

# Aretha Franklin: The Queen of Soul



## Aretha Franklin: The Queen of Soul by Mark Bego

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language	: English
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Aretha Franklin, known as the Queen of Soul, was an American singer, songwriter, pianist, and civil rights activist. She was one of the most popular and influential soul singers of all time, and her career spanned over five decades.

Franklin was born in Memphis, Tennessee, on March 25, 1942. She began singing in church at an early age, and by the time she was 14, she had recorded her first album. In 1960, she signed with Columbia Records, and her career took off. She released a string of hit songs, including "Respect," "Chain of Fools," and "I Say a Little Prayer." Franklin's music was known for its powerful vocals, soulful melodies, and socially conscious lyrics.

In addition to her music career, Franklin was also a civil rights activist. She performed at the March on Washington in 1963, and she used her platform to speak out against racism and inequality. Franklin was also a supporter of

the women's rights movement, and she was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 1994.

Franklin died on August 16, 2018, at the age of 76. She left behind a legacy of music, activism, and inspiration. She is remembered as one of the greatest singers of all time, and her music continues to touch the lives of people around the world.

## **Early life and career**

Aretha Franklin was born in Memphis, Tennessee, on March 25, 1942. Her father, Clarence LaVaughn Franklin, was a Baptist minister, and her mother, Barbara Siggers Franklin, was a singer. Franklin began singing in church at an early age, and by the time she was 14, she had recorded her first album. In 1960, she signed with Columbia Records, and her career took off.

Franklin's early hits included "Respect" (1967), "Chain of Fools" (1968), and "I Say a Little Prayer" (1968). These songs showcased her powerful vocals, soulful melodies, and socially conscious lyrics. Franklin's music was a reflection of her own experiences as a black woman in America, and she used her platform to speak out against racism and inequality.

## **Civil rights activism**

In addition to her music career, Franklin was also a civil rights activist. She performed at the March on Washington in 1963, and she used her platform to speak out against racism and inequality. Franklin was also a supporter of the women's rights movement, and she was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 1994.

Franklin's civil rights activism was inspired by her own experiences with racism and discrimination. She grew up in a segregated society, and she witnessed firsthand the injustices that black people faced. Franklin used her music to raise awareness of these injustices, and she called for change.

## Legacy

Aretha Franklin died on August 16, 2018, at the age of 76. She left behind a legacy of music, activism, and inspiration. She is remembered as one of the greatest singers of all time, and her music continues to touch the lives of people around the world.

Franklin's music is a testament to her strength, resilience, and determination. She overcame adversity to become one of the most successful and influential singers in history. Her music is a source of inspiration for people of all backgrounds, and it continues to empower and uplift listeners around the world.



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