

2

Work Song

Vox. 1 ¹⁶
 — ought to get it Been work-in' and work-in' But I still

Vox. 2

Repeat for Solos

Vox. 1 ¹⁹
 — got so terr-ib-ly far to go go been work-in' and

Vox. 2

Vox. 1 ²³
 work-in' But I still — got so terr-ib-ly far to

Vox. 2

Notes

What do I need to practise?

Do I solo and when?

How will the piece be performed?

What are some suggestions your teacher gave to help your music making?

How do the performers in the recordings make a simple song cool?

Work Song

Voice



What's a Chain Gang?

This song is all about injustice. Before the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, African-Americans were routinely mistreated. Punishments usually were much more severe than what fit the crime – which was often committed out of desperation (e.g. attempting to put food on the table). Try to put yourself in the shoes of the person in the song: do you think he/she is being treated fairly? (By the way, is the person in the song a man or a woman?)

One more question: what's a chain gang?

Suggested Listening

Work Song

Nat Adderley: *Work Song*

The Animals: *Animalism and Bonus Hits*

Nina Simone: *Ultimate Blues*

Work Song Improvisation Scales

Voice

C Blues Scale - Cm7

C Dorian Scale - Cm7

6

G Mixolydian - G7

12

F Mixolydian - F7

Work Song Chords

Voice

Cm7

G7

F7

7

Dm7

Score

Work Song

Adderley

Carson

Vocals 1

Solo 2

Break in' rocks out here
I com - mi - ted crime
Heard the judge say five
Gon - na see my sweet

Vox. 1

Vox. 2

— on the chain gang Break - in' rocks and serv - in' my time
— lord I need - ed store man — bleed - ing hung - gry and poor
— long years — Crime of be - ing you gon - na go
— hon - ey ba - by Gon - na break this chain off to run

Vox. 1

Vox. 2

Break - in' rocks out here — on the chain gang 'Cause they done con - vic -
I left the groc - ery store — man — bleed - ing When they caught me rob -
Heard the judge say five — years la - bor Heard my old man scream
Gon - na lay down some — where sha - dy Lord I sure am hot

Vox. 1

Vox. 2

— ted me of crime Hold it steady right there — while I hit it Well reck-on that
— bing his — store
— "lor - dy no"
— in the sun