

Mississippi Goddam

By Nina Simone

1. Place the words into the correct gaps:

single	activists	nightclub	indicative	murders	preservation

"Mississippi Goddam" is a song written and performed by American singer and pianist Nina Simone, who later announced the anthem to be her "first civil rights song". The song was released on her album Nina Simone in Concert in 1964, which was based on recordings of three concerts she gave at Carnegie Hall earlier that year. The album was her first release for the Dutch label Philips Records and is (1) _____ of the more political turn her recorded music took during this period.

Simone composed "Mississippi Goddam" in less than an hour. Together with the songs "Ain't Got No, I Got Life", "Four Women" and "To Be Young, Gifted and Black", it is one of her most famous protest songs and self-written compositions. In 2019, "Mississippi Goddam" was selected by the Library of Congress for (2) _____ in the National Recording Registry for being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant".

The song captures Simone's response to the racially motivated (3) _____ of Emmett Till and Medgar Evers in Mississippi, and the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing in Birmingham, Alabama, killing four black children.

Simone first performed the song at the Village Gate (4) _____ in Greenwich Village, and shortly thereafter in March 1964 at Carnegie Hall, in front of a mostly white audience. The Carnegie Hall recording was subsequently released as a (5) _____ and became an anthem during the Civil Rights Movement. "Mississippi Goddam" was banned in several Southern states. Boxes of promotional singles sent to radio stations around the country were returned with each record broken in half.

Simone performed the song in front of 10,000 people at the end of the Selma to Montgomery marches when she and other black (6) _____, including Sammy Davis Jr., James Baldwin and Harry Belafonte crossed police lines.

Taken from Wikipedia - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mississippi_Goddam

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2. Listen to the song and complete the gaps with a word:

The name of this tune is
Mississippi Goddam

And I (1) _____ every word of it

Alabama's gotten me so upset
Tennessee made me lose my rest
And everybody knows about
Mississippi Goddam

Alabama's gotten me so upset
Tennessee made me lose my rest
And everybody knows about
Mississippi Goddam

(2) _____ you see it
Can't you feel it
It's all in the air

I can't stand the pressure much longer
Somebody say a (3) _____
Alabama's gotten me so upset
Tennessee made me lose my rest
And everybody knows about
Mississippi Goddam

This is a show tune
But the show hasn't been written for it, yet

Hound dogs on my trail
School children sitting in jail

Black cat cross my path
I think every day's (4) _____ be my last

Lord have mercy on this land of mine
We all gonna get it in due time
I don't belong here
I don't belong there
I've even stopped believing in prayer

Don't tell me
I tell you
Me and my people just about
(5) _____

I've been there so I know
They keep on saying "Go slow!"
But that's just the trouble
"Do it slow"
Washing the windows
"Do it slow"
Picking the cotton
"Do it slow"
You're just (6) _____ rotten
"Do it slow"
You're too damn lazy
"Do it slow"
The thinking's crazy
"Do it slow"
Where am I going
What am I doing
I don't know
I don't know
Just try to do your very best
(7) _____ up be counted with all the rest
For everybody knows about
Mississippi Goddam
I made you thought I was kiddin'
Picket lines
School boy cots
They try to say it's a communist plot
(8) _____ I want is equality
For my sister my brother my people and me
Yes you lied to me all these years
You told me to wash and clean my ears
And talk real fine just like a lady
And you'd stop calling me Sister Sadie
Oh but this whole country is full of lies
You're all gonna die and die like
(9) _____
I don't trust you any more
You keep on saying "Go slow!"
"Go slow!"
But that's just the trouble
"Do it slow"
(10) _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

"Do it slow"
Mass participation
"Do it slow"
(11) _____
"Do it slow"
Do things gradually
"Do it slow"
But bring more tragedy
"Do it slow"
Why don't you see it
Why don't you feel it
I don't know
I don't know
You don't have to live next to me
Just give me my (12) _____
Everybody knows about
Mississippi
Everybody knows about Alabama
Everybody knows about
Mississippi Goddam
That's it!

LIVEWORKSHEETS