

# **PROLOGUE FOR LIFT EVERY VOICE & SING**

**Adegbalola — 6/22**

**Today, Lift Every Voice and Sing is also known as the Black National Anthem.  
An ANTHEM is the uplifting song of a people.**

**It is full of PRIDE, PATRIOTISM AND POWER.  
PRIDE as an AFFIRMATION OF SURVIVAL  
PATRIOTISM as a cry for LIBERATION  
AND POWER — with God’s help we won’t stop now!**

**Originally it was a POEM written by James Weldon Johnson,  
recited by 500 students in 1900.  
His brother, J. Rosamond Johnson set the poem to music in 1905.**

**Within 20 years, the song was being sung in Black communities all over the  
South.  
The NAACP dubbed it the “Negro National Anthem” in 1919.**

**Here I am going to sing all 3 verses.**

**The 1st verse is one of REJOICING  
The 2nd documents our GLOOMY PAST  
The 3rd speaks to God, as PRAYER  
& to us, as a CHALLENGE . . .  
A CHALLENGE TO STAND TRUE TO OUR GOD  
& TRUE TO OUR NATIVE LAND.**

**I started to ask better musicians to execute the beautiful song,  
but I had to rise to the challenge of a friend and play it myself.**