Mr. Bojangles

Nina Simone

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I knew a man Bojangles
                           And he danced for you
                             In worn out shoes
                       With silver hair, a ragged shirt
                     And baggy pants, the old soft shoe
                   He jumped so high, he jumped so high
      Then he lightly touched downI met him in a cell in New Orleans
                            I was down and out
                   He looked at me to be the eyes of age
                            As he spoke right out
                     He talked of life, he talked of life
                     He laughed, slapped his leg a step
                        He said his name, Bojangles
                     And he danced a lick across the cell
                            He grabbed his pants
                              in fettered stance
                           Oh, he jumped up high
                          Then he clicked his heels
                     He let go a laugh, he let go a laugh
       Shook back his clothes all aroundMr. Bojangles, Mr. Bojangles
                 Mr. Bojangles, dance!He danced for those
                     At minstrel shows and county fairs
                           Throughout the south
                       He spoke with tears of 15 years
                    How his dog and him traveled about
                    His dog up and died, he up and died
                        After 20 years he still grieves
                            He said I dance now
                      At every chance in honky tonks
                             For drink and tips
                            But most of the time
                      I spend behind these county bars
                   Cause I drinks a bitHe shook his head
                          And as he shook his head
                          I heard someone ask him
                 Please, pleaseMr. Bojangles, Mr. Bojangles
                           Mr. Bojangles, dance!
Song Discussions is protected by U.S. Patent 9401941. Other patents pending.
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