from the belly of the whale,...

Scriptural reference(s): Daniel 6:1–24; Jonah 1:15–2:10

Available in: CCSO, FHFN, HCTN, HLBS, HT25, HTBS, JB3a, JJAN, JSSp, LBNF, PLSY, RHMF, RW15, SOTS, WGST

“Go Down, Moses”

Go down, Moses,
Way down in Egypt Land,
Tell ole Pharaoh,
Let my people go.
When Israel was in Egypt Land,...

Scriptural reference(s): Exodus 1–4, 10:3

Available in: CW40, FHFN, FP44, FP4S, HCTN, HJCO, HLBS, HTBS, HT25, JBES, JJAN, JSSp, RHMF, SOTS, WF70

“Going to Ride Up in the Chariot”

Going to ride up in the chariot,
Sooner in the morning,
Going to ride up in the chariot,
Sooner in the morning,
And I hope I'll join the band;
O, Lord, have mercy on me....

Scriptural reference(s): II Kings 2:11–12

Available in: FH25, JARS, LBNF, WPNN, WWGG

“The Gospel Train” [“Get on Board, Little Children”]

The gospel train is coming, I hear it just at hand;
I hear the car wheels moving, And rumbling through the land.
Get on board, little children, get on board
Get on board, little children, There's room for many more....

Available in: ESAA, FHFN, HCTN, HJTS, HT25, HTBA, HTBS, JARS, JJAN, RW15, VLCH, WF70, WPNN

“Great Day”

Great day, the righteous are marching,
Great day! God's going to build up Zion's walls.
The chariot rode on the mountain top,
My God he spoke and the chariot stopped;...

Available in: HJTS, SONS, UBTM, WGST, WPNN

“Many Thousand Gone”

No more auction block for me
No more, no more;
No more auction block for me,
Many thousand gone.
No more peck of corn for me,...

Available in: CW40, WF70

“Oh, Freedom”

Oh, freedom, oh, freedom,

Oh, freedom over me!
And before I'd be a slave,
I'll be buried in my grave,
And go home to my Lord and be free....

Scriptural reference(s): Galatians 4:26; John 8:36, Luke 14:18
Available in: HLBS, HJTS, SONS, WPNN

“Peter on the Sea”

Peter, Peter, Peter on the sea, sea, sea!
Peter, Peter, Peter on the sea, sea, sea!
Gabriel, Gabriel, Gabriel, blow your trump, trump, trump!
Gabriel, blow your trumpet,
Gabriel, blow your trumpet loud!...

Scriptural reference(s): Daniel 6:16; Jonah 1:17; Matthew 14:29–30, 24:31
Available in: CW40, JJAN

“Ride on, King Jesus”

Ride on, King Jesus,
No man can hinder me;
Ride on, King Jesus,
No man can hinder me.
I was young when I begun,...

Scriptural reference(s): Matthew 21:7; Revelation 19:11–16
Available in: HCTN, HJCO, SOTS, WF70

“Roll, Jordan, Roll”

Roll, Jordan, roll,
Roll, Jordan, roll,
I want to got to heaven when I die,
To hear Jordan roll.
Oh, brothers, you ought to been there,...

Scriptural reference(s): Joshua 3:15
Available in: FHFN, HCTN, HLBS, JJAN, JSSp, MM4S

“Stand Still, Jordan”

Stand still, Jordan, Stand still, Jordan,
Stand still, Jordan, Lord, I can't stand still.
I got a mother in heaven,...

Available in: HTBA, HTBS, HJTS

“Steal Away”

Steal away, steal away,
Steal away to Jesus!
Steal away, steal away home,
I ain't got long to stay here.
My Lord calls me: He calls me by the thunder;...

Scriptural reference(s): Matthew 6:6, 24:27–31

Available in: CW40, DRSA, DSSS, FHFN, HCTN, HJCO, HLBS, HT25, HTBS, JJAN, JSSp,
RHMF, RW15, SONS, SOTS, WF70

“There's a Meeting Here Tonight”

Get you ready, there's a meeting here tonight,
Come along, there's a meeting here tonight,
I know you by your daily walk,
There's a meeting here tonight.
Camp meeting down in the wilderness,...

Available in: WF70

“Trying to Get Home”

Lord, I'm bearing heavy burdens, Trying to get home;
Lord, I'm bearing heavy burdens, Trying to get home;
Lord, I'm bearing heavy burdens, Trying to get home.
Lord, I'm climbing high mountains, Trying to get home;...

Available in: WWGG

“Wade in the Water”

Wade in the water,
Wade in the water, children,

Wade in the water,
God's gonna trouble the water.

Scriptural reference(s): Matthew 28: 19-20; John 5:4

Available in: HLBS, HT25, HTBA, HTBN, HTBS, JARS, PLSY, SONS, SOTS, SSS1 WF70

“Zion's Children”

Oh! Zion's children coming along,
Coming along, coming along,
O, Zion's children coming along,
Talking about the welcome day.
I hail my mother in the morning,...

Available in: FH25

Songs of Jubilation and Triumph

“Ain't That Good News”

I've got a crown up in the Kingdom, Ain't that good news!
I've got a crown up in the Kingdom, Ain't that good news!
I'm going to lay down this world, Going to shoulder up my cross,
Going to take it home to Jesus, Ain't that good news!...

Scripture reference(s): Matthew 24:14

Available in: CLSA, JPNS, SOTS, UBOR

“Going to Shout All Over God's Heaven” [“Heaven, Heaven”] [“I Got a Robe”]

I've got a robe, you've got a robe, All of God's children got a robe;
When I get to heaven, Going to play on my harp,
Going to shout all over God's heaven.
Heaven, heaven, Everybody talking about heaven ain't going there....

Available in: CW40, FHFN, HCTN, HLBS, HTBS, JJAN, JSSp, LB6N, RHMF, UBTM, WF70

“Going to Study War No More”

Going to lay down my burden, Down by the river side,
Down by the river side, Down by the river side;
Going to lay down my burden, Down by the river side,

To study war no more!
I'm going to put on my long white robe,...

Available in: HCTN, HTBN, HTBS, WF70

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and and everywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ was born.
While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens, there shone a holy light....

Scriptural reference(s): Matthew 1:18–25; Luke 1:67–79, 2:1–20

Available in: AAGS, HLBS, HT25, HTBS, JARS, MBIH, PLSY, RW15, SOTS, SSS1, WF70

“I Want to Be Ready”

I want to be ready, I want to be ready,
I want to be ready, To walk in Jerusalem just like John.
John said that Jerusalem was four-square,
Walk in Jerusalem just like John;...

Scriptural reference(s): Acts 2:4, 14; Isaiah 35:9, Revelation 21:10, 16, 24

Available in: CW40, FHFN, HCTN, HJCO, HTBS, HT25

“Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho”

Joshua fit the battle of Jericho, Jericho, Jericho,
Joshua fit the battle of Jericho, And the walls came a tumbling down.
You may talk about your king of Gideon,
You may talk about your man of Saul,...

Scriptural reference(s): Joshua 6:1–27

Available in: AAGS, HCTN, HJCO, HLBS, HTBS, JARS, JBES, JJAN, JSSp, MBIH, PLSY

“Little David, Play on Your Harp”

Little David, play on your harp, Hallelu, hallelu,
Little David, play on your harp, hallelu.
Down in the valley, O Lord!
Didn't go to stay, O Lord!...

Scriptural references: Exodus 33:11; I Samuel 16:23, 17:49–51

Available in: CW40, HCTN, HT25, HTBS, JB3a, JJAN, JSSp, RHMF, SSS1, VLCH

“Peter, Go Ring Them Bells”

Oh, Peter, go ring them bells, Peter, go ring them bells,
Peter, go ring them bells, I heard from heaven today.
It’s good news, and I thank God,
I heard from heaven today,...

Available in: CW40, FHFN, HCTN, HTBS, JCCA, JJAN, JSSp, WGST

Songs of Judgment and Reckoning

“Didn’t It Rain”

O, didn’t it rain, children, Didn’t it rain!
Didn’t it rain!

Scriptural reference(s): Genesis 7:4

Available in: HLBS, HT25, HTBN, HTBS, MBIH, WPNN

“I Want to Die Easy”

I want to die easy when I die,
I want to die easy when I die,
Shout salvation as I fly;
I want to see my Jesus....

Available in: DRSA, DSSS, SONS, UBTM, WPNN

“My Lord, What a Morning”

My Lord, what a morning, My Lord, what a morning,
My Lord, what a morning,
When the stars begin to fall.
You’ll hear the trumpet sound,
To wake the nations underground,...

Scriptural reference(s): Matthew 24:29–31

Available in: CW40, FH25, HCTN, HJTS, HLBS, HTBS, HT25, JBTS, MH10, PLSY, SSS1, WF70

Songs of Regeneration

“Every Time I Feel the Spirit”

Every time I feel the spirit moving in my heart, I will pray;
Every time I feel the spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.
Upon the mountain my Lord spoke,
Out of His mouth came fire and smoke,...

Available in: AAGS, CLSA, CW40, FHFN, HCTN, HJTS, HLBS, HTBA, HTBS, JJAN, JSSp, LB5N, MM4S, PLSY, RW15, SONS, WF70

“Wade in the Water”

Wade in the water, wade in the water, children,
Wade in the water, God’s going to trouble the water.
See that host all dressed in white,
The leader looks like an Israelite;...

Scriptural reference(s): John 5:4

Available in: HTBA, HTBN, HLBS, HT25, HTBS, JARS, PLSY, SONS, SOTS, SSS1, WF70

“Weepin’ Mary”

If there’s anybody here like weepin’ Mary,
If there’s anybody here like praying Samuel,
If there’s anybody here like doubting Thomas,
Call upon your Jesus And He’ll draw nigh....

Available in: DSSS, DRSA, HT25, HTBA, WF70

Songs of Spiritual Progress

“Done Made My Vow”

Done made my vow to the Lord and I never will turn back,
I will go, I shall go to see what the end will be.
Sometimes I’m up, sometimes I’m down,
But still my soul is heavenly bound;...

Scripture reference(s): John 4:34

Available in: SOTS, UBTM, WPNN

“Dry Bones”

God called Ezekiel by his word, “Go down and prophesy!”
“Yes, Lord!” Ezekiel prophesied by the power of God,
Commanded the bones to rise.
They gonna walk aroun’, dry bones,...

Scriptural reference(s): Ezekiel 37:1–14

Available in: ASSA, HCTN, HLBS, MBCF, RHMF

“I Know the Lord’s Laid His Hands on Me”

Oh, I know the Lord, I know the Lord,
I know the Lord’s laid His hands on me.
Did ever you see the like before?
Jesus preaching to the poor;...

Scriptural reference(s): Matthew 11:5, 19:15; Luke 4:40; Acts 8:17, 19:6; Revelation 1:17

Available in: HTBN, HTBS, LB5N, LMSO, SOTS, WF70

“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”

Lord, I want to be a Christian, In–a my heart, in–a my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian, In–a my heart, in–a my heart.
Lord, I want to be more loving,...

Available in: HCTN, HLBS, JBBS, JPNS, RW15, SONS, WGST

“Somebody’s Knocking at Your Door”

Somebody’s knocking at your door,
Somebody’s knocking at your door;
O, sinner, why don’t you answer?
Somebody’s knocking at your door.
Knocks like Jesus,...

Available in: CW40, FH25, HCTN, HLBS, MHDR, WF70

Songs of Transcendence

“Ezekiel Saw the Wheel”

Ezekiel saw the wheel, Away up in the middle of the air;
Ezekiel saw the wheel, Away up in the middle of the air.
The little wheel runs by faith, And the big wheel runs by the grace of God,
‘Tis a wheel in a wheel, Away up in the middle of the air.
Some go to church for to sing and shout,...

Scriptural reference(s): Ezekiel 1:15–23, 10:10
Available in: CW40, JJAN, MBIH, RHMF, SSS1

“I’ve Got a Home in That Rock, Don’t You See?”

I’ve got a home in that rock, don’t you see?
I’ve got a home in that rock, don’t you see?
Just between the earth and skies,
I behold my Savior’s side,
I’ve got a home in that rock, don’t you see?
Swing low, chariot, in the east, don’t you see?...

Available in: CW40, HCTN, HTBS, MBIH, RONS, SSS2, WGST

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

Let us break bread together on our knees;
Let us break bread together on our knees;
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.
Let us drink wine together on our knees;...

Scripture reference(s): Acts 20:7; I Corinthians 11:23
Available in: CLSA, JBBS, JCCA, JSSp, MHDR, RW15, SSS1

¹ Elizabeth and Patricia Turner, “The Master Singer: a pioneering performer looks back on a life in which he broke new ground not only as an artist but as a fighter for justice—An Interview with Todd Duncan.” *American Legacy*, Fall 1998,” in *Autobiographical Reminiscences of African-American Classical Singers, 1853-Present*, by Elizabeth Nash (Lewiston, NY: The Edwin Mellen Press, 2007), 159-168.