

A Singer's Journey



Marian Anderson (1897 – 1993) was an American contralto and one of the most celebrated singers of the 20th century. Music critic Alan Blyth said, “Her voice was a rich, vibrant contralto of intrinsic beauty.”

Most of Anderson’s singing career was spent performing in concert and recital in major music venues and with major orchestras throughout the United States and Europe between 1925 and 1965. An African-American, Anderson became an important figure in the struggle for black artists to overcome racial prejudice in the United States during the mid-20th century.

In the early 1900s, she dreamed of becoming a concert singer. But she knew that because her skin was a different color than that of the majority, she would be at a disadvantage.

But Anderson’s dream was buoyed by her mother, who had a patient trust in God. Anderson recalled, “Mother’s religion made her believe that she would receive what was right for her to have if she was conscientious in her faith. If it did not come, it was because He had not considered it right for her. We grew in this atmosphere of faith that she created. We believed as she did, because we wanted the same kind of haven in the time of storm.”

When Anderson was denied admission to a prestigious music conservatory because of her race, her mother calmly told her that “someone will be raised up” to help her accomplish her goals.

That someone arrived on the scene only a few weeks later. His name was Guiseppe Boghetti, one of Philadelphia’s top voice teachers. He took Anderson as a student.

Marian Anderson went on to become one of the century’s most outstanding singers. On Easter Sunday in 1939, she sang for more than 75,000 people gathered near the Lincoln Memorial.

Trusting her future to God, she achieved her dream – and beyond.



As Psalm 118:8 advises, “It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man.”

– Beecher Hunter