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Marian Anderson was a celebrated 20th century contralto singer, and an important figure in the struggle for equality for African-American artists. After the Daughters of the American Revolution refused Anderson permission to sing before an integrated audience in Constitution Hall, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and President Franklin D. Roosevelt, arranged for her to perform a critically acclaimed, open-air Easter Sunday concert on April 9, 1939. The event took place on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial before a crowd of thousands, and a radio audience of millions.



NYSUT, a statewide union of professionals, is proud of its history of working with the African-American community to advance the civil rights movement and to promote quality education and health care for all New Yorkers. For more on the important contributions of African-Americans, visit www.nysut.org.

