The Book of American Negro Spirituals

This stirring collection of Negro spirituals, edited by the great Negro poet James Weldon Johnson and arranged for voice and piano by his brother J. Rosamond Johnson, presents 120 of these melodic—and intensely moving—religious folk songs for contemporary performance. The original language has been faithfully preserved in this convenient performing edition, so that the spirituals can be sung today exactly as they were more than a hundred years ago. [...] The songs are prefaced by James Weldon Johnson's masterful discussions of their origins, musical quality, and historical significance. Above all, he stresses the essential dignity of the Negro spirituals, which, though no doubt inspired by the religious faith of their masters, "are purely and solely the creation of the American Negro."
The Books of the American Negro Spirituals. By Johnson, James Weldon, Johnson, J. Rosamond (Paperback). $22.99. The negro spirituals “The Gospel Train” and “Swing low, sweet chariot” which directly refer to the Underground Railroad, an informal organization who helped many slaves to flee. The lyrics of “The Gospel train” are “She is coming Get onboard 187 pages ; 26 cm. Go down Moses ; Heav'n boun' soldier ; Joshua fit de Battle ob Jerico ; We am Clim'in' Jacob's ladder ; Didn't old Pharaoh get los'? ; Swing low sweet chariot ; Up on de Mountain ; Lit'le David play on yo' harp ; Die in de Fiel' ; Ride on, Moses ; All God's Chillun got wings ; Dere's no hidin' place down dere ; Gimme dat ol'-time Religion ; Lis'en to de lam's ; He's Jus' de same today ; Stan' still Jordan ; Somebody's knockin' at yo' do' ; Singin' wid a swo The Negro Spiritual: From Cotton Field to Concert Hall. A Brief History. Negro spirituals are songs created by the Africans who were captured and brought to the United States to be sold into slavery. This stolen race was deprived of their languages, families, and cultures; yet, their masters could not take away their music. Spirituals were created extemporaneously and were passed orally from person to person. These folksongs were improvised as suited the singers. The gospel music of the African American had its beginnings during the years following the Civil War. Many newly freed slaves began seeking a new life away from the rural setting of the Southern plantation. They sought opportunities for better education and employment to the north and west. Includes the Book of American Negro Spirituals and the Second Book of Negro Spirituals. No jacket. PO name stamp on the endpapers and top/bottom edges, 1/2 inch dark stain on foredge, pages toned but unmarked, red fabric covers spotted and edge/corner worn to the board, binding tight. Seller Inventory # 97296. More information about this seller | Contact this seller 6. The Books of American Negro Spirituals [Two Volumes in One] Including The Book of American Negro Spirituals and the Second Book of Negro Spirituals. No jacket. PO name stamp on the endpapers and top/bottom edges, 1/2 inch dark stain on foredge, pages toned but unmarked, red fabric covers spotted and edge/corner worn to the board, binding tight. Seller Inventory # 97296. More information about this seller | Contact this seller 6. The Books of American Negro Spirituals [Two Volumes in One] Including The Book of American Negro Spirituals and the Second Book of Negro Spirituals. No jacket. PO name stamp on the endpapers and top/bottom edges, 1/2 inch dark stain on foredge, pages toned but unmarked, red fabric covers spotted and edge/corner worn to the board, binding tight. Seller Inventory # 97296. More information about this seller | Contact this seller

The spirituals were originally unaccompanied monophonic songs, they developed into harmonized choral arrangements.