



It Happened in April

Two of the most dramatic events ever heard live on the radio happened right here in Washington, DC in April, 1939 and April, 1945.

On April 9, 1939, Marian Anderson sang on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial for an audience of over 60,000. Though hailed as the greatest voice of her generation, she had been refused the use of Constitution Hall because she was an African-American. Her recital was heard by millions and became a key event in civil rights history. Even so, it is rare to hear or see more than a few seconds of it. We will be playing the complete broadcast coverage of this event.

With the end of World War II in sight, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt died on April 12, 1945. Two days later, people around the world listened to dramatic descriptions of his funeral procession here in Washington. We will present highlights of the radio coverage, including Arthur Godfrey's emotional description from atop a building along the route. Godfrey, who was then a popular Washington, DC radio personality, was about to become a national star on CBS.

This will be the first program in an occasional ARSC series in which important archival recordings are played for the public.

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

6:30 P.M.

*Mary Pickford Theater
3rd Floor, Madison building*

Library of Congress
Mary Pickford Theater
Third Floor, James Madison Building
First & Independence Ave., S.E.

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Details: Karen Fishman (202) 707-5856

Sponsored by the Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division and the Association for Recorded Sound Collections Washington Metropolitan Area Chapter.