

# MARIAN ANDERSON SINGS TO 75,000 IN OPEN AIR RECITAL: 75,000 HEAR MISS ...

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## MARIAN ANDERSON THRILLS THROGS IN D.C. CONCERT

Closeup of Miss Marian Anderson as she sang from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, Washington, D. C., on April 9. A huge crowd, estimated at 75,000 persons, lined the steps and sides of the reflecting pool of the memorial to hear the famed contralto.—Acme photo.

# MARIAN ANDERSON SINGS TO 75,000 IN OPEN AIR RECITAL



## 75,000 HEAR MISS ANDERSON AT WASHINGTON

### Contralto Gives Thrilling Recital From Steps Of Lincoln Memorial

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 14—Intolerance received one of the heaviest blows of the ages Easter Sunday when Marian Anderson, internationally acclaimed contralto, sang from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial here to what was considered the largest single audience ever to attend an affair of this kind in the United States.

A huge crowd, estimated at 75,000 persons, as vari-colored as the Easter season itself, paid homage to a great singer in a scene which, in its symbolism and poignancy, surpassed any words that might be used to describe it.

#### Crowd Arrives Early

About two hours before the recital began at 5 p.m., the crowd began to gather around the memorial in front of the 20-foot statue of Abraham Lincoln.

Before Miss Anderson arrived the steps and park surrounding the memorial were filled with persons of every hue. They overflowed the area around the shrine and ex-

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tended almost completely around the Reflection Pool.

There was perfect order, and the atmosphere seemed charged with the holy spirit of Easter-tide, as the sun shone brightly upon the impressive scene.

## Real Democracy

The democracy for which the Great Emancipator struggled was portrayed here as never before in the capital of this nation "by the people and for the people" for which he laid down his life.

All seemed to mingle with one common interest—the determination to welcome the greatest singer of this generation and to show that tolerance lives, despite the Daughters of the American Revolution and the District of Columbia Board of Education, whose bigotry unwittingly made the affair possible.

A cheer went up from the crowd when Miss Anderson came upon the platform with Assistant Secretary of the Interior Oscar Chapman. She smiled, bowed, and waved to the assembly, as photographers' bulbs flashed, newsreel cameras ground, and hundreds of reporters plied their pencils.

## Ickes Speaks

She wore a mink coat, a turban trimmed in mink, and a rust-colored blouse and long black velvet skirt.

"In this great auditorium under the sky all of us are free," Secretary Ickes, host to the vast audience, began as he took the platform to introduce the singer. Loud applause followed his opening sentence.

"When God gave us this wonderful outdoors and the sun, the moon and the stars, He made no distinction of race or creed or color. And 130 years ago He sent to us one of His truly great in order that he might restore freedom to those from whom we had disregardedly taken it."

The latter sentence referred to Lincoln.

## "America" First Number

Miss Anderson's first number was "My Country, 'Tis of Thee," which was followed by brief applause. She then immediately began her second number, an aria, "O Mio Fernando," from "La Favorita," by Donizetti. This was sung in Italian. Next came Schubert's "Ave Maria," sung in German.

A brief intermission was held. Cameras never seemed to cease taking shots at the great singer, the honored guests and sponsors seated on the platform and the crowd.

The guests consisted of Supreme court justices, cabinet members, governors, government department officials, members of the Marian Anderson Citizens' Committee and the Howard University Concert Series committee, original sponsors of the artist for the concert here.

## Voice Heard Mile Away

The second part of the concert consisted of spirituals. "Gospel Train," arranged by Burleigh; "Trampin'," by Boatner; and "My Soul Is Anchored in the Lord," by Florence Price.

The singer's voice rang out in its splendor over the park and could be heard within the radius of a mile, carried through powerful amplifiers, and to the nation at large by the National Broadcasting company over its blue network.

Her program, though short, was admirably adapted to the range and beauty of her voice, in its high notes, as well as its low ones. The low range of her voice in the number, "Trampin'" was of such sonorous timbre that a shiver of wonderment went through the audience.

## Encore Pleases Multitude

As an encore, the artist announced that she had been requested to sing the spiritual, "Nobody Knows de Trouble I've Seen," a favorite among music audiences. She sang it with pathos and expression that visibly moved the vast assembly.

Her concert ended, in a voice filled with emotion, yet beautifully pleasing and well-modulated, Miss Anderson said:

"My dear friends, unfortunately I am not a speaker. I am just so overwhelmed today that I cannot express myself properly. You don't know what you have done for me. I am sure that I shall always be grateful for your support. The immensity of this affair has had such an effect on me that I am not quite up to a speech.

"I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Again and again I thank you."

## Miss Anderson Speaks

She was roundly cheered. Just before leaving the platform, she turned and added:

"I want to thank Secretary Ickes, especially, from the bottom of my heart for his excellent work in this affair."

Justice Hugo Black and his wife arrived during intermission. They were loudly applauded by the crowd. After the concert he was surrounded by autograph seekers, as was also Mrs. Mary McLeod

Bethune, National Youth Administration official.

Among other distinguished guests in the 200 chairs furnished for the occasion were:

## Distinguished Guests

Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau and his wife, Senators Arthur Capper, Robert Wagner, Joseph Guffy, Robert M. Taft and Mrs. Taft, Representative Caroline O'Day, Mrs. Eleanor Patterson, editor and publisher of the Washington Times-Herald; Drew Pearson, columnist, and Mrs. Pearson; Supreme Court Justice Douglass, Charles H. Houston, chairman of the Marian Anderson Citizens committee and Mrs. Houston; Judge Armond W. Scott, Dr. Mordecai Johnson, president of Howard university and Mrs. Johnson; J. Finley Wilson, Elk ruler; Walter White, secretary of the N.A.A.C.P.; Mr. and Mrs. Emmett J. Scott, and Lule Vere Childers and Charles C. Cohen of the Howard university school of music.