

SONG TITLE: 'RESPECT'
ALBUM: I NEVER LOVED
 A MAN THE WAY
 I LOVE YOU
RELEASED: 1967
LABEL: ATLANTIC
GENRE: SOUL
WRITTEN BY: OTIS REDDING
PRODUCED BY: JERRY WEXLER
UK CHART PEAK: 10

‘Respect’ was written and originally released by Motown legend Otis Redding in 1965. Although Redding achieved significant success with the song, it became more famously known as a global hit for iconic vocalist Aretha Franklin. Redding’s original intention of the song tells the story of a hardworking man bringing money home to his abiding housewife. However, Franklin flips this on its head and delivers a lyric describing a strong and independent woman. Many have viewed the original as misogynistic, while Franklin’s version has been cited as a landmark for the feminist movement – quite a contrast. The hugely famous R-E-S-P-E-C-T middle eight was actually added by Franklin herself, with her backing singers responding with the well-known reply “sock it to me...”.

Aretha Franklin was an incredibly talented woman and lent her hand to many courageous roles, such as singer, songwriter, actress, pianist and civil rights activist. Her love for music began at a very young age, singing gospel at the church where her father was minister in her hometown. At 18 years old she signed for Columbia records, recording secular music and achieving minor success. It was on signing with Atlantic Records in 1966 that Franklin achieved global success, with hits such as ‘Respect’, ‘Chain of Fools’, ‘Think’ and ‘(You Make Me Feel Like a) Natural Woman’ (to name a few). The singer soon became widely known as “The Queen of Soul”.

Franklin sadly passed away in August 2018 at the age of 76, but left behind an unbelievable legacy. Not only did she record 112 Billboard charting singles, but she also became the first female performer to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1987. She has inspired thousands with her incredible vocal and stunning interpretation of endless hits. In 2008 Rolling Stone Magazine actually ranked Franklin as the number 1 greatest singer of all time, a position very much deserved.

‘Respect’ sent Franklin flying into success, topping the Billboard charts and peaking at number 10 in the UK. It sold well over 1 million copies and went on to be listed by Rolling Stone magazine as the 5th greatest song of all time. Throughout her career Franklin received a mesmerising 44 Grammy nominations, 18 of which she won, including nominations for Best R&B Vocal Performance (Female) for ten years running between 1974 and 1984. Had it not been for her iconic version of ‘Respect’ we may never have known the legend that was Aretha Franklin.

Respect

Aretha Franklin

♩=114 *Soul*

First system of musical notation for 'Respect'. It consists of a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked as ♩=114 and the style is 'Soul'. The first measure has a *mf* dynamic and a C7 chord. The second measure has an F7 chord. The system ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign with a '2' above and below it, indicating a two-measure repeat.

A

Second system of musical notation, marked with a box 'A'. It consists of a grand staff. The first measure has a G chord. The second measure has an F chord. The third measure has a G chord. The fourth measure has an F chord. The system ends with a double bar line.

[5]

Third system of musical notation. The first measure has a G chord. The second measure has an F chord. The third measure has a C7 chord. The system ends with a double bar line.

[9]

Fourth system of musical notation. The first measure has an F7 chord. The second measure has a C7 chord. The third measure has an F7 chord. The system ends with a double bar line.

[12]

B Develop on repeat and after D.S.

Fifth system of musical notation, marked with a box 'B'. It consists of a grand staff. The first measure has a G chord and a *mf* dynamic. The second measure has an F chord. The third measure has a G chord. The system ends with a double bar line.

[15]

Sixth system of musical notation. The first measure has an F chord. The second measure has a G chord. The third measure has an F chord. The system ends with a double bar line.

[18]

Sight Reading

In the exam, you have a choice between either a Sight Reading test or an Improvisation & Interpretation test. The examiner will ask you which one you wish to choose before commencing. Once you have decided you cannot change your mind.

In the sight reading test, the examiner will give you a 8 bar melody in the key of either E major or A^b major. You will first be given 90 seconds to practise, after which the examiner will play the backing track twice. The first time is for you to practise and the second time is for you to perform the final version for the exam. For each playthrough, the backing track will begin with a one bar count-in. The tempo is ♩=60-130.

During the practice time, you will be given the choice of a metronome click throughout or a one bar count in at the beginning.

The backing track is continuous, so once the first playthrough has finished, the count in of the second playing will start immediately.

Sight Reading | Example 1

♩=60 *Spiritual*

[5]

Please note: The tests shown are examples: The examiner will give you a different version in the exam

Sight Reading | Example 2

♩=60 *Ballad*

[5]

Please note: The tests shown are examples: The examiner will give you a different version in the exam

General Musicianship Questions

The final part of your exam is the General Musicianship Questions section, which features five questions relating to one of your choice of the performance pieces.

1. You will be asked a question relating to the harmony from a section of one of your pieces
2. You will be asked a question relating to the melody in a section of one of your pieces
3. You will be asked a question relating to the rhythms used in a section of one of your pieces
4. You will be asked a question relating to the technical requirements of one of your pieces
5. You will be asked a question relating to the genre of one of your pieces

Further guidance on the types of questions asked at this grade can be found at the RSL website www.rslawards.co.uk