

Meet Margaret Bonds!

Name _____



MARGARET BONDS

Born in 1913 in Chicago, Illinois

Died in 1972 in Los Angeles, California

Bonds was a pianist, composer, arranger, and teacher. She is known for her arrangements of African American spirituals, including “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands” sung by opera star Leotyne Price.

Margaret Bonds was the first African American soloist to perform with the Chicago Symphony.

9 FAST FACTS! Circle one fact that seems most important to Margaret Bonds’ work as a composer.

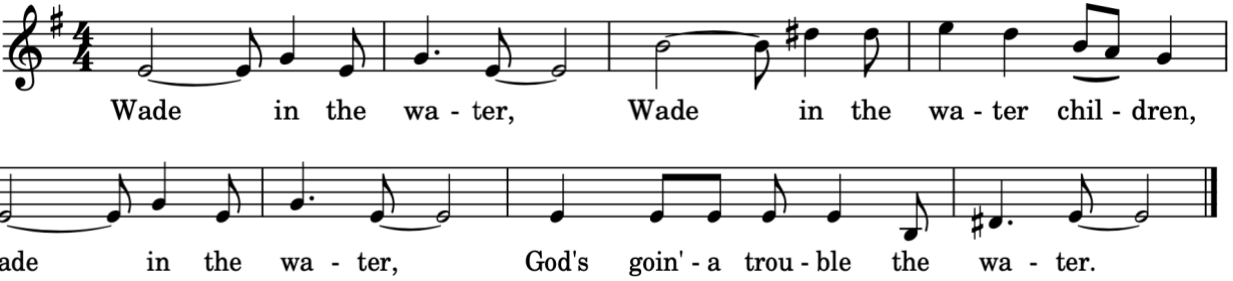
- Margaret inherited her love of music from her mother and a passion for civil rights and community activism from her father.
- Her mother recognized Margaret’s music talent and started teaching her to play the piano from a young age. When Margaret was older, she studied piano and composition with Florence Price.
- Margaret grew up meeting many African American writers, artists, and musicians that were guests in their home. Langston Hughes, a writer and social activist, became a lasting friend.
- Margaret attended Northwestern University near Chicago. In spite of the fact that it was a very hostile and racist environment, she earned degrees in piano performance and composition. She took additional graduate classes in composition and choral conducting at The Juilliard School.
- She moved to New York City and began working as a music editor for a publishing company. Bonds was also the music director for several theaters.
- Like other African American composers, Bonds often found her popular music was more readily accepted than the music she composed in classical genres. Her music was performed by many popular musicians including the Glenn Miller Orchestra and Louis Armstrong.
- As the Civil Rights Movement grew, Bonds was a tireless promoter of African American artists. She also composed several works dedicated to the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.
- In the late 1960s, Bonds moved to Los Angeles. There, she composed music for films and was the director of the Inner City Repertory Theatre.
- Margaret Bonds composed about 200 pieces but less than a third of them were published. Most of the manuscripts were given to the person who commissioned the music, or were lost.

Write one question you have about information on this page.

a) Listen to this short excerpt of “Wade in the Water” from Smithsonian Folkways Recordings.
<https://youtu.be/hN3qloG1MmQ> (0:00-1:04) Introduction – Chorus – Chorus – Verse – Chorus

Or b) Sing the Chorus

Chorus



Wade in the wa - ter, Wade in the wa - ter chil - dren,
 Wade in the wa - ter, God's goin' - a trou - ble the wa - ter.

Now that you have the chorus in mind, watch Bonds’ arrangement of “Wade in the Water” titled “Troubled Water.” It is performed by Kyle P. Walker <https://youtu.be/nPeLOYc3pNA> (5:35)

Overall Form	Sections and Clues in the music		Write words to describe the changing mood or feeling you get from the music
A minor	0:00 – Introduction 0:10 – Chorus 0:37 – Chorus 1:06 – Verse	Melody in octaves	
B Major	1:34 – Introduction 1:42 – Chorus 2:08 – Chorus 2:42 – Verse	Low, syncopated rhythm	
A minor	3:13 – Introduction 3:24 – Chorus 3:53 – Chorus	Starts back like the beginning Melody in octaves	
Coda	4:30 4:43 – Chorus	Low, syncopated rhythm	

What clues in the music help listeners know that the **A** or **B** section is coming to an end?

Do you think Kyle Walker likes this piece? How can you tell? _____
