

# Optional Narrative Script

- ① Speaker 1: Sometimes history misplaces people. Sometimes history forgets.
- Speaker 2: Sometimes the famous names overwhelm the not-so-famous names.
- Speaker 3: Sometimes when it's time to honor and recognize, there are those who are not revered or remembered.
- Speaker 4: We present some of the people who dreamed, fought, served and made changes in our lives and affected history's path. Through music, we bring recognition and we remember their contributions to society and culture, our nation and the world.
- Speaker 5: Ten who counted. Ten African Americans you may not have heard of. These are the stories we bring to you now through music and words.
- Speaker 1: We begin with a soldier.
- Speaker 2: Henry Johnson. He was possibly born in 1897 and died in 1929.
- Speaker 3: On the morning of May 14, 1918, he and a fellow soldier were standing on a bridge near the Aisne River in France. Without warning, they were attacked by 32 German soldiers.
- Speaker 4: Johnson and his fellow soldier fought this force, armed with only pistols, knives and a few grenades. They were both wounded severely and Johnson was eventually left to fight on his own.
- Speaker 5: He managed to wound at least 10 of the Germans, causing them to drop their weapons and run in fear.
- Speaker 6: Johnson and his fellow soldier, Needham Roberts, were awarded France's highest military honor, the Croix de Guerre.

## ② SONG #1: A Soldier for Us All

- ③ Speaker 1: Our next person was an activist.
- Speaker 2: Though his demeanor was quiet and seemingly emotionless, he had the heart and soul of a true conqueror.
- Speaker 3: A. Phillip Randolph was a leader of the "New Negro" movement of the early 20th century. He was born in 1889 and died in 1979.
- Speaker 4: The railroad workers selected him to lead their new union, called the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, in 1925.

Speaker 5: It took many years of working out the plans for agreements between the companies and the workers. But finally, Randolph and his union created rules and regulations that were accepted, which protected and helped serve black employees of the railroad business. At that time, it was a remarkable achievement.

Speaker 6: Later in his life, Randolph encouraged President Franklin Roosevelt to do away with segregation in the defense industry.

Speaker 7: He also helped organize the 1963 March on Washington.

#### **4 SONG #2: We've Got a Brotherhood**

**5** Speaker 1: Technically, our next person was born in Jamaica. His father was a white American, so he enjoyed many privileges of freedom.

Speaker 2: John Russwurm, a journalist, was born in 1799 and died in 1851.

Speaker 3: He had a wonderful education at Bowdoin College in Maine and graduated in 1826, becoming the third African American to graduate from an American college.

Speaker 4: The following year, this man, raised in privilege, took up the plight of the American slave.

Speaker 5: He founded Freedom's Journal with his partner Samuel Cornish. This was the first black newspaper published in the United States.

Speaker 6: Its credo was "Complete freedom and equality for African slaves."

Speaker 7: In the first editorial by Russwurm and Cornish, they wrote that it was time for black people to plead "our own cause."

#### **6 SONG #3: Extra! Extra!**

**7** Speaker 1: Before there were the names of fighters such as Muhammad Ali, Joe Louis or Jackie Robinson, there was a boxer who became history's first black heavyweight champion.

Speaker 2: Jack Johnson, the fighter, was born in 1878 and died in 1946.

Speaker 3: In 1908, Johnson spent 15 rounds boxing Tommy Burns. As he fought, he talked to Burns the entire fight, taunting him. The police had to eventually stop the match.

Speaker 4: The victory divided the nation. Even more tension was created by Johnson, who was boastful, loud and egotistical.

Speaker 5: Though unruly and probably not the best role model, Johnson achieved a first in the boxing ring and should be remembered for this feat.

# Top of the World

Two-part Chorus and Piano

20 Performance

30 Accompaniment

Words and Music by  
Greg Gilpin

Ranges: Part I Part II



Light and free ♩ = 100

*mf*

I Come on up to the

*mf*

II Come on up to the

Light and free ♩ = 100

*mf*

4

I top of the world. We've paved the way for ev - 'ry

II top of the world. We've paved the way for ev - 'ry

Duration: approx. 1:50

6

I  
boy and girl. — Nev - er give up, you'll want to see the view — from the

II  
boy and girl. — Nev - er give up, you'll want to see the view — from the

9

I  
top of the world. — It's here for me — and you. — *mp* Mat - thew Al - ex - an - der was a

II  
top of the world. — It's here for me — and you. —

12

I  
brave, young man. —

II  
*mp* His last name was Hen - son, I'm his big - gest fan. —

15

I  
Sev - en ex - pe - di - tions with an arc - tic goal. —

II  
Sev - en ex - pe - di - tions with an arc - tic goal. —

17

I  
Fi - n'ly on the last — one, he reached that cold North

II  
Fi - n'ly on the last — one, he reached that cold North

19

I  
Pole!

II  
Pole! —

21 *mf*

I  
Come on up to the top of the world. — We've paved the way — for ev-'ry

II  
Come on up to the top of the world. — We've paved the way — for ev-'ry

*mf*

24

I  
boy and girl. — Nev - er give up, you'll want to see the view — from the

II  
boy and girl. — Nev - er give up, you'll want to see the view — from the

27

I  
top of the world. — It's here for me — and you. —

II  
top of the world. — It's here for me — and you. —