James Weldon Johnson

Born in Jacksonville, Florida, James Weldon Johnson was the first African-American lawyer accepted to the Florida bar and was among the first African-American professors at New York University. A noted writer, editor, statesman, and civil rights activist during the Harlem Renaissance, he wrote the lyrics to the famous anthem "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing." His most ambitious work is *God's Trombones*, which he wrote while serving as Executive Secretary of the NAACP.