

SONGS TO CELEBRATE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. & THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

Martin Luther King, Jr. was born on January 15th, 1929 and his birthday is celebrated as a national holiday on the third Monday of January.

SING ABOUT MARTIN (by Ms. Jackie Weissman)

Sing about Martin Sing about Martin
Sing about caring Sing about loving
Sing about peace Sing about peace
All around the world All around the world

THE DREAM OF MARTIN LUTHER KING (by Merle Gartrell)

Once there was a gentle man who talked about the promised land. He reached out and took the troubles from the people in his strong, black hands. He had a dream that everybody ought to hear the bells of freedom ring. Now the people shout and sing about the dream of Martin Luther King.
Sing about the dream of Martin Luther King.

CHORUS:

Oh, the dream, the dream of Martin Luther King. (2x)
Sing about the dream of Martin Luther King.

In his dream he saw the people of this land walking side by side; white man, black man, red man, yellow man loving one another with pride. Now he's gone away before the day his dream became a real thing, but he'll hear the angels sing about the dream of Martin Luther King.

Sing about the dream of Martin Luther King.

CHORUS

BRIDGE: He was a man who loved peace and he found a faith and belief. He preached that violence was wrong and he knew the fight would be long. He talked about a new day, but he walked a dangerous way. He knew the life of the slum but he sang "We Shall Overcome"

CHORUS

AMAZING GRACE (Lyrics by John Newton, Trad'l Melody)

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I was once was lost but now I'm found
Was blind, but now I see



WE SHALL OVERCOME (Traditional/ We listened to Joan Baez perform this song live in 1963.)

We shall overcome, we shall overcome
We shall overcome someday
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe
That we shall overcome someday
 We'll walk hand in hand...
 We shall live in peace....
 We are not afraid...

TURN ME AROUND (Traditional)

Ain't gonna let nobody turn me around
Turn me around, Turn me around
Ain't gonna let nobody turn me around
I'm gonna keep on a-walkin', Keep on a-talkin'
Walkin' all over this land.
 Ain't gonna let *hatred* turn me around....
 Ain't gonna let *prejudice* turn me around...
 Ain't gonna let *segregation* turn me around...

MLK quoted from the following two songs in his famous "I Have A Dream" speech:

AMERICA (MY COUNTRY 'TIS OF THEE)

(Lyrics by Samuel F. Smith, 1808-1895)

1. My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing;
land where my fathers died,
land of the pilgrims' pride,
from every mountainside let freedom ring!
2. My native country, thee,
land of the noble free, thy name I love;
I love thy rocks and rills,
thy woods and templed hills;
my heart with rapture thrills, like that above.
3. Let music swell the breeze,
and ring from all the trees sweet freedom's song;
let mortal tongues awake;
let all that breathe partake;
let rocks their silence break, the sound prolong.

FREE AT LAST (Traditional Spiritual)

CHORUS: Free at last, free at last
Thank God almighty, I'm free at last. (2x)
Surely been 'buked (rebuked) and surely been
scorned (Thank God almighty, I'm free at last.)
But still my soul is a-heaven born (Thank God...)
CHORUS
If you don't know that I've been received
Just follow me down to Jordan's stream

The lyrics to "Free At Last" are inscribed on Martin Luther King, Jr.'s tombstone in Atlanta

WHAT CAN ONE LITTLE PERSON DO? (by Sally Rogers)

CHORUS:
What can one little person do?
What can one little me or you do?
What can one little person do
to help this world go 'round?
One can help another one,
and together we can get the job done.
What can one little person do to help this world?

VERSE 1: Harriet Tubman was alone
on that darkened road to freedom,
but she couldn't leave her people far
behind.

Moses stretched out her hand,
and she led them to the freedom land,
for she knew that she had justice on
her side.

CHORUS

VERSE 2: When Sojourner Truth was freed,
she got down on her knees,
and she prayed to God to help her on her way
With her voice and with her might,
she fought for what was right,
for she knew that she had justice on her side.

CHORUS

VERSE 3: Rosa Parks sat on the bus,
and the driver said, "you must
move to the back of the bus,
or be thrown in jail"

But she stayed and stood her ground, and she
brought that old law down, for she knew that she
had justice on her side. CHORUS

VERSE 4: Brother Martin Luther King
he told the world "I have a dream!"



and he led this country's fight for human rights
We must fight for liberty, until all of us are free,
and we'll know that we have justice on our side.
CHORUS 2X repeat last line

IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE (by Suzanne Sherman Propp)

We might look different
but inside we're much the same.
We all feel happiness, we all feel some pain,
but how are we to get along if we refuse to see
that it will make a difference if you just pretend
you're me?

It's gotta make a difference (2x)

Come sit by my side and see through my eyes,
hear the way I hear and it won't be a surprise to
learn that we might look different but inside
we're much the same.

We all feel happiness, we all feel some pain, but
how are we to get along if we can't see it's true
that it will make a difference if I just pretend I'm
you?

Make a difference if you can (2x)

It's gotta make a difference (2x)

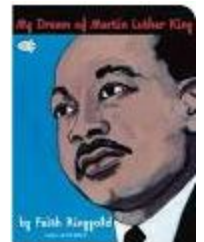
I'll sit by your side and see through your eyes,
hear the way you hear and it won't be a
surprise to learn that we might look different,
but inside we're much the same.

We all feel happiness, we all feel some pain,
but how are we to get along if we refuse to see
that it will make a difference if you just
pretend you're me?

Yes, how are we to get along if we can't see it's
true that it will make a difference if I just
pretend I'm you?

*It's gotta make a
difference (3x)*

**In 2nd Grade Music Class
at GFS, we read My Dream
of Martin Luther King by
Faith Ringold:**



We also listened to "**SHED A
LITTLE LIGHT**" by James Taylor sung by
The Maccabeats and Naturally 7 on the
steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

<https://youtu.be/crKDDS5D os>

and "**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**" by Stevie

Wonder: <https://youtu.be/inS9gAgSENE>