## **Tangled Relationships**

Singing through StruggleTangled Up in LoveA Tangled WebTangledLove's Tangled WebTangledLoves Tangled Web Carolynne Hitter Brown Charlotte Byrd Judith Michael Rachel Carew Joy St. Clair Rachel Carew Joy St. Clair Singing through Struggle Tangled Up in Love A Tangled Web Tangled Love's Tangled Web Tangled Loves Tangled Web Carolynne Hitter Brown Charlotte Byrd Judith Michael Rachel Carew Joy St. Clair Rachel Carew Joy St. Clair

singing through struggle music worship and identity in postemancipation black churches offers an innovative look at the vital role music and worship played in nurturing black citizenship and identity during the reconstruction era in such border cities as baltimore washington dc and philadelphia the church was where newly emancipated migrants and members of the free black community merged identities priorities and experiences through a process of cultural negotiation music as a sign of black achievement and as a genuine expression of identity produced both bastions and battlegrounds in the fight for democracy the music of black churchgoers singing together in sanctuaries as well as in homes schools and outdoors expressed resistance to uplift ideologies within and to white supremacy without even while using hymns and music of the european sacred tradition members infused the songs they chose with new meanings relevant to their evolving concerns and situations drawing on fresh archival sources singing through struggle sheds light on the unexplored gap in the study of african american religious music between slavery and the great migration demonstrating the continuous stream of black creativity and dignity that existed in religious music making between gospel music and the spirituals this close up investigation of three black congregations draws out previously forgotten stories of men and women who understood church music as key to shaping a collective purpose and civic identity their stories demonstrate how faith music and ritual gave the black community means for exploring a deeply complex and ever changing reality

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