

Livestream Concert to Benefit Marian Anderson Museum & Historical Society

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

The Marian Anderson Museum & Historical Society, at 762 S. Martin Street in South Philadelphia, which relies on admission fees and concert ticket sales, has come upon hard times because of the COVID-19 pandemic. In March, all museums closed temporarily under mandates of city and state government, and admission fees stopped.

Then, to add to the Museum's financial burden, over the summer, several pipes burst causing flooding and severe damage.

Sacred Art Songs in Concert, a livestream performance, will be presented by the National Marian Anderson Museum & Historical Society on Saturday, September 5, at 2 p.m. Ticket sales and donations will benefit the Museum's restoration fund.

View: <https://www.facebook.com/NationalMarianAndersonMuseum/> Admission tickets: <http://marianandersonhistoricalsociety.weebly.com/donate--sponsor.html> or mail to The Marian Anderson Museum & Historical Society, 762 S. Martin St. Philadelphia PA 19145.

The museum, which houses three floors of memorabilia, live recordings, and changing annual exhibitions, has for years applied for preservation grants but has been unsuccessful. CEO Jillian Patricia Pirtle says, "Despite not having any support from the city of Philadelphia, we have still for the past 23 years opened our doors to visitors, tourists and concertgoers alike, as well as students in our educational programs."

Born and raised in Philadelphia, Marian Anderson, a world-renowned opera singer, serenaded U.S. presidents at their inaugurations and was the first African-American to perform at the Metropolitan Opera and on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

In related news, the University of Pennsylvania Libraries has completed the digitization of more than 2,500 items from the Marian Anderson collection, including letters, diaries, journals, interviews, recital programs, and private recordings, which she donated before her death, supplemented by additional donations from her nephew, James DePriest, and the Free Library of Philadelphia. The Marian Anderson collection is housed in the Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts, which also houses a collection of 4,000 photographs. All are accessible to the public. <https://mariananderson.exhibits.library.upenn.edu/>



Courtesy National Marian Anderson Museum & Historical Society

Marian Anderson in performance, Carnegie Hall 1950.



Marian Anderson Museum & Historical Society Concert Ensemble.