

Believing Mother's Promise

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 concerts and recitals 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, who had two sisters who also became singers, recalled, “Mother’s religion made us believe that we would receive what was right for us to have if we were conscientious in our faith. If it did not come, it was because He had not considered it right for us. 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.

What about you? Are you trusting your present – and your future – to God? He has a plan in mind for each of us and created us to accomplish that purpose. If you are sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit within, you are where He wants you to be, and maybe that is one stop on the way to His ultimate goal for you.

Even in the midst of this COVID-19 pandemic, we can see His guidance – and His blessings – through all the challenges this virus has caused.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future” (Jeremiah 29:11 NIV).

– Beecher Hunter