

# *Freedom Music: From Spirituals to Protest Songs*

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# What are Spirituals?

- Historically?
- Culturally?
- Musically?

# Spirituals

- Swing Low, Sweet Chariot
- Wade in the Water
- Steal Away to Jesus
- Roll, Jordan, Roll
- Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child
- Go Down, Moses
- Didn't my Lord Deliver Daniel
- Mary Don't you Weep
- Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen



*Moderato* *Etc...*

1. When Is - real was in E-gypt's land, Let my people go! — Oppress'd so hard they could not stand,  
2. Thus saith the Lord, bold Mo-ses said, Let my people go! — If not I'll smite your first borndead!

Let my people go! Let my people go! "Go down Moses Way down in Egypt's land; Tell old Pha-roah, Let my people go!

# Encoded Messages

"A keen observer might have detected in our repeated singing of 'O Canaan, sweet Canaan, I am bound for the land of Canaan,' something more than a hope of reaching heaven. We meant to reach the North, and the North was our Canaan." -Frederick Douglass





# *Spirituals & the Civil Rights Movement*

“In a sense the freedom songs are the soul of the movement...we sing the freedom songs today for the same reason the slaves sang them, because we too are in bondage and the songs add hope to our determination that “We shall overcome, Black and white together, We shall overcome someday.” - Martin Luther King Jr.



# *From Spirituals to Freedom Songs*



## *Spiritual (1800's):*

Don't you let nobody turn you aroun',  
Turn you aroun', turn you aroun',  
Don't you let nobody turn you aroun',  
Keep the straight an' the narrow way.

## *Protest Song (1960's)*

Ain't gonna let segregation turn me 'round,  
Turn me 'round, turn me 'round.  
Ain't gonna let segregation, turn me 'round.  
I'm gonna keep on a-walkin', keep on a-talkin',  
Marchin' on to freedom land

*The Freedom Singers*



*Orlando,  
2016*

*Protesting the  
Westboro  
Baptist Church*





*Miami,  
2020*

*Protesting  
Police  
Brutality*





*Charlottesville,  
2017*

*Protesting  
White  
Supremacy*



*Minneapolis,  
2020*

*Protesting  
Police  
Brutality*



**“We sing the freedom songs for the same reasons the slaves sang them, because we are still in bondage.” Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**