

# Lift Every Voice and Sing Lyrics - A Historical Anthem of Hope and Unity

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"**Lift Every Voice and Sing**" is a hymn often referred to as the "Black National Anthem" in the United States. Written as a poem by James Weldon Johnson in 1900 and later set to music by his brother, John Rosamond Johnson, this song has become an enduring symbol of hope, resilience, and unity. It is celebrated for its powerful message and historical importance, particularly within the African American community.

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## Full Lyrics of "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

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### **\*\*Verse 1\*\***

Lift every voice and sing,  
Till earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;  
Let our rejoicing rise  
High as the listening 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.

### **\*\*Verse 2\*\***

Stony the road we trod,  
Bitter the chastening rod,  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
Yet with a steady beat,  
Have not our weary feet  
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,  
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,  
Out from the gloomy past,  
Till now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

### **\*\*Verse 3\*\***

God of our weary years,  
God of our silent tears,  
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;  
Thou who hast by Thy might  
Led us into the light,  
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,  
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;  
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,  
May we forever stand,  
True to our God,  
True to our native land.

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## Historical Significance

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"Lift Every Voice and Sing" holds a special place in American history. It was first performed in 1900 to celebrate Abraham Lincoln's birthday and quickly became a source of inspiration during the Civil Rights Movement. Its lyrics reflect the struggles and triumphs of African Americans, making it a song of resilience and unity.

Today, the hymn continues to be performed at significant cultural and political events, reminding listeners of the ongoing journey toward equality and justice.

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## Why "Lift Every Voice and Sing" Matters

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The song's enduring legacy lies in its ability to inspire hope and foster a sense of community. Its universal message of perseverance in the face of adversity resonates across generations, making it not just a hymn for African Americans but a song for all who believe in liberty and justice.

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### Tags:

Lift Every Voice and Sing, Lyrics, Historical Songs, Unity, Hope, Resilience

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