

Nina Simone's "Mississippi Goddam!" by G.P.

Stage name: Nina Simone

Real name: Eunice Kathleen Waymon (1933 - 2003)

- American pianist, songwriter, composer and civil- rights activist, widely associated with jazz music

- first performance (at the age of 12) in church; parents had taken seats in front and were forced to take seats in the back of the hall to make way for white people; refused to play until parents could take their original seats.

- after high school tried to study piano -> wanted to become the first black concert pianist
But she was rejected, believed that this was founded on the colour of her skin

- performed a mix of jazz, blues and classical music in bars to fund her private piano lessons

- in the field of Civil rights (1964 - 1974)

-album: "Nina Simone in concert" (live recording in 1964)

->addressed for the first time openly the racial inequality in the USA in her song
"Mississippi Goddam"

-song was a response to the murder of Medgar Evers (African American civil rights activist from Mississippi, assassinated by the Ku Klux Klan)

->From then on always civil rights messages in her songs

- performed at many civil rights meetings (Selma to Montgomery marches)

- advocated violent revolution in contrast to ML King (who argued for a non - violent approach)

The Song:

- Description of the situation of the blacks in the USA

- places where the Civil Rights Movement took place are mentioned

- claim for desegregation