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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction: Black resonance -- Vivid lyricism: Richard Wright and Bessie Smith's blues -- The timbre of sincerity: Mahalia Jackson's gospel sound and Ralph Ellison's Invisible Man -- Understatement: James Baldwin, Bessie Smith, and Billie Holiday -- Haunting: Gayl Jones's Corregidora and Billie Holiday's "strange Fruit" -- Signature voices: Nikki Giovanni, Aretha Franklin, and the Black Arts movement -- Epilogue: "At Last": Etta James, poetry, hip hop.
Sommario/riassunto	Ever since Bessie Smith's powerful voice conspired with the "race records" industry to make her a star in the 1920's, African American writers have memorialized the sounds and theorized the politics of black women's singing. In Black Resonance, Emily J. Lordi analyzes writings by Richard Wright, Ralph Ellison, James Baldwin, Gayl Jones, and Nikki Giovanni that engage such iconic singers as Bessie Smith, Billie Holiday, Mahalia Jackson, and Aretha Franklin. Focusing on two generations of artists from the 1920's to the 1970's, Black Resonance reveals a musical-literary tradition in which singers and writers, faced with similar challenges and harboring similar aims, developed comparable expressive techniques. Drawing together such seemingly disparate works as Bessie Smith's blues and Richard Wright's neglected

film of *Native Son*, Mahalia Jackson's gospel music and Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*, each chapter pairs one writer with one singer to crystallize the artistic practice they share: lyricism, sincerity, understatement, haunting, and the creation of a signature voice. In the process, Lordi demonstrates that popular female singers are not passive muses with raw, natural, or ineffable talent. Rather, they are experimental artists who innovate black expressive possibilities right alongside their literary peers. The first study of black music and literature to centralize the music of black women, *Black Resonance* offers new ways of reading and hearing some of the twentieth century's most beloved and challenging voices.

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