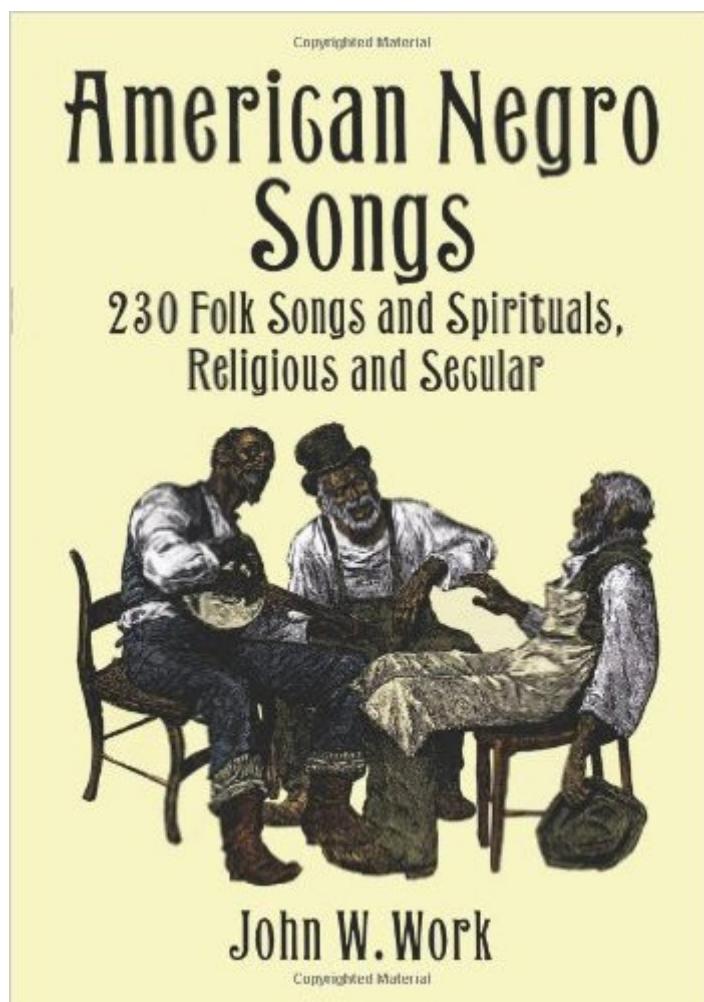


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# American Negro Songs: 230 Folk Songs And Spirituals, Religious And Secular (Dover Books On Music)



## Synopsis

From joyous gospel to deeply felt blues, this wonderful collection contains vintage songs sung and played through the years by black Americans "at work, in church, and for pure entertainment. Included are spirituals, blues, work songs, and a variety of social and dance songs. This important volume was originally compiled in 1940 by Dr. John W. Work, the noted musicologist affiliated with Fisk University and the celebrated Fisk Jubilee Singers. In it, he discusses the origins and history of black American folk music, the influence of slavery and African cultures, and the lyric significance of such much-loved songs as "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot," "Steal Away to Jesus," "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian," and "John Henry." These informative notes lead up to the heart of the book: the complete words and music for 230 religious and secular songs, including "Study War No More," "Keep Me from Sinking Down," "You May Bury Me in the East," "Rock of Ages," "Go Tell It on the Mountain," and many others. This is an indispensable treasury of music for singers, musicians and all readers seeking a comprehensive sourcebook of black American folk music. It will be equally welcomed at parties, family get-togethers, sing-alongs, church events, and other gatherings where people want to play and sing these classic folk songs that are an integral part of American musical history.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a wonderful old collection of songs. Melody is included, and sometimes parts, and as many lyrics as the authors could find, but there are no chords, so if you want to play along on your guitar

or other chord instrument you'll have to figure them out yourself. This book is worth having just for the historical information, which was fascinating. The authors went all over the South collecting songs, having people sing for them in bars, in the fields, and even in prisons. Some of the songs are really sad, a lot of them are about going to heaven, death, and hard work. Most are slave songs. There are some old blues tunes included as well. Love it. I wish it had chords, but that is not the fault of the book. Highly recommended if you love folk music.

Memories of songs I've heard, yet did not know the words. History is a wonderful thing. Enjoyed the "foot stomping" songs. As a city youngster visiting the south in the early 40's, in the old church camp meetings, some of these songs were sang. They bring back memories of good times in my youth.

This work is by John W. Work Jr. With his brother Frederick, he was the first African American to collect and publish traditional African American songs. This is the updated version that includes an essay by Work discussing the importance of documenting African American songs. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries he was dealing with misconceptions of African American song in general and African American scholars who wanted to get away from old spirituals as these were reminders of slavery. That makes this a brave book for its time. He was the father of folklorist John W. Work III who also collected folksongs.

I was looking for a particular spiritual and found it listed in this interesting collection. In the search found many spirituals that were new to me. My soloist then sang "He Never Said a Mumblin' Word" for a service on Good Friday from this collection, with great affect on the congregation.

in this collection of songs one senses the black's attempt to find his/her place in life. every human has a throbbing soul. for the afro american in the early days of black existence it expressed itself in prayerful ways. In Hope In faith. jack worth we appreciate your collection. Harry Sky

This is an indispensable treasury of music for singers, musicians and all readers seeking a comprehensive sourcebook of black American folk music. It will be equally welcomed at parties, family get-togethers, sing-alongs, church events and other gatherings where people want to play and sing these classic folk songs that are an integral part of American musical history.

If you ever want to know the origin of American Negro Songs, this is the book for you. You not only

know the history but you have the music and lyrics also. Great for school and church.

This is not only a song book, it's also gives some history of the music too. I wanted a selection of black spirituals and this is what I was looking for and more! This is great for learning to sing, and they're good songs to commit to memory. I wish there were more songs, somehow 230 doesn't seem like enough!

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