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Ruby Elzy: A Mississippi Jewel*

Ruby Elzy was a sweet-voiced soprano from the hills of northeastern Mississippi who became a star of Broadway, radio, and the movies in the 1930s. She sang everywhere, from Harlem's Apollo Theater to the White House, and she created a highly acclaimed role in one of the greatest American operas ever written, *Porgy and Bess*.

Elzy graduated in June 1930 from Ohio State (ranking first in her class from the department of music), she could both read and write music, play the piano, and perform in four languages.

Ruby Elzy overcame poverty and prejudice to become one of the most illustrious singers of her generation. Yet for many decades after her tragic death in 1943 at the age of 35, she was largely forgotten.

*Source: <http://www.mshistorynow.mdah.ms.gov/articles/16/ruby-elzy-a-mississippi-jewel>