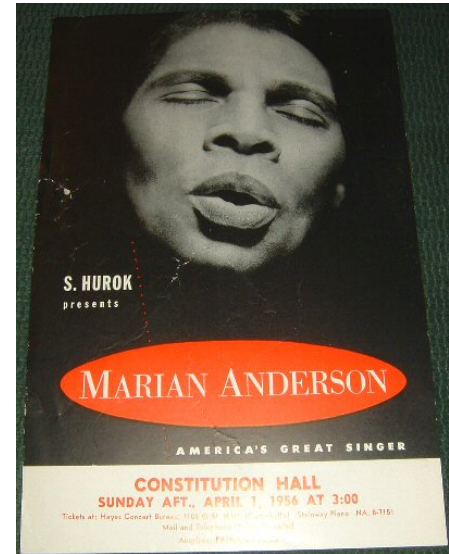


Additional Information About Marian Anderson and the DAR

Marian Anderson performed at Constitution Hall on numerous occasions, some of which are listed below:

- September 1942 – the DAR invited Marian Anderson to perform at Constitution Hall on January 7, 1943 in the first concert in a series of benefit performances to aid war relief
- March 14, 1953 – Marian Anderson sang to an unsegregated audience in Constitution Hall as part of the American University concert series
- April 1, 1956 – Marian Anderson performs in Constitution Hall (*see image of program at right*)
- October 24, 1964 – Marian Anderson begins her farewell American tour in Constitution Hall
- April 20, 1992 – At the opening night ceremonies of the DAR annual convention, the DAR awarded Marian Anderson the Centennial Medallion, which honors women who gave outstanding service to the nation. Due to health reasons, Miss Anderson was unable to attend the ceremony, so the medallion and certificate were delivered to her at her home.
- January 27, 2005 – DAR and the U.S. Postal Service co-hosted the Marian Anderson commemorative stamp first day of issue dedication ceremony. The event took place in DAR Memorial Continental Hall – which adjoins DAR Constitution Hall – with the DAR President General giving the official welcome.



Excerpts from *Marian Anderson; A Singer's Journey* by Allan Keiler, 2000:

“In late September 1942, a few days before the start of her annual tour, Anderson received an invitation from the DAR to appear in Constitution Hall...During the summer of 1942, in considering plans to offer Constitution Hall for a series of benefit performances to aid the war relief, the DAR invited Anderson to give the first concert...the *Washington Post* hailed the DAR’s invitation as a significant gesture in creating good relations with the singer...[The concert at] Constitution Hall was sold out. Among the 4,000 that filled the hall, more than half of them black, old comrades in arms once again gathered...To a huge outburst of applause, Mrs. Roosevelt entered her box at eight-thirty ...” (Keiler, pp. 234-239)

“On March 14, 1953, as part of the American University concert series, Anderson sang to an unsegregated audience in Constitution Hall. ‘May I say that when I finally walked into Constitution Hall and sang from its stage I had no feeling different from what I have in other halls. There was no sense of triumph. I felt that it was a beautiful concert hall, and I was happy to sing in it.’ And as she added, ‘the essential point about wanting to appear in the hall was that I wanted to do so because I felt I had the right as an artist.’” (Keiler, pp. 259-260)

“During the morning of the twelfth [December 1963], Anderson and Hurok faced a bank of newsman and reporters at the St. Regis Hotel in New York to announce Anderson’s plans to retire from the concert stage after a world tour that would begin the following fall, 1964 [at Constitution Hall]...There were the inevitable questions from the press about Anderson’s feelings toward the DAR. ‘I forgave the DAR many years ago. You lose a lot of time hating people,’ she told the reporters.” (Keiler, p. 312)