

Copyediting Test: "Marian Anderson Sings at the Lincoln Memorial"¹

Original version

In 1939, after being refused a concert at Consitution hall because of her race, African American singer Marian Anderson drew a crowd of 75 thousand people to her performance at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington DC.

Anderson had been applauded in Europe and the United States for her magnificent contralto voice of remarkable range. Her repertoire included difficult art songs as well as African American sprituals. Conductor Arturo Toscanini heard Anderson sign in Austria and he remarked that a voice like hers was heard "once in a hundred years".

Following her successfull tours aboard Anderson was slated to perform at Constitution Hall in the nations' capital. When the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), the propreitors of the hall refused her permission to sing there, the issue gained national attention. In protest, first Lady Eleanor Roosevelt resigned from the DAR and helped to quickly reschedule the concert on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. There, on Easter Sunday, April 9 1939, Anderson delighted the audience with her rendition of America and other favorited. Roosevelt made sure the the front rows included Cabinet members, Senators, Congressmen, and Supreme court justices.

Andersen finally preformed at Constitution Hall at the start of her farewell tour in 1965. A tribute there in 1977 celebrates her 75th birthday and the artistry that marked her career.

¹Adapted from Mark Grossman, *The ABC-CLIO Companion to the Civil Rights Movement* (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 1993).

Edited version

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