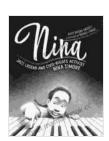
# Nina Simone: Jazz Legend and Civil Rights Activist

Nina Simone was a jazz singer, pianist, and civil rights activist. She used her music to speak out against racism and inequality, and her songs continue to inspire people around the world.



Nina: Jazz Legend and Civil-Rights Activist Nina

**Simone** by Alice Brière-Haquet

★★★★★ 4.4 out of 5
Language : English
File size : 7626 KB
Print length : 40 pages
Screen Reader: Supported



#### **Early Life and Career**

Nina Simone was born Eunice Kathleen Waymon in Tryon, North Carolina, on February 21, 1933. She began playing piano at the age of three and was a child prodigy. She attended the Juilliard School of Music in New York City, but was forced to leave after only one year due to financial difficulties.

In the early 1950s, Simone began performing in nightclubs in Atlantic City, New Jersey. She quickly gained a reputation for her powerful voice and passionate performances. In 1958, she released her debut album, *Little Girl Blue*, which was a critical and commercial success.

#### **Civil Rights Activism**

Simone became increasingly involved in the civil rights movement in the 1960s. She performed at rallies and protests, and her songs became anthems for the movement. In 1963, she released the album *Nina Simone Sings the Blues*, which included the song "Mississippi Goddam," a powerful protest song about the racism and violence in the South.

Simone's activism often put her at odds with the music industry. She was blacklisted by several record labels and radio stations, and she was forced to cancel many concerts. However, she never wavered in her commitment to the civil rights movement.

#### **Later Career**

In the 1970s, Simone continued to perform and record, but she also began to explore other genres of music, including gospel, classical, and folk. She also wrote several books and plays.

In the 1980s, Simone's health began to decline. She was diagnosed with bipolar disorder and breast cancer. However, she continued to perform and record until her death in 2003.

#### Legacy

Nina Simone is remembered as one of the most important and influential jazz musicians of all time. Her music was a powerful force for social change, and she inspired generations of activists and artists.

Simone's songs continue to be performed and recorded by artists around the world. Her music is a reminder of the struggle for civil rights and the power of music to change the world.

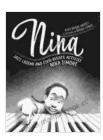
### Image Gallery





Nina Simone participating in a civil rights protest





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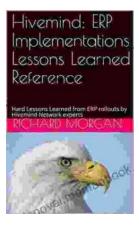
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