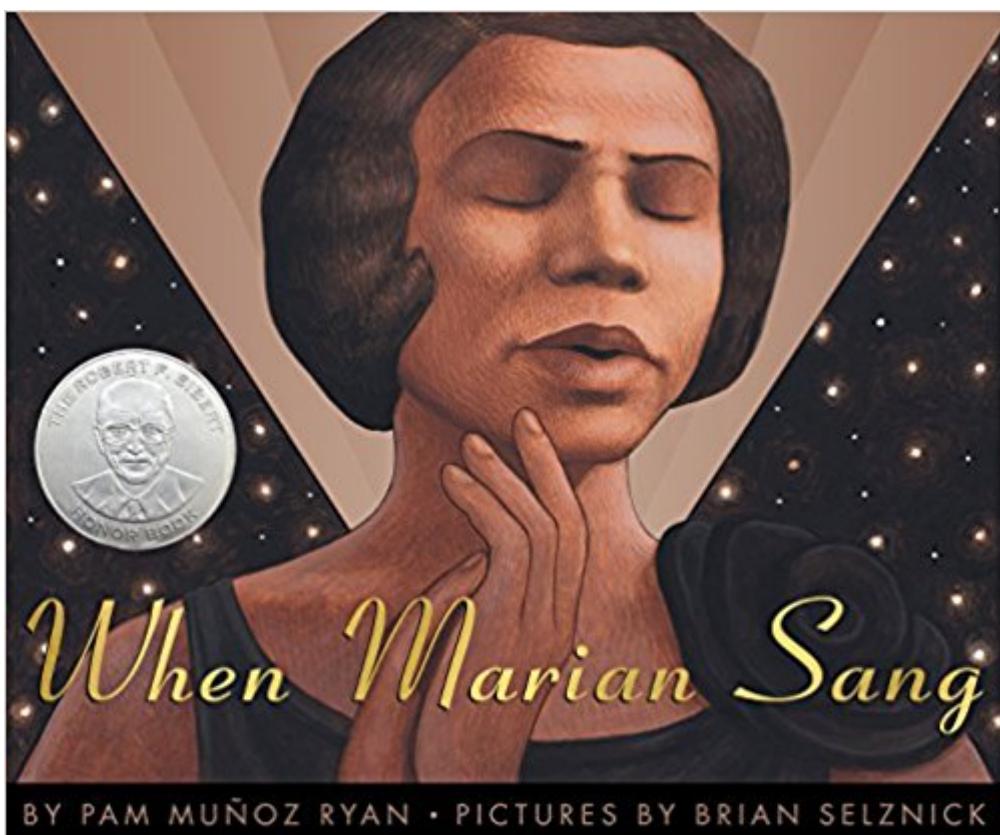


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# When Marian Sang: The True Recital Of Marian Anderson



## **Synopsis**

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, and 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, and Selznick's pictures as exquisitely detailed and elaborately designed as a stage set. What emerges most profoundly from their shared vision is a role model of courage.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 780L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

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Best Sellers Rank: #164,488 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #14 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > History #23 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Biographies > Classical #29 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Performing Arts > Drama & Theater

Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

## **Customer Reviews**

As this skilled duo did with *Amelia and Eleanor Go for a Ride*, Pam Muñoz Ryan and Brian Selznick bring to life the story of yet another remarkable American woman, gifted black contralto Marian Anderson. Undoubtedly one of America's greatest singers, Anderson was hardly known in her own country because of her race--music schools ignored her applications ("We don't take colored!") and even after she began singing professionally, many venues only featured white performers. Ryan's well-paced story becomes especially poignant as she recounts Anderson's overwhelming success in Europe ("one newspaper in Sweden called it 'Marian Fever' ... In Austria,

the world-famous conductor Arturo Toscanini announced that what he had heard, one was privileged to hear only once in a hundred years"). The book reaches its climax with a wordless, deep brown two-page spread from Selznick, a crowd's-eye view of Anderson singing at the Lincoln Memorial in 1939, an historic concert that drew an integrated audience of over 75,000. Ryan's simple, metered text (punctuated frequently by lyrics) captures the quiet drama of Anderson's story, and kids will especially identify with the confusion and frustration of young Marian. And as with the pair's previous collaboration, Selznick's rich illustrations ably convey the undeniable strength and courage of a talented, determined woman. (Ages 4 to 8) --Paul Hughes

The creative team behind *Amelia and Eleanor Go for a Ride* returns with a picture book biography as understated and graceful as its subject, singer Marian Anderson (1897-1993). Tracing the African-American diva from her beginnings as an eight-year-old church choir wonder ("the pride of South Philadelphia") through years of struggle to rise above the racism that would delay her debut with the Metropolitan Opera until she was 57, this book masterfully distills the events in the life of an extraordinary musician. Ryan's narrative smoothly integrates biographical details with lyrics from the gospel songs Anderson made famous: a passage about the budding singer's longing to perform onstage ("Opera was simply the sun and the moon a dream that seemed too far away to reach") segues to "He's got the sun and the moon right in His hands

I read it to a 5th/6th combination class. It was well written and very well received. I loved the book and donated it to the class to be enjoyed later by other future students.

This book is just what I wanted and it is in excellent condition!

I love this book. The story is beautiful and it is written in such a way that it great for many different age groups.

Wonderful book with beautiful illustrations.

thank you

Pairs well with ReadWorks comprehension units

This book is beautiful and should be more widely available. I gave it to everyone in my daughter's class this year.

Beautiful book. Beautiful illustrations. Great book for summer reading. Which was required by our school. Bought ours used on . Came in perfect condition and paid no more than 5 dollars for it.

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