



An Index to African-American Spirituals for the Solo Voice (Music Reference Collection)

Kathleen A. Abromeit

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Spirituals were an intrinsic part of the African-American plantation life and were sung at all important occasions and events. This volume is the first index of African-American spirituals to be published in more than half a century and will be an important research tool for scholars and students of African-American history and music. The first collection of slave songs appeared in 1843, without musical notation, in a series of three articles by a Methodist Church missionary identified simply as c. Collections that included musical notation began appearing in the 1850s. The earliest book-length collection of spirituals containing both lyrics and music was published in 1867 and entitled *Slave Songs of the United States*. Not since the 1930s, with the publication of the *Index to Negro Spirituals* by the Cleveland Public Library, has an index of spirituals been compiled.

The spirituals are neatly organized in four indexes: a title index, first line index, alternate title index and a topical index that includes twenty major categories. A bibliography of indexed sources serves as a guide for further research.

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