

"THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT CHANGED MY VIEW OF MUSIC."

HAVING RECENTLY JOINED HER FIRST PROTEST WITH THE STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE

BERNICE JOHNSON REAGON

IS ASKED TO LEAD A SONG

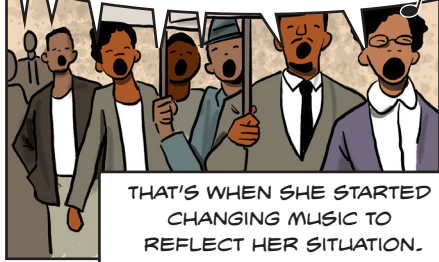


BUT WHEN SHE GOT TO THE LINE IN THE SONG "TROUBLE IN THE AIR"...

I DON'T SEE ANY TROUBLE HERE. I THINK I SHOULD USE A DIFFERENT LINE.



Over my head I see... Freedom in the air...



BERNICE IS ARRESTED WHILE PROTESTING



THERE IS A LOT OF TENSION BETWEEN ALL THESE WOMEN.



AFTER GETTING OUT OF JAIL BERNICE HEADS TO A SNCC MEETING. DESPITE BEING HOARSE FROM CONSTANT SINGING IN JAIL...



WHEN BERNICE STARTS SINGING SHE HEARS A WHOLE NEW VOICE.

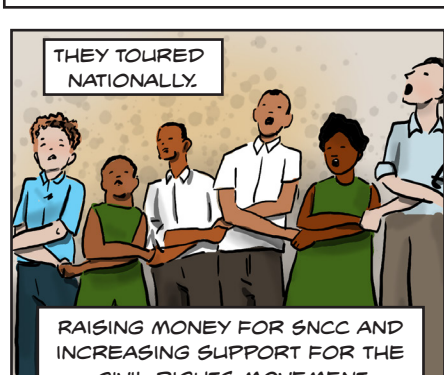


"I HAD NEVER BEEN THAT ME BEFORE. AND ONCE I BECAME THAT ME, I HAVE NEVER LET THAT ME GO."

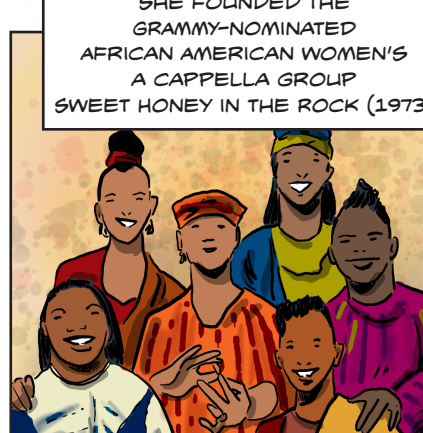
AND SHE USED THAT VOICE TO BECOME....



THEY TOURED NATIONALLY.



BERNICE HAD A LONG AND SUCCESSFUL MUSIC CAREER, WORKING AS AN PERFORMER, PRODUCER, AND CURATOR.



SHE ALSO ACHIEVED MANY ACADEMIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS



- APPOINTED AS DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY.
- AWARDED A MACARTHUR GENIUS GRANT FOR WORK IN AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSIC.
- DIRECTED THE BLACK AMERICAN CULTURE PROGRAM AT THE SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY.

[HTTPS://S.SI.EDU/MUSIC-HERSTORY](https://s.si.edu/music-herstory)
WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY EVAN KEELING

