

Marian Anderson Keeps Eyes Closed While Singing To Aid Concentration

By ROBERT T. KIMMEL

Marian Anderson, gowned in cloth of gold trimmed with mink, and wearing diamonds, came on the stage of Schwab Auditorium last night, closed her eyes, and let her wonderful voice pour out over the audience.

She said later that closing her eyes was an aid to concentration which helped her to express the feeling in the music. She doesn't keep them closed all of the time, however. Several times during encores she looked out over the audience with eyes that seemed to laugh just a little at the corners.

Besides being rated as the greatest living singer in the world today, she is also one of the most beautifully gowned. S. Huok, her manager, said that the dress she wore last night was designed by Engle, a New York artist.

Dashing around the country is no new experience for Miss Anderson. She did have a rather thrill-

ing time, she said a few weeks ago when she sang for the soldiers at Shepherds Field, Texas. She had given a concert in San Antonio the night before. The jump from there to the Army post was to be made in a plane flown, she said, by one of the country's best pilots. The plane itself, a single-motored job, didn't especially impress her, she added.

However, she and her staff got in and they took off. Glancing at the pilot sometime later, she said, she noticed that he was engrossed in a conversation with his neighbor, a lady friend.

But what made her gasp was the fact that he had both hands off the controls. Miss Anderson said they arrived safely however, and that as they were landing, the 26,000 men at the post were drawn up in formation. "It seemed to me that all they needed to do was move off and take care of any trouble that

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FINALE—Marian Anderson, Negro contralto and one of the greatest singers the world has ever known, according to music authorities, last night concluded the 1941-42 Artists Course.

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Marian Anderson

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arose, and there would be no question about who had the trouble," she said.

After singing for the soldiers she started back in the same plane. Somewhere along the way she happened to glance out the window and saw the gasoline streaming out of one of the tanks at the spot where the exhaust is on three-motored planes. Miss Anderson declared that she had always heard that one's life flows by in one's last moments. Hers didn't come back to her right then, so she was sure she was safe.

Barney Ewell, Penn State's famous track star, was back-stage helping to manage the stage-door mob that crowded around for just a look or an autograph.

Miss Anderson made a gracious gesture that won the audience's approval. For her first encore, she sang "Comin' Through the Rye," and when she did it, she turned and faced the people seated on the stage so that they might not be slighted.