

## Respect (1967) Aretha Franklin

### LISTEN FOR

- Blend of gospel style with girl-group backing vocals
- Commanding vocal delivery
- Song's climax in close
- Social and political significance of song's message

### CREATION

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*Songwriters* Otis Redding

*Label* Atlantic 2403

*Musicians* Aretha Franklin (lead vocal), Cornell Dupree (guitar), Willie Bridges (sax), Charles Chalmers (sax), Gene Chrisman (drums), Tommy Cogbill (bass), Dewey "Spooner" Oldham (keyboards), "King" Curtis Ousley (sax), Carolyn Franklin (backing vocal), Erma Franklin (backing vocal)

*Producer* Jerry Wexler, Arif Mardin

*Engineer* Tom Dowd

*Recording* Atlantic Records Studio (New York City); February 1967; stereo

*Charts* Pop 1, R&B 1

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### MUSIC

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*Genre* Southern soul

*Form* Simple verse

*Key* C major

*Meter* 4/4

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## LISTENING GUIDE

Time	Form	Lyric Cue	Listen For
0:00	Intro (4)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Muscle Shoals horns and guitar play in call and response.</li> </ul>
0:09	Verse 1 (6+4)	"What you want"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead vocals delivered in speech-like rhythm.</li> <li>• Use of back-up voices blends girl-group support with a strong gospel element.</li> <li>• Bass, piano, and backing vocals punch out the downbeat.</li> </ul>
0:21			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refrain anchored by active backing vocals and has more energetic accompaniment.</li> <li>• After alternation of V and IV in bars 1–6, the I chord is finally reached at beginning of refrain, creating a harmonic sense of arrival.</li> </ul>
0:30	Verse 2 (6+4)	"I ain't gonna do"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As before. Note that the guitar and snare are not locked in with same precision as "In the Midnight Hour," and that piano fills in low end like the baritone sax in that song.</li> </ul>
0:42			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refrain.</li> </ul>
0:51	Verse 3 (6+4)	"I'm about to give"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As before.</li> </ul>
1:12	Instr. Bridge (8)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sax solo offers contrasting material in a new key (B major), but based on Franklin's vocal style.</li> </ul>
1:28	Verse 4 (6+4)	"Your kisses are"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As before, back in original key.</li> </ul>
1:50	Close (16)	"R-E-S-P-E-C-T"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Famous stop-time passage.</li> <li>• Vamp begins with chanted, double-time "sock-it-to-me" litany.</li> <li>• Free improvisations of lead vocal over rhythmic layering of backing vocals.</li> <li>• Stax-style baritone sax enters just as the song fades out.</li> </ul>

## LYRICS

(Ooh) What you want  
 (Ooh) Baby, I got  
 (Ooh) What you need  
 (Ooh) Do you know I've got it  
 (Ooh) All I'm askin'  
 (Ooh) Is for a little respect when you come  
     home (just a little bit)  
 Hey baby (just a little bit) when you get  
     home  
 (Just a little bit) mister (just a little bit)

I ain't gonna do you wrong, while you're  
     gone  
 Ain't gonna do you wrong (ooh) 'cause I  
     don't want to (ooh)  
 All I'm askin' (ooh)  
 Is for a little respect when you come home  
     (just a little bit)  
 Baby (just a little bit), when you get home  
     (just a little bit)  
 Yeah (just a little bit)

I'm about to give you all of my money  
 And all I'm askin' in return, honey  
 Is to give me my profits  
 When you get home (just a, just a, just a,  
     just a)  
 Yeah baby (just a, just a, just a, just a)  
 When you get home (just a little bit)  
 Yeah (just a little bit)

Ooh, your kisses (ooh)  
 Sweeter than honey (ooh)  
 And guess what (ooh)  
 So is my money (ooh)  
 All I want you to do (ooh) for me  
 Is give it to me when you get home (re, re,  
     re ,re)  
 Yeah baby (re, re, re ,re)  
 Whip it to me (respect, just a little bit)  
 When you get home, now (just a little bit)

R-E-S-P-E-C-T  
 Find out what it means to me  
 R-E-S-P-E-C-T  
 Take care, TCB

Oh (sock it to me, sock it to me, sock it to  
     me, sock it to me)  
 A little respect (sock it to me, sock it to me,  
     sock it to me, sock it to me)  
 Whoa, babe (just a little bit)  
 A little respect (just a little bit)  
 I get tired (just a little bit)  
 Keep on tryin' (just a little bit)  
 You're runnin' out of fools (just a little bit)  
 And I ain't lyin' (just a little bit)  
 (Re, re, re, re) 'spect  
 When you come home (re, re, re ,re)  
 Or you might walk in (respect, just a little  
     bit)  
 And find out I'm gone (just a little bit)  
 I got to have (just a little bit)  
 A little respect (just a little bit)

## SOURCES

- John Covach and Andrew Flory, *What's That Sound*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (New York: W. W. Norton, 2015), 239.
- Roberta Freund Schwartz, Course Notes for MUSC-309 at the University of Kansas.
- <http://www.metrolyrics.com/respect-lyrics-aretha-franklin.html>.