

# Music of the Month - April

## Nina Simone



- Nina Simone was an American singer who became famous in the 1950s.
- She was very musically talented and started to teach herself the piano when she was 3 years old.
- She became famous not only because she was a brilliant pianist but also due to her unique and beautiful voice.
- She became very good at the piano and did a solo performance when she was 11 years old. At the performance, her parents sat at the front to see her play but were moved to the back because they were black. Nina refused to start playing until her parents were moved back to their original seats.

# Week 1 - Feeling Good



- This is the ultimate feelgood song! You really feel the swooping and soaring of a bird flying free.
- This song was written to express the feeling of being totally free, particular after the feeling of being controlled.
- It was originally a song from a show but Nina turned it into a hit by discovering the true essence of the song.

## Week 2 - I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel To Be Free



- This is another song about freedom and reflects the feelings that Nina experienced throughout her life due to the colour of her skin.
- Nina attended a world renowned music college called The Julliard School however auditioned for another excellent music college and didn't get a place with no real reason why. Nina felt that is was because of racism.
- Nina sung many songs throughout her career about racism and the fight for everybody's freedom.

# Week 3 - My Sweet Lord



- This song was written by a member of The Beatles, George Harrison.
- Nina sings this song in a gospel style which is Christian music traditionally sung by people who were slaves.
- Nina enjoyed a long career in music and was still performing and singing until she died at the age of 70.