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# When Marian Sang: The True Recital Of Marian Anderson



## Synopsis

A harmonious introduction to one of our country's most important singers--as envisioned by two of our industry's most important voices. Wide trade & institutional appeal. Marian Anderson is best known for her historic concert at the Lincoln Memorial in 1939, which drew an integrated crowd of 75,000 people in pre-Civil Rights America. While this momentous event showcased the uniqueness of her voice, the strength of her character, & the struggles of the times in which she lived, it is only part of her story. Like the operatic arias Marian would come to sing, Ryan's text is as moving as a libretto, & Selznick's pictures as exquisitely detailed & elaborately designed as a stage set. What emerges most profoundly from their shared vision is a role model of courage.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (37 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

## Customer Reviews

When this book first came out, I was ecstatic that someone took the time to make the life of Marian Anderson accessible to children. Too often classical singers of the Civil Rights era are overlooked and forgotten. The combination of the gorgeous illustrations and lovely text make this book exceptional. Although not the easiest book for children to read on their own, as a read-aloud in a classroom setting, it can make an incredible impact. It is an excellent book to incite discussion on many subjects and it truly inspires children to pursue their dreams despite the troubles they may face. The timeless lyrics interwoven within the story comment wonderfully on Marian's life and the

perseverance with which she dealt with her struggles. The beauty of this book is that it focuses on the accomplishments of her life and the overcoming of disappointments, not the actual disappointments themselves. This lack of sensationalism gives the book dignity. This is definitely one book that I will treasure and hope to share many times over with students in my own classroom.

I really enjoyed the book *When Marian Sang*, by Pam Munoz Ryan, illustrated by Biran Selznick. I think it should have won the Caldecott 2003 award. It is a very good biography! The book is so detailed. It is a book for an older child. It has a great plot and is a true story. It is about an African-American woman who has a beautiful voice, but doesn't get a fair chance to show off her talent because she is a different race. It is a wonderful biography. The book tells the story first, and then in the back it states the facts. It is easier to understand what happened without all the dates tossed into the main story. It is a great biography for children to start understanding how to read a biography. I loved the book *When Marian Sang*!

*WHEN MARIAN SANG* beautifully depicts the life of Marian Anderson, a wonderful singer who broke racial barriers to become one of the most world-renowned performers. The story tells of her humble upbringing in Philadelphia and the support she garnered from her family, her church, and her community. It also tells of the discrimination that Marian faced when trying to learn music and later when she attempted to perform. Yet, Marian persevered. She went to Europe where she received so much attention and acclaim that it was said the people suffered from "Marian Fever." She later returned to the United States, and fought prejudices and discrimination by performing at the Lincoln Memorial. She was finally able to break down racial barriers and perform at the Metropolitan Opera. At last, Marian felt free to sing. *WHEN MARIAN SANG* is an inspirational and educational biography of a great performer. The book gives details in a poignant, yet simplistic way that people of all ages will be able to appreciate. The illustrations are truly breathtaking. I enjoyed the fact that verses of songs that Marian sang were intertwined within the text to add depth to the story. I was also impressed with the detailed information about Marian's life and the fact that her discography was included in the back of the book. Pam Munoz Ryan and Brian Selznick have done an excellent job in telling the story of Marian Anderson. I look forward to future works from this dynamic duo. Reviewed by Latoya Carter-QawiyyThe RAWSISTAZ Reviewers

This book is undoubtedly one of the best books that I have ever read for my class. It teaches people, both young and old, a little piece of our American history including the Great Depression

and segregation. With it, the tandem of Ryan and Selznick provide a general overview of history realia. Overall, this piece is a great resources to read for all people.

This book is all about the opera singer Marian Anderson. It tells her story from childhood to finally singing at the Met overcoming the color barrier in the US and achieving international fame. Ms. Anderson is probably most famous for her concert to 75,000 Easter Sunday, on the steps of the Lincoln memorial and this book does tell that story, but it is set only as part of the whole of her life which is nice. This book means a lot to me because Ms. Anderson was both a beautiful singer and someone who my Dad adored. She pioneered equality for artists of color long before there was a Civil Rights Movement and did it simply by being so good she could demand things like she would only perform to mixed audiences. The illustrator: Brian Selznick, who won his own Caldecott award for his book *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*, uses sepia tones and stylized people to convey the sense of the past until the last page where the only bit of true color in the whole book is Ms Anderson on stage, singing at the Met...The First singer of color ever to perform there. I am not familiar with Pam Munoz Ryan's books, but the story is simply told and very well done. I adore this book and read it often to our kids. We have ordered this for our library and we can't wait to share it with our students.

This is one of those books that makes me realize how much is taken for granted. This is the true story, in picture book form, of a young black girl who had a voice far superior to anyone around. She became a world famous, much loved, contralto singer - but not without struggle because of her skin colour. Marian decided not to stand up for her people through public demonstrations, but to represent them through her singing. She was a remarkable woman whose story is beautifully told. The illustrations in this book are fabulous.

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