

[Ella's Song](#) is an a cappella piece written by Dr. Bernice Johnson Reagon and performed by the famous heritage group called **Sweet Honey in the Rock**.

Lyrics to Ella's Song

Refrain

We who believe in freedom cannot rest

We who believe in freedom cannot rest until it comes

Verses

Until the killing of Black men, Black mothers' sons

Is as important as the killing of White men, White mothers' sons

And that which touches me most is that I had a chance to work with people

Passing on to others that which was passed on to me

To me young people come first, they have the courage where we fail

And if I can shed some light as they carry us through the gale

The older I get the better I know that the secret of my going on

Is when the reins are in the hand of the young who dare to run against the storm

Not needing to clutch for power, not needing the light just to shine on me

I need to be just one in the number as we stand against tyranny

Struggling myself don't mean a whole lot I come to realize

That teaching others to stand up and fight is the only way my struggle survive

I'm a woman who speaks in a voice and I must be heard

At time I can be quite difficult, I'll bow to no man's word