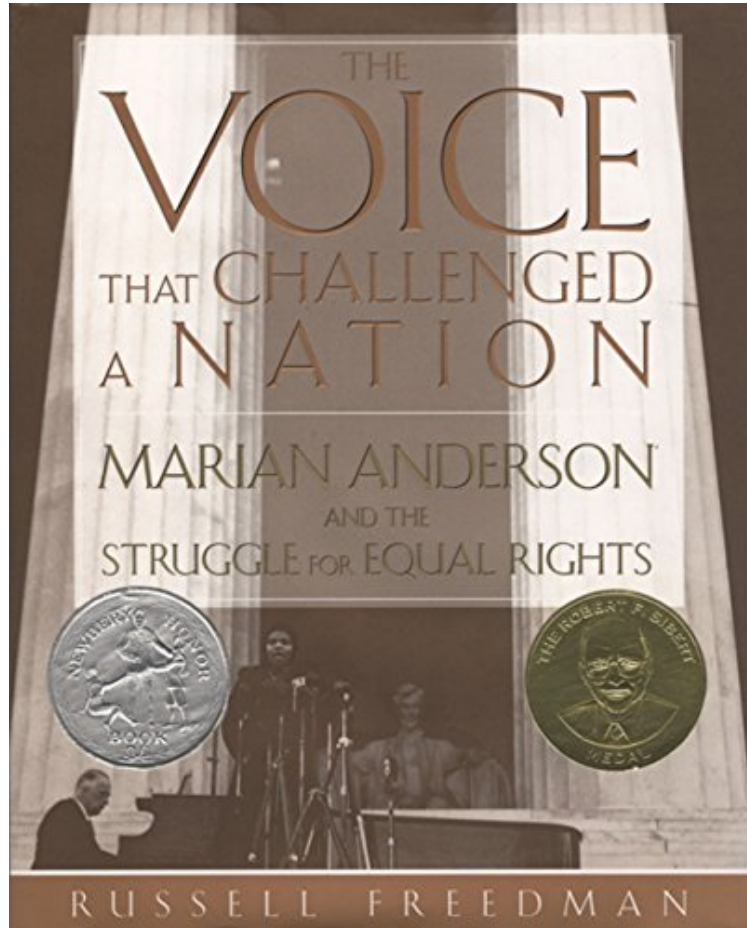


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The Voice That Challenged a Nation: Marian Anderson and the Struggle for Equal Rights

Russell Freedman

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Russell Freedman : The Voice That Challenged a Nation: Marian Anderson and the Struggle for Equal Rights before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Voice That Challenged a Nation: Marian Anderson and the Struggle for Equal Rights:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent introduction to an influential voice and lifeBy Cheryl ToliverThis book was written for young adults, but it is an excellent introduction to Marian Anderson, her tremendous five-octave voice, and how her voice and life became part of the civil rights movement. Whether singing opera or spirituals, she can move you to feel music and its emotion, not just hear it. Check out some of her recordings - though not all her albums are available, some of the ones that are still allow you to experience her impact. I can never hear "My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty..." without thinking of her, and this book reveals some of the emotions behind her singing this song at the Lincoln Memorial.SpiritualsNegro Spirituals 1924-19490 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Well written and a very imaginative bioBy joanna CortrightThis will be a much shorter

review than others have entered, but I did want to say that I was so happy to have come upon this version of the Marian Anderson story. It fills a niche for a biography for middle level students that illustrates the drama of Anderson's life. What an amazing woman, and how beautifully Patterson writes her story. It is a wonderful exemplar of high quality writing for students and equally interesting for any adult. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book By Tanja Werner We used this for a book report at school. Easy to read, even for a 3rd/4th grader. It showed an interesting aspect of Black American History that people normally don't know about

"A voice like yours," celebrated conductor Arturo Toscanini told contralto Marian Anderson, "is heard once in a hundred years." This insightful account of the great African American vocalist considers her life and musical career in the context of the history of civil rights in this country. Drawing on Anderson's own writings and other contemporary accounts, Russell Freedman shows readers a singer pursuing her art despite the social constraints that limited the careers of black performers in the 1920s and 1930s. Though not a crusader or a spokesperson by nature, Marian Anderson came to stand for all black artists -- and for all Americans of color -- when, with the help of such prominent figures as Eleanor Roosevelt, she gave her landmark 1939 performance on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, which signaled the end of segregation in the arts. Carefully researched, expertly told, and profusely illustrated with contemporary photographs, this Newbery Honor and Sibert Medal-winning book is a moving account of the life of a talented and determined artist who left her mark on musical and social history. Through her story, Newbery Medal-winning author Russell Freedman, one of today's leading authors of nonfiction for young readers, illuminates the social and political climate of the day and an important chapter in American history. Notes, bibliography, discography, index.

From School Library Journal Grade 5-9--In the initial chapter, Freedman movingly and dramatically sets the stage for the performer's historic 1939 Easter concert at the Lincoln Memorial. In less than two pages, he captures the huge crowd's eager anticipation, briefly describes the controversy sparked by the Daughters of the American Revolution's refusal to allow Anderson to appear at Constitution Hall, and mentions the significance of the concert. He leaves readers at the moment when "A profound hush settled over the crowd.... she closed her eyes, lifted her head, clasped her hands before her, and began to sing." The author then switches to a chronological account of Anderson's life from her childhood in Philadelphia through her acclaimed U.S. and European concert tours in the 1920s and 1930s. He then gives a fuller account of the famous outdoor concert, which he refers to as a milestone in both musical and civil rights history. Freedman acknowledges that the singer did not set out to be a political activist or a crusader for civil rights. Numerous archival photographs, thorough chapter notes, a selected bibliography of works for both adult and younger readers, and a selected discography of currently available Anderson CDs are included. This inspiring work once again demonstrates Freedman's talent for showing how a person's life is molded by its historical and cultural context. Readers of Pam Muñoz Ryan's *When Marian Sang* (Scholastic, 2002) will appreciate this lengthier account of Anderson's life, as will all readers of biography, U.S. history, and musical history. --Ginny Gustin, Sonoma County Library System, Santa Rosa, CA Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "a fully realized portrait of a musical artist and her times...an outstanding, handsome biography. Freedman at his best." KIRKUS REVIEWS, starred reviews Kirkus s, Starred "Freedman provides thrilling accounts...copious quotes...allow her resonant voice--and personal grace--to fill these pages...An engrossing biography." PUBLISHERS WEEKLY, starred review Publishers Weekly, Starred "This inspiring work once again demonstrates Freedman's talent for showing how a person's life is molded by its historical and cultural context." SLJ School Library Journal, Starred "In his signature prose, plain yet eloquent. Freedman tells Anderson's triumphant story . . . Older readers and adults will want this too." BOOKLIST Booklist, ALA "Freedman offers the story of a movement encapsulated in the biography of an extraordinary African-American woman." BCCB Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books "a masterful biography...The prose is sharp and clean with generous use of quotations...a superb choice." VOYA VOYA (Voice of Youth Advocates)