Work Song: Piano

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

Nat Adderley: Work Song; The Animals: Animalism & Bonus Hits; Nina Simone: Ultimate Blues

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?