



TWO ANTHEMS, ONE NATION

FINDING UNITY IN OUR HISTORY

THE MORRIS PERSPECTIVE PODCAST

WITH CONNIE MORRIS

Chapter 346: Two Anthems, One America: What are We Really Singing About?

Unequal by Design — The Morris Perspective Podcast

Episode Title: Two Anthems, One America: What Are We Really Singing About?

Hosted by Connie Morris

Before we begin, let's be clear about what this series is about.

Unequal by Design is not about isolated incidents.

It is not about opinions.

And it is not about surface-level conversations.

This series examines how systems, policies, traditions, and narratives have been intentionally structured...

To produce unequal outcomes.

And in this episode, we're not looking at laws.

We're looking at something many people don't question—

Tradition.

More specifically...

What we sing.

Because songs are not neutral.

Anthems are not accidental.

They are chosen.

They are repeated.

They are institutionalized.

And over time, they shape how a nation understands itself.

So today, we are going to examine something that often goes unquestioned:

Why does one nation have two anthems that resonate so differently with its people?

And more importantly—

What does that reveal about how this country was built?

Because if a system produces two different experiences...

Then it will also produce two different responses.

Two different connections.

Two different interpretations of the same country.

And that's what we're going to unpack.

Not emotionally.

Not reactively.

But structurally.

We're going to examine:

- The national anthem as a reflection of national identity
- Lift Every Voice and Sing as a reflection of lived experience
- And what it reveals when those two do not fully align

Because this is not just about music.

This is about **design**.

And when something is unequal by design...

It requires more than awareness.

It requires understanding.

 So let's get into it.

Let me take you into a moment...

Welcome to *The Morris Perspective Podcast*, I'm your host, Connie Morris—where we don't just hear the narrative... we examine it.

Let me take you into a moment...

You're standing in a crowded room.

Maybe it's a game. Maybe it's a ceremony. Maybe it's a formal event.

Everyone rises.

The music starts.

Some people place their hands over their hearts.

Some stand quietly.

Some sing loudly and proudly.

And then... something shifts.

Another song begins.

Now you notice something different.

Some people light up—this song means something deeper.

Others look confused.

Some remain seated.

Some feel pride.

Some feel discomfort.

And in that moment, without anyone saying a word...

You realize:

We are not all experiencing this the same way.

That moment—right there—is why this conversation matters.

Because what looks like unity on the surface
can actually reveal the **difference underneath**.

Not just a difference in preference...

But there is a difference in history.

Difference in experience.

There is a difference in what people have had to survive in this country.

And it leads us to a question we don't ask enough:

Why are we listening to two different narratives in the same nation?

How can one country produce two songs?
that resonate so differently with its people?

What does that say about our history...
And what does it reveal about our present?

This isn't really about music.

It's about what the music represents.

Because songs—especially anthems—are not random.

They are chosen.

They are repeated.

They are institutionalized.

And over time, they become **symbols of what a nation chooses to remember...
and what it is willing to forget.**

Now here's where we have to slow down and be honest.

In America, we often operate as if one anthem tells the full story.

But history challenges that idea.

Because the same country that celebrates freedom
also built systems that denied it.

The same nation that waves the flag
also had to be challenged to live up to what that flag represents.

So when we hear:

The Star-Spangled Banner

and

Lift Every Voice and Sing

We are not just hearing two songs.

We are hearing **two narratives**.

One rooted in a moment of national victory.

The other is rooted in a journey of survival.

And here's the deeper truth:

We are listening to two narratives
because America has lived two realities.

One where freedom was declared.

Another where freedom had to be fought for, piece by piece.

One where the nation was celebrated.

Another where people had to ask to be seen.

And this is why the conversation matters today.

Because if we misunderstand the meaning behind these songs,

We risk misunderstanding each other.

We risk calling something a division.

When it is actually **unresolved history**.

This conversation is not about choosing sides.

It is about choosing understanding.

It is about asking:

What does each anthem represent?

Why do both exist?

And what does it reveal about a nation when one song is not enough to tell the full story?

Because at the end of the day...

If we're going to stand together,

We need to understand what we're standing for.

If we're going to sing together,

We need to understand what we're singing about.

So today, we're going to take a deeper look.

Not at the performance...

...but at the meaning.

Two Anthems. One America.

What are we really singing about?

 **Segment 1: The Star-Spangled Banner — What Does It Actually Represent?**

Now that we've set the scene, let's get focused.

We are not just talking—we are building understanding.

And the way we do that is simple:

We make a point.

We ground it in history.

And then we ask—**why does this matter?**

 **POINT 1: The National Anthem is about the survival of a nation—not the condition of its people.**

Let's go to history.

In 1814, during the War of 1812, the United States was under attack by the British.

Francis Scott Key witnessed the bombardment of Fort McHenry.

All night long:

- Bombs were falling
- Rockets filled the sky
- There was uncertainty about whether the nation would hold

This was not symbolic—it was real. The country was under threat.

And then morning came.

And through the smoke and destruction, the American flag was still standing.

That moment became the foundation of the national anthem.

 **WHY THIS MATTERS:**

The anthem is centered on one idea:

The nation survived.

Not that the people were free.

Not that justice was established.

Not that equality existed.

Just that the nation endured.

 **POINT 2: At the time the anthem was written, slavery was still a fully functioning system.**

Now let's stay in that same moment—1814.

Because context matters.

In that same year:

- Slavery was legal across much of the United States
- Millions of Black men, women, and children were enslaved
- Enslavement was protected by law and enforced by society

This was not hidden.

This was not debated quietly.

It was a **normalized system**.

WHY THIS MATTERS:

So now we have to ask an honest question:

When the anthem speaks of freedom, who was actually free?

Because if we don't ask that question, we assume:

- The victory applied to everyone
- The freedom described was universal

And historically, that is not accurate.

 **POINT 3: The anthem reflects what was visible—not what was experienced by all.**

Let's look at what the song emphasizes:

- The flag
- The battlefield
- The victory

These are visible symbols.

But what the anthem does not address is just as important:

- It does not mention slavery
- It does not acknowledge inequality
- It does not reflect the lived experiences of enslaved people

 **WHY THIS MATTERS:**

Because what we choose to highlight shapes what we believe is important.

If we center symbols without examining systems...

We can celebrate a nation while overlooking its conditions.

 **POINT 4: America was operating in two realities at the same time.**

Let's describe this clearly, because this is foundational.

In 1814:

There was an America that:

- Declared independence
- Fought for sovereignty
- Celebrated national survival

And there was also an America that:

- Enslaved millions of people
- Denied basic human rights
- Maintained systems of inequality

These realities were not separate.

They existed at the same time.

In the same country.

Under the same flag.

WHY THIS MATTERS:

Because when people respond differently to national symbols today...

They are not being divisive.

They are responding to **different historical realities**.

POINT 5: The national anthem presents a partial truth—not the complete picture.

Let's be clear—this is important.

The anthem is not false.

It accurately reflects a moment:

- A battle
- A victory
- A surviving nation

But it is **limited in scope**.

It does not capture:

- The full condition of the country
- The experiences of all its people
- The contradictions that existed at that time

 **WHY THIS MATTERS:**

Because when one narrative becomes dominant...

It can unintentionally silence other experiences.

Not because those experiences don't exist—

But because they are not being centered.

 **POINT 6: The gap between symbolism and reality is what creates tension.**

Now we bring this forward.

If a symbol represents freedom...

But people historically experienced oppression...

That creates a gap.

A gap between:

- What is celebrated
- And what was lived

 **WHY THIS MATTERS:**

That gap does not disappear over time.

It carries forward.

Into:

- Perception
- Identity
- And how people respond to national traditions

 **TRANSITION (WHERE WE ARE GOING)**

So now we have established something clearly:

The national anthem tells a story.

But it does not tell the whole story.

And when a story is incomplete...

Another voice will always rise.

to speak to what has been left out.

And that is exactly what we see.

with *Lift Every Voice and Sing*.

That's where we go next.

🎵 Segment 2: Lift Every Voice and Sing — A Response to What Was Missing

Now that we've examined the national anthem...

We move to the second part of the story.

Because if Segment 1 showed us what was included...

Segment 2 will show us what was missing—and how it was addressed.

🎯 **POINT 1: "Lift Every Voice and Sing" was written after slavery—but during continued oppression.**

Let's go to history.

The song was written in 1900 by James Weldon Johnson, with music by his brother, John Rosamond Johnson.

Now pause and look at that year, 1900.

Slavery had officially ended in 1865.

But what replaced it?

- Jim Crow laws
- Legal segregation
- Racial violence
- Economic and social exclusion

So while slavery as a system ended...

The struggle did not.

 **WHY THIS MATTERS:**

This song was not written in a time of freedom.

It was written in a time of **transition without equality**.

Which means:

The people were no longer enslaved—

But they were still not fully free.

 **POINT 2: The song was created to give voice to the people, not to celebrate a nation.**

Let's look at the origin.

"Lift Every Voice and Sing" was first performed by Black schoolchildren in Jacksonville, Florida.

This was not a battlefield moment.

This was a **community moment**.

People coming together to express:

- Faith
- Hope
- Endurance

 **WHY THIS MATTERS:**

This song is not centered on a symbol.

It is centered on **people**.

Their voice.

Their experience.

Their journey.

 **POINT 3:** The lyrics reflect struggle, not just survival, but endurance through hardship.

Let's examine the language.

"Stony the road we trod..."

"Bitter the chastening rod..."

"Felt in the days when hope unborn had died..."

These are not abstract words.

These are descriptions of:

- Slavery
- Oppression
- Generational hardship

 **WHY THIS MATTERS:**

This song does something the national anthem does not:

It acknowledges pain.

Not to stay in it—
but to show what it took to move forward.

 **POINT 4: Faith is central to this anthem.**

Now let's look deeper.

"Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us..."

"God of our weary years..."

"God of our silent tears..."

This is not just history.

This is a **spiritual interpretation of history**.

 **WHY THIS MATTERS:**

The song answers a question that the first anthem does not:

How did we survive?

And the answer is:

Faith.

God.

Endurance.

 **POINT 5: This song became a unifying tool during the Civil Rights Movement.**

Now let's move forward in time.

During the Civil Rights Movement, this song was sung in:

- Churches
- Marches
- Community gatherings

It became a source of:

- Strength
- Unity
- Identity

 **WHY THIS MATTERS:**

This was not just a song.

It was a **tool for survival and movement.**

It helped people keep going.

in a system that had not fully changed.

 **POINT 6: "Lift Every Voice and Sing" fills the gap left by the national anthem.**

Now we connect the two.

If the national anthem tells us:

 The nation survived

Then this song tells us:

 The people survived

 **WHY THIS MATTERS:**

These are not competing messages.

They are **complementary truths**.

But one without the other...

Leaves the story incomplete.

 **POINT 7: This is why two narratives exist.**

Now we answer the question directly.

Why are we listening to two different narratives?

Because America produced:

- A national story
- And a lived experience

And those two did not always align.

 **WHY THIS MATTERS:**

When people connect with different anthems...

They are not choosing sides.

They are responding to:

- What reflects their history
- What validates their experience

TRANSITION (WHERE WE ARE GOING)

So now we've examined both:

- The national anthem → a nation's survival
- Lift Every Voice → a people's endurance

Now the question becomes:

What happens when we place them side by side?

What do we learn when we compare them directly?

That's where we go next.

Segment 3: Side-by-Side — What the Two Anthems Reveal

Now we bring it together.

We've examined both songs individually.

Now we compare them.

Not to divide—

But to understand.

 **POINT 1:** These songs were written in different historical moments.

Let's place them side by side.

- The Star-Spangled Banner — 1814 (War of 1812)
- Lift Every Voice and Sing — 1900 (Post-slavery, Jim Crow era)

These are not the same environments.

One is written during a war for national survival.

The other is written during a struggle for human dignity.

 **WHY THIS MATTERS:**

You cannot expect two songs written in different conditions to communicate the same message.

They are responding to **different realities**.

 **POINT 2: Each song answers a different question.**

Let's simplify it.

The national anthem answers:

 "Did the nation survive?"

Lift Every Voice answers:

 "How did the people survive?"

 **WHY THIS MATTERS:**

These are not competing questions.

They are **layers of the same story**.

But if you only ask one...

You miss the full picture.

 **POINT 3: One centers a symbol—the other centers a people.**

National Anthem:

- Focus = Flag
- Symbol = Nation
- Outcome = Victory

Lift Every Voice:

- Focus = People
- Experience = Struggle
- Outcome = Endurance

 **WHY THIS MATTERS:**

Symbols unify...

But experiences reveal truth.

And if you only center symbols,
You risk overlooking lived reality.

 **POINT 4: One reflects a moment—the other reflects a journey.**

The national anthem captures:

-  One night
-  One battle
-  One outcome

Lift Every Voice captures:

-  Generations
-  Ongoing struggle
-  Continuous faith

 **WHY THIS MATTERS:**

Moments are powerful—

But journeys explain **why people respond the way they do today.**

 **POINT 5: Together, they reveal the full American story.**

Now, let's bring it together clearly.

The national anthem tells us:

-  The nation stood.

Lift Every Voice tells us:

👉 The people endured.

🧠 **WHY THIS MATTERS:**

When combined, we see:

- Strength of a nation
- AND the resilience of its people

One without the other...

Is incomplete.

🎯 **POINT 6: The tension is not division—it is unresolved understanding.**

Let's address the real issue.

The discomfort people feel around these songs.

It is often labeled as a division.

But that's not what it is.

🧠 **WHY THIS MATTERS:**

It is a signal.

A signal that:

- Not all history has been fully acknowledged
- Not all experiences have been equally recognized

🎯 POINT 7: The real question is not which song is right, but how do we understand both?

So now we arrive at the real question:

Not:

👉 Which anthem should we choose?

But:

👉 How do we bring these truths together?

🔄 TRANSITION:

Because if one song represents the nation...

And the other represents the people...

Then the goal is not separation.

The goal is **integration**.

And that's where we go next.

👉 Segment 4: Integration — One Story, Fully Told

Now that we've examined both narratives...

We are no longer comparing.

We are bringing them together.

Because the goal is not to choose between two stories—

The goal is to understand the **one story they were always pointing to.**

 **POINT 1: The American story has always been layered—not singular.**

Let's start here.

America has never been one experience.

From its beginning, it has held:

- Declaration and contradiction
- Freedom and limitation
- Opportunity and exclusion

 **MEANING:**

So when we hear two different anthems...

We are not a hearing division.

We are hearing **layers of the same history.**

 **WHY THIS MATTERS:**

Because if we try to reduce America to one narrative...

We erase the complexity that actually defines it.

 **POINT 2: National survival and human endurance are not separate—they are connected.**

Let's bring the two messages together.

The nation survived war.

But the people—especially Black Americans—survived systems within that nation.

 **MEANING:**

These are not unrelated events.

They are happening **within the same timeline.**

The strength of the nation and the endurance of its people are part of the same story.

WHY THIS MATTERS:

Because when we separate them...

We disconnect the symbol from the reality.

But when we integrate them...

We see the full picture.

 **POINT 3: Freedom was declared—but it also had to be developed over time.**

Let's unify this clearly.

Freedom in America was:

- Declared in principle
- But applied unevenly

 **MEANING:**

So one anthem reflects the declaration.

The other reflects the **process by which that declaration becomes reality.**

WHY THIS MATTERS:

Because it helps us understand something critical:

Freedom is not just announced.

It has to be **realized.**

 **POINT 4: Symbols and experiences must be understood together.**

Let's align the core tension.

The flag represents:

- Unity
- Nationhood
- Identity

But people's experiences reflect:

- Access
- Treatment
- Lived reality

 **MEANING:**

Symbols tell us what a nation stands for.

Experiences tell us how those ideals are lived out.

WHY THIS MATTERS:

Because if we only focus on symbols...

We risk ignoring whether those symbols are being fulfilled in real life.

 **POINT 5: The full American narrative includes both victory and struggle.**

Let's say it plainly.

America is not just a story of success.

It is also a story of:

- Correction
- Resistance
- Growth

 **MEANING:**

The existence of both anthems shows that:

Victory did not end the journey.

It began.

WHY THIS MATTERS:

Because it shifts how we see the country:

Not as finished—

But it continues **to develop**.

 **POINT 6: Integration creates a more honest form of unity.**

Now we move into resolution.

When we integrate both narratives, we are no longer forced to choose.

We can say:

- The nation stood
- AND the people endured

 **MEANING:**

That is a more complete truth.

And a more stable foundation for unity.

WHY THIS MATTERS:

Because unity built on partial truth is fragile.

But unity built on full understanding is stronger.

 **POINT 7: A unified message must reflect both history and hope.**

Let's bring this into one voice.

A unified message sounds like this:

We recognize:

- The survival of a nation
- The endurance of its people

And we commit to:

Continuing the work of aligning those two realities

 **MEANING:**

This is not just a reflection.

It is a responsibility.

WHY THIS MATTERS:

Because understanding history is not the end—

It is the starting point for growth.

 **INTEGRATED DECLARATION (FULL STATEMENT)**

Let's bring it all together:

**We stand as a nation that survived—
and as a people who endured within it.**

We recognize that freedom was declared—
and that it has been developed over time.

We honor the symbols that represent unity—
And we acknowledge the experiences that reveal truth.

And we understand that the American story is not one voice—

But when those voices are brought together...

It becomes one complete story.

 **FINAL TRANSITION:**

So now we are no longer asking:

“Which anthem matters more?”

We are asking:

“What does the full story require us to understand?”

And when we understand that...

We move closer to something real.

Not just unity in appearance—

But unity in truth.

Segment 5: The Effects of History — How It Shapes White and Black American Experience Today

Now that we've brought the narratives together...

We have to deal with something deeper.

Because history is not just something that happened.

It continues to shape how people think, feel, and respond today.

 **POINT 1: History shapes perspective—and not everyone inherited the same experience.**

Let's start here.

The history we just discussed did not affect everyone the same way.

White Americans and Black Americans inherited **different historical realities**.

 **MEANING:**

For many White Americans, history has often been taught as:

- Progress
- Nation-building
- Opportunity

For many Black Americans, history includes:

- Slavery
- Segregation
- Ongoing struggle for equal access

WHY THIS MATTERS:

Because people are not reacting to the same version of history.

They are responding to **what they were taught—and what they experienced.**

 **POINT 2: Historical advantage and disadvantage created different starting points.**

Let's be clear and factual.

After slavery ended, systems continued to shape outcomes:

- Jim Crow laws
- Redlining
- Segregation in education
- Unequal access to resources

MEANING:

These systems were created:

- Advantage for some
- Barriers for others

WHY THIS MATTERS:

Because when we look at present-day outcomes...

They did not appear out of nowhere.

They are connected to **historical structures**.

 **POINT 3: Identity and trust are shaped by historical experience.**

Let's bring this into how people feel today.

For many White Americans:

- National symbols represent pride
- Institutions are often seen as stable

For many Black Americans:

- There can be skepticism
- There can be caution
- There can be a need for proof, not just a promise

 **MEANING:**

These responses are not random.

They are shaped by:

- Experience
- Generational memory
- Lived reality

WHY THIS MATTERS:

Because misunderstanding these differences can lead to:

- Frustration
- Mislabeled
- Assumptions about intent

 **POINT 4: The gap is not just historical—it is perceptual.**

Let's go deeper.

Two people can look at the same country...

And see two different things.

 **MEANING:**

One may see:

 Progress and opportunity

Another may see:

 Ongoing inequality and barriers

WHY THIS MATTERS:

Because both perspectives can be rooted in **real experiences**.

And if we dismiss one...

We limit understanding.

 **POINT 5: Bridging the gap requires acknowledgment, not avoidance.**

Now we move toward a solution.

We cannot bring people together.
by ignoring what separates their experiences.

 **MEANING:**

Acknowledgment means:

- Recognizing history honestly
- Listening without defensiveness
- Understanding without immediate judgment

WHY THIS MATTERS:

Because people don't move forward
until they feel **seen and heard**.

 **POINT 6: Unity requires shared understanding—not identical experiences.**

Let's make this clear.

We are not trying to make everyone feel the same.

That is not realistic.

 **MEANING:**

The goal is not:

👉 “We all had the same experience.”

The goal is:

👉 “We understand each other’s experience.”

WHY THIS MATTERS:

Because understanding creates:

- Respect
- Patience
- Better communication

 **POINT 7: Moving forward requires intentional connection.**

Now let’s bring it home.

If we want to bring these perspectives together, it requires:

- Honest conversations
- Education rooted in truth
- Willingness to listen across differences
- A commitment to growth—not just comfort

 **MEANING:**

Connection is not automatic.

It is **intentional**.

WHY THIS MATTERS:

Because without intentional effort...

The gap remains.

INTEGRATION STATEMENT:

Let's say it clearly:

We are not divided because we are different.

We are divided when we refuse to understand those differences.

TRANSITION TO CLOSE:

So now we've examined:

- The history
- The narratives
- The integration
- And the impact

Now the final question becomes:

What do we do with this understanding moving forward?

 **Segment 6: Moving Forward — What Do We Do With This Understanding?**

Now we've arrived at the most important part of this conversation.

Because understanding—by itself—is not enough.

So the question becomes:

What do we do with what we now know?

 **POINT 1: We move from awareness to responsibility.**

Let's start here.

It is one thing to hear history.

It is another thing to understand it.

But it is something different to take **responsibility for what that understanding requires.**

 **MEANING:**

Awareness informs.

Responsibility transforms.

WHY THIS MATTERS:

Because if we stop at awareness...

Nothing changes.

 **POINT 2: We commit to learning beyond what we were originally taught.**

Let's be honest.

Many of us were taught:

- Simplified history
- Partial narratives
- Limited perspectives

 **MEANING:**

Moving forward requires:

- 👉 Expanding what we know
- 👉 Questioning what we assumed
- 👉 Being open to new understanding

WHY THIS MATTERS:

Because you cannot build a better future
on incomplete information.

 **POINT 3: We listen to understand—not to respond.**

Now we move into interaction.

Real progress happens when people:

- Listen without interruption
- Listen without defensiveness
- Listen without trying to “win.”

 **MEANING:**

Listening is not agreement.

It is **respect for another person’s experience.**

WHY THIS MATTERS:

Because when people feel heard...

Barriers begin to lower.

 **POINT 4: We separate identity from defensiveness.**

This is critical.

Sometimes when history is discussed...

People feel personally attacked.

 **MEANING:**

But understanding history is not about blaming individuals.

It is about recognizing systems and patterns.

WHY THIS MATTERS:

Because defensiveness blocks learning.

And learning is necessary for growth.

 **POINT 5: We choose honest conversations over comfortable silence.**

Let's say it clearly.

Avoiding difficult conversations may feel easier—

But it does not move us forward.

 **MEANING:**

Growth happens in:

- Discomfort
- Reflection
- Honest dialogue

WHY THIS MATTERS:

Because silence maintains distance.

Conversation creates connection.

 **POINT 6: We recognize that unity is built—not assumed.**

Unity is not automatic.

It is not created by standing in the same room.
or singing the same song.

 **MEANING:**

Unity is built through:

- Understanding
- Acknowledgment
- Consistent effort

WHY THIS MATTERS:

Because without effort...

Unity becomes surface-level, not real.

 **POINT 7: We commit to aligning ideals with action.**

Let's bring it all together.

If America represents:

- Freedom
- Justice
- Equality

Then those ideas must be:

-  Reflected in action
-  Experienced in reality

 **MEANING:**

Values are not just stated.

They must be **lived out**.

WHY THIS MATTERS:

Because credibility comes from consistency.

 **POINT 8: We move forward together—with understanding, not assumption.**

This is the goal.

Not perfection.

No agreement on everything.

But progress.

 **MEANING:**

Progress happens when:

- People are willing to learn
- Willing to listen
- Willing to grow

WHY THIS MATTERS:

Because the future is shaped by what we choose to do now.

 **FINAL CALL TO ACTION:**

Let's say it clearly:

We don't move forward by ignoring history.

We move forward by understanding it—and choosing to do better because of it.

 **TRANSITION TO CLOSE:**

So now the question is no longer:

“What happened?”

Or even:

“What does it mean?”

The question is:

“What will we do with it?”

 **Final Segment: Closing — The Full Story**

Let's bring this all the way home.

We started with a question:

What are we really singing about?

And now we have an answer.

We are not just singing about a moment.

We are not just singing about a symbol.

We are singing about a story.

A story where a nation survived...

And a story of a people enduring.

And when we understand that...

Something shifts.

We stop asking:

“Which anthem matters more?”

And we start asking:

“What does the full story require us to see?”

Because the truth is—

You cannot build unity on half a story.

You cannot move forward.

without understanding what came before.

So this is not about replacing one song with another.

It’s about recognizing that:

One anthem tells us the nation stood...
and the other reminds us that the people did too.

And if we are going to move forward—

Not just as individuals,
but as a nation—

We have to be willing to hold both truths at the same time.

Because when we do...

We don't divide the story.

We complete it.

And when the story is complete...

Understanding becomes possible.

And when understanding becomes possible...

So does unity.

 This is Connie Morris,
and this is *The Morris Perspective Podcast*—

Where we don't just hear the narrative...

We examine it.

 **Final Segment: Closing — The Full Story**

Let's bring this all the way home.

We started with a question:

What are we really singing about?

And now we have an answer.

We are not just singing about a moment.

We are not just singing about a symbol.

We are singing about a story.

A story where a nation survived...

And a story where people endured.

And when we understand that...

Something shifts.

We stop asking:

"Which anthem matters more?"

And we start asking:

"What does the full story require us to see?"

Because the truth is—

You cannot build unity on half a story.

You cannot move forward.

without understanding what came before.

So this is not about replacing one song with another.

It's about recognizing that:

**One anthem tells us the nation stood...
and the other reminds us that the people did too.**

And if we are going to move forward—

Not just as individuals,
but as a nation—

We have to be willing to hold both truths at the same time.

Because when we do...

We don't divide the story.

We complete it.

And when the story is complete...

Understanding becomes possible.

And when understanding becomes possible...

So does unity.

 This is Connie Morris,
and this is *The Morris Perspective Podcast*—

Where we don't just hear the narrative...

We examine it.

Copyright Page

Two Anthems, One America: What Are We Really Singing About?

Part of the *Unequal by Design* Series

The Morris Perspective Podcast

© 2026 Morris Bias Initiatives LLC. All rights reserved.

This podcast episode, including all audio, scripts, transcripts, and accompanying materials, is the intellectual property of Morris Bias Initiatives LLC and is protected by copyright law.

No portion of this work may be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, or used in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, recording, or otherwise—without prior written permission from the publisher, except for brief quotations used for review, academic, or educational purposes with proper attribution.

Host & Creator: Connie Morris

Founder, Morris Bias Initiatives LLC

Host, *The Morris Perspective Podcast*

Contact Information:

✉ themorrisperspectivepodcast@gmail.com

🌐 www.morrisbiasinitiativesllc.com

Series: Unequal by Design

Podcast: The Morris Perspective Podcast

Disclaimer:

The views and opinions expressed in this podcast are for educational and informational purposes. They are based on historical analysis, research, and commentary. This content is intended to promote understanding, critical thinking, and informed discussion.

Copyright Notice:

2026 © Morris Bias Initiatives LLC | The Morris Perspective Podcast

Chapter 346 The Two Anthems

In "Chapter 346: The Two Anthems," Connie Morris delves into the complex narratives behind America's dual anthems, exploring how "The Star-Spangled Banner" and "Lift Every Voice and Sing" reflect contrasting experiences and histories within the nation. This insightful examination reveals that while one anthem celebrates survival, the other embodies resilience and struggle, highlighting the deeper truths of American identity. Through this lens, Morris challenges listeners to confront the realities of inequality and understanding necessary for true unity.