

Wade in the water
Wade in the water, children
Wade in the water
God's gonna trouble the water.

Water is an important image in African American spirituals. *Deep River* finds hope on the other side of the river. *Go Down, Moses* is a spiritual of deliverance in which Pharaoh's armies were drowned in the Red Sea, and Harriet Tubman is said to have sung *Wade in the Water* to remind her Underground Railroad passengers how to evade the slavecatchers' dogs.

Water was an inescapable aspect of the slave experience. Africans began their horrifying journey by traveling across the Atlantic Ocean, crammed like cattle in the holds of slave ships. Once in the United States, they were shipped up river and down to plantations and farms where they would spend the rest of their lives in bondage. The Ohio River was the dividing line between enslavement and freedom. Escape via the Underground Railroad sometimes began with refuge in watery southern swamps. And a century later police infamously used water as a weapon, turning high-powered fire hoses against civil rights demonstrators.

On June 13, 2021, join Juneteenth Cincinnati in recognizing the significant role of water in the 400-year history of African enslavement and the quest for freedom with a symbolic dance to acknowledge the role water has played in "enslavement" and "freedom" in the America's. We will all wear white with an accent of color if we choose (sash, a scarf, jewelry, etc.). In Cincinnati we will dance across the "Purple People Bridge," above the Ohio River, symbolizing the journey from enslavement to freedom.

We are inviting freedom lovers outside the Cincinnati area to join us virtually by performing a simultaneous dance over, beside or near a body of water in your area and tape the performance. It can be the Atlantic Ocean, the Mississippi River, the Ohio River, the Cape fear, the Chattahoochee River, Lake Erie, Lake Pontchartrain any body of water can be used. You will be able to get the music and movements on the Juneteenth website Very soon. If you use a cell phone to tape, turn it horizontally (the wide side across and the narrow side up and down). Send the video to us and We will edit, and compile all performances into a streaming video which will be made available to everyone on YouTube or Vimeo. Join us in the moving tribute to water on June 13th 3:00pm If you are not near a body of water, get creative. A fountain, a tub of water..... let's talk.

For More Information
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Join the Homage to Water...And Freedom

- When: 3:00 pm, Sunday, June 13.
- Everybody! Individuals, groups. The more the merrier.
- Where: We begin in Newport at the Purple People Bridge and cross to Ohio River Landing, where you'll be greeted with refreshments.
- Attire: White with an accent of color of your choice.
- Dance movements: David Choate with Revolution Dance Theater is choreographing the dance, and we'll post practice video in advance
- Videography: We will videotape the event and you ask that all participants sign a release permitting your inclusion in a final video. We have invited people across the country and in Brazil and Ghana to join us virtually by taping their simultaneous performances. We intend to produce and stream a composite video of all the dances.
- Registration. & Release: Please return the registration form so we know how many to expect and can keep you updated. Sign the release giving us permission to use your likeness in and promote the video.
- Promotion: Juneteenth Cincinnati will design and distribute a flyer which you can adapt or design your own.

More Details & Up-Dates
www.juneteenthcincinnati.org