

Barbara Hendricks - Negro Spirituals (1999)

Written by bluesever

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01. *Sometimes I Feel Like A Motherless Child* 02. *Plenty Good Room* 03. *Nobody Knows De Trouble I've Seen* 04. *Git On Boa'd Little Child'n* 05. *Oh What A Beautiful City* 06. *His Name So Sweet* 07. *Deep River* 08. *When I Lay My Burden Down* 09. *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot!* 10. *Talk About A Child That Do Love Jesus* 11. *Joshua Fit de Battle of Jericho* 12. *Fix Me, Jesus* 13. *Roun' About De Mountain* 14. *Hold On!* 15. *Were You There?* 16. *Ev'ry Time I Feel De Spirit* Barbara Hendricks - soprano Dmitri Alexejew - piano

Negro spirituals are songs created by the Africans who were captured and brought to the United States to be sold into slavery. This stolen race was deprived of their languages, families, and cultures; yet, their masters could not take away their music. Over the years, these slaves and their descendents adopted Christianity, the religion of their masters. They re-shaped it into a deeply personal way of dealing with the oppression of their enslavement. Their songs, which were to become known as spirituals, reflected the slaves' need to express their new faith: My people told stories, from Genesis to Revelation, with God's faithful as the main characters. They knew about Adam and Eve in the Garden, about Moses and the Red Sea. They sang of the Hebrew children and Joshua at the battle of Jericho. They could tell you about Mary, Jesus, God, and the Devil. If you stood around long enough, you'd hear a song about the blind man seeing, God troubling the water, Ezekiel seeing a wheel, Jesus being crucified and raised from the dead. If slaves couldn't read the Bible, they would memorize Biblical stories they heard and translate them into songs. The songs were also used to communicate with one another without the knowledge of their masters. This was particularly the case when a slave was planning to escape bondage and to seek freedom via the Underground Railroad

---artofthenegrospiritual.com

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