



O Mary Don't You Weep

Pre-Civil War "slave spiritual"

Performed by the Fisk Jubilee Singers

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ABOUT THE SONG

"O Mary Don't You Weep" dates back to before the Civil War thus it is what scholars call a slave song, "a label that describes their origins among the enslaved," and it contains "coded messages of hope and resistance."

The song tells the Biblical story of Mary of Bethany and her distraught pleas to Jesus to raise her brother Lazarus from the dead. Other narratives relate to The Exodus and the passage of the Red Sea with the chorus proclaiming *Pharaoh's army got drown-ded*.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Fisk University opened in 1866 as the first American university to offer a liberal arts education to "young men and women irrespective of color." The Fisk Jubilee Singers acapella group was started in the hopes of raising money for the financially struggling university. They started touring in 1871 and went on to become the most successful Black Vocal group of the 19th century. Their repertoire consisted of "negro spirituals originally sung by slaves prior to the civil war."

Their recording of "O Mary Don't You Weep" was released in 1915.

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4/4 Time

O MARY DON'T YOU WEEP

Original Key A

(Pre-Civil War "Slave" Spiritual) - The Fisk Jubilee Singers/1915

INTRO {A}

REFRAIN

*O Mary Don't You Weep Don't You Mourn
O Mary Don't You Weep Don't You Mourn
Because Pharaoh's Army Got Drown-ded
O Mary Don't You Weep... (Repeat)*

1) I Don't Know What My Mother Wants To Stay Here For
For This Old World Ain't No Friend To Her
Because Pharaoh's Army Got Drown- ded
O Mary Don't You Weep

REFRAIN

2) Some Of These Mornings Bright And Fair
Gonna Hike My Wings And Cleeve The Air
Because Pharaoh's Army Got Drown- ded
O Mary Don't You Weep

REFRAIN

3) When I Get To Heaven Gonna Put On My Shoes
Gonna Run Around Glory And Tell All The News
Because Pharaoh's Army Got Drown- ded
O Mary Don't You Weep

REFRAIN

4) When I Get To Heaven Gonna Sing And Shout
There's Nobody There For To Turn Me Out
Because Pharaoh's Army Got Drown- ded
O Mary Don't You Weep

REFRAIN

(Pre-Civil War "Slave" Spiritual) - The Fisk Jubilee Singers/1915

INTRO {A}

REFRAIN

{A} O Mary Don't You {E} Weep Don't You Mourn
 {E} O Mary Don't You {A} Weep Don't You Mourn
 Because {D} Pharaoh's Army Got {A} Drown-ded
 {A,2} O... {E,2} Mary Don't You {A} Weep... **(Repeat)**

1) I {A} Don't Know What My Mother Wants To {E} Stay Here For
 For {A} This Old World Ain't No {A} Friend To Her
 Because {D} Pharaoh's Army Got {A} Drown- ded
 {A,2} O... {E,2} Mary Don't You {A} Weep

REFRAIN

2) {A} Some Of These Mornings {E} Bright And Fair
 Gonna {E} Hike My Wings And {A} Cleeve The Air
 Because {D} Pharaoh's Army Got {A} Drown- ded
 {A,2} O... {E,2} Mary Don't You {A} Weep

REFRAIN

3) {A} When I Get To Heaven Gonna {E} Put On My Shoes
 Gonna {E} Run Around Glory And {A} Tell All The News
 Because {D} Pharaoh's Army Got {A} Drown- ded
 {A,2} O... {E,2} Mary Don't You {A} Weep

REFRAIN

4) {A} When I Get To Heaven Gonna {E} Sing And Shout
 There's {E} Nobody There For {A} To Turn Me Out
 Because {D} Pharaoh's Army Got {A} Drown- ded
 {A,2} O... {E,2} Mary Don't You {A} Weep

REFRAIN