

Lift Every Voice and Sing

This song is heard throughout the year but especially during Black History Month.

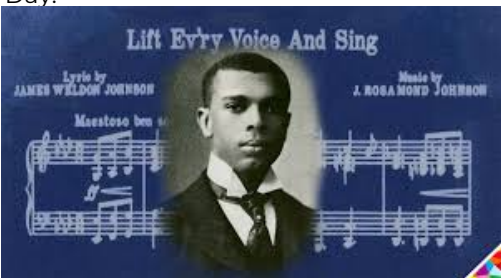
Lift Every Voice and Sing is often referred to as the Black National Anthem. It was written as a poem in 1900 by James Weldon Johnson and set to music by his brother John Resmond Johnson in 1905.

The poem was written to honor renowned educator Booker T. Washington who was visiting Stanton School in Jacksonville, FL when the poem was recited by 500 school children as a tribute to Abraham Lincoln's birthday.

**Lift every voice and sing,
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the
dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the
present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day
begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.**

To understand more about the lives of Black Americans during the time the song was composed and to understand how relevant it still is in contemporary times, **watch this video** with an outstanding performance by Alicia Keys!

Keep an eye and an ear out during this year's Superbowl pregame festivities as this song will be performed by Andra Day.



Mark your calendars for the PEERS Paint and Chew!
2/9 at FVH & 2/16 at Hoyleton



Black History Month 2024 African Americans and the Arts

Explore the key influence African Americans have had in the fields of “visual and performing arts, literature, fashion, folklore, language, film, music, architecture, culinary and other forms of cultural expression.

Click topics to learn more!

Cultural Expressions

(Re) creating the Narrative

The Power of the Press

Local events to celebrate Black History

Missouri Botanical Garden's BHM celebration culminates on Saturday, Feb 24th at 11 am with a market in Farr Auditorium featuring Black retail vendors. The **Sunshine Cultural Arts Center** Dance Troupe, led by Sylvester “Sunshine” Lee, will present a traditional African performance that espouses the core principles of their organization, which is in alignment with the values to empower the African-American community. Click **here** to learn more.

Join author Calvin Riley for a talk about his new book, **Black Saint Louis**. Riley, the founder and executive director of the **George B. Vashon Museum**, will share how he established the institution and built a collection that reflects the stories of St. Louis Black culture over the past 250 years. Visit the museum site **here**.

Black History: Shaping St. Louis
Missouri History Museum - Thu Feb 22
5pm-8pm

Kelly Jackson and Brent Solomon will lead a conversation with Black St. Louisans who will share their perspectives and experiences. They will share footage from recent "5 On Your Side" stories, and some of the St. Louisans featured in each story will join us on stage. Event details **here**.



Did You Know?

Black History Month Facts

1890: George Washington Johnson was the first Black recording artist in the United States.

1940: Hattie McDaniel was the first Black actor to win an Oscar. McDaniel won the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress for her role as Mammy in *Gone with the Wind*.



Seven decades later, when Mo'Nique accepted the same award for her role in *Precious*, she paid

homage to her predecessor in her speech as well as in her dress: a blue gown with gardenias in her hair, a nod to McDaniel's Oscars attire.

1947: Jackie Robinson makes his debut with the Brooklyn Dodgers.

1950: Gwendolyn Brooks was the first Black person to win a Pulitzer Prize for her book *Annie Allen*. A book that chronicles the evolution of a youth Black girl into womanhood through poetry.

1967: Thurgood Marshall was the first Black Justice on the U.S. Supreme Court. He served as a justice until 1991.

1968: Sidney Poitier was the first Black actor to be nominated for an Academy Award in the Best Actor category and, later, the first to win it for his role in 1963's *Lilies of the Fields*. A trailblazer behind the scenes too, he was the first



to insist on a film crew that was at least 50 percent African American during the making of 1969's *The Lost Man*.



2021: Amanda Gorman is the youngest inaugural poet in U.S. history. Gorman struck a chord with the

American people and the world when she performed her poem "The Hill We Climb" at the inauguration of President Joe Biden.