

A Spiritual for Freedom

for SATB soloists, SATB choir and organ, with reader
for the 40th anniversary of Amnesty International



Oliver Barton

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SCORE

A Spiritual for Freedom

for the Henbury Singers and the 40th anniversary of Amnesty International

On page 10, during the repeated section, there is a voice-over, undoubtedly amplified. The following passage was used in the first performance, but feel free to substitute something else if you feel it would be appropriate:

“I did not, when a slave, understand the deep meaning of those incoherent songs. They told a tale of woe which was beyond my feeble comprehension; they were tones loud, long and deep; they breathed the prayer and complaint of souls boiling over with the bitterest anguish. Every tone was a testimony against slavery and a prayer to God for deliverance from chains. The songs of the slave represent the sorrows of his heart; and he is relieved by them, only as an aching heart is relieved by its tears.”

from Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave, 1845

Words based on two negro spirituals from the time of the American Civil War noted down by Thomas Wentworth Higginson in 1867:

- o “We’ll soon be free,” for singing which negroes were put in jail in Georgetown, South Carolina, at the outbreak of the war
- o “Many thousand go,” which used to be sung in secret to avoid detection

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The musical score is arranged for a four-part vocal ensemble (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano. The vocal parts are initially silent, indicated by rests. The piano accompaniment begins with a guitar-like texture in the right hand, marked 'Gt. f', and a bass line in the left hand, marked 'f'. The score consists of three systems of staves. The first system has four vocal staves and a piano grand staff. The second system has four vocal staves and a piano grand staff. The third system has four vocal staves and a piano grand staff. The piano part features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, with various dynamics and articulations.

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Although no charge is made for this music, if you want to perform it, please make a contribution to Amnesty International, and please let me know! oliver.barton@talktalk.net

8

p bleak

Spare me,— Lord,——

17

mf

Oh spare me!

Sw. Sw.

p

spare me,— Lord!

26

Gt.

Sw. Sw.

35

mf

Spare me,— Lord, spare me,—

mf

Spare me,— Lord, spare me,—

44

mf

Spare me,— Lord, spare me,—

mf

Spare me,— Lord, spare me,—

53

24

24

Lord. Spare me,— Lord, *p* heavy, resigned

Lord. Spare me,— Lord, *p*

Spare me,— Lord, *p*

Spare me,— Lord, *p*

24

p Sw. *mf*

33

33

spare me,— Lord, spare me— Lord, When I speak the truth then hun-dred lashfor me.

spare me,— Lord, spare me— Lord,— When I speak, hun-dred lash for me.

spare me,— Lord, spare me— Lord, When I speak the truth then hun-dred lashfor me.

spare me,— Lord, spare me— Lord, When I speak the truth then hun-dred lash for me.

33

39 *p* Oh spare me, Lord, oh spare me, Lord, oh spare me, *mf*

Ah Yes Lord, oh spare me, Ah

Yes Lord, oh spare me,

39 *mf* Oh spare me, O Lord!

Oh spare me! Oh spare me, spare me, — Lord, When I

Spare me, — Lord, spare me, — Lord, spare me, — Lord, When I

When I

When I

39

45 *p* slightly ominous, like a dark cloud

Lord! I cried out for jus-tice and free-dom of speech,

Lord! Ah

mf heavy Ah

I cried out for jus-tice and free-dom of speech,

45 speak the truth then hun-dred lash for me.

speak, hun-dred lash for me.

speak the truth then hun-dred lash for me.

speak the truth then hun-dred lash for me.

45

49 *p*

Oh

And they done lock me up with the key out of reach.

mf

And they done lock me up with the key out of reach.

And they done lock me up with the key out of reach.

49 *earnest & crisp* *p*

I spoke the truth, — I did, Lord,

I spoke the truth, — I did, Lord,

I spoke the truth, — I did, Lord,

I spoke the truth, — I did, Lord,

49 *quasi gliss.*

53 *mf*

Spare me, — spare me, — I spoke the

Spare me, — spare me, — I spoke the

Ah

Ah

53 *mf*

I spoke the truth, — I did, Lord. Spare me, — Lord,

I spoke the truth, — I did, Lord. Spare me, — Lord,

I spoke the truth, — I did, Lord. Spare me, — Lord,

I spoke the truth, — I did, Lord. Spare me, — Lord,

53 *mf*

57 truth I did, oh yes I did, Spare me, spare me, spare me, Ah *p*
 truth, *mf* oh yes I did, Lord. I spoke the truth, oh yes I did, Lord, 'Cos I *mf*
 Oh spare me, Lord, — yes Lord, 'Cos I *f* *mp*
 Ah Yes spare me, Lord — yes Lord, I

57 spare me, — Lord, spare me — Lord, 'Cos I
 spare me, — Lord, spare me — Lord, 'Cos I
 spare me, — Lord, spare me — Lord, 'Cos I
 spare me, Lord, — spare me — Lord, 'Cos I

61 spoke the truth, yes Lord. — They beat me and starve me and want me to die,
 spoke, — the truth, there's pri-son cell for me. They beat me and starve me and want me to die,
 spoke the truth, pri-son cell for me.

61 spoke the truth there's pri-son cell for me.
 spoke, pri-son cell for me.
 spoke the truth there's pri-son cell for me.
 spoke the truth there's pri-son cell for me.

65

f rich

But I'm stay-ing strong, Lord, I ain't going to cry.

f

But I'm stay-ing strong, Lord, I ain't going to cry.

mf

gliss.

I stay strong, I ain't going to

65 *mp crisp*

I speak the truth,— I do, Lord,

mp

I speak the truth,— I do, Lord,

mp

I speak the truth,— I do, Lord,

mp

I speak the truth,— I do, Lord,

65

quasi gliss.

69

p espress., sotto voce, desperate

cry. Free me,— Lord, free me,—

69

pp heavy, press on beats 1 & 3

I speak the truth,— I do, Lord. Oo,— etc.

pp

I speak the truth,— I do, Lord. Oo,— etc.

pp

I speak the truth,— I do, Lord. Oo,— etc.

pp

I speak the truth,— I do, Lord. Oo,— etc.

69

muffled pp

pp

74

burst out

Lord, free me,— Lord, When I cry for free-dom they done tor-ture me.

74

When I cry for free-dom they done tor-ture me.

When I cry for free - dom, Oo

etc.

When I cry for free-dom they done tor-ture me.

79

79

79

p suppressed power

Sw.

85 *mf* *cri de coeur* *f* Ah
 My bro-ther, my sis-ter, is the

85 *mp* *heavy, emotionless* Free me,— Lord,
 Free me,— Lord,
 Free me,— Lord,
 Free me,— Lord,

85 *f* *gradual dim.* Free me,— Lord,
 Free me,— Lord,
 Free me,— Lord,
 Free me,— Lord,

91 *mf* Ah
 How
 Ah *f* How

prom-ised day near?

91 *f* *empassioned* free me,— Lord, Let it be near,— oh my Lord.
 free me,— Lord, Let it be near,— oh my Lord.
 free me,— Lord, Let it be near,— oh my Lord.

91 free me,— Lord,
 free me,— Lord,
 free me,— Lord,

96 *dim.*

long will it be 'fore we done suff - 'ring here?

96 *p* *mf resigned*

Free me, — Lord, For we migh - ty sad and sore from suff-'ring here, Let it be near, — oh my

101 **READER: Voice over (see page 1). Perform the repeat as necessary for the reader.**

pp *inward but comforting*

Oo oo

101 *ppp* *dull, thudding*

Lord. *ppp* *dull, thudding*

Dm dm dm dm Lord, Lord, — dm, dm, etc.

107 *bleak* *pp*

(hum) *pp*

(hum) *pp*

(hum) *pp*

(hum) *pp*

(hum) *gliss.*

107 Lord, Lord, — mm — dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm (hum) *p*

(hum) *p*

Lord, Lord, — dm dm

107

repeat as many times as necessary to cover the voice-over, plus one more time if you like

113 *gliss.*

gliss.

gliss.

gliss.

gliss.

113

(hum) *p*

(hum) *p*

(hum)

113

[The glissandi should be more-or-less the duration indicated, and tired and heavy, not embarrassed and coy as singers tend to be when faced with such things.]

120 The mood changes but not the tempo

Musical score for the first system, measures 120-123. It features a vocal line with lyrics: "We'll soon be free, we'll soon be free, we'll soon be". The piano accompaniment is minimal, with rests in the upper staves and a simple bass line. The dynamic marking is *mf*.

Musical score for the second system, measures 120-123. It features a vocal line with lyrics: "We'll soon be free, we'll soon be free, we'll soon be". The piano accompaniment includes a second vocal part with lyrics: "We'll soon be free, we'll soon be free, we'll soon be". The dynamic marking is *mf*.

Piano accompaniment for the first system, measures 120-123. The right hand features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with a *mf* dynamic marking and an *etc.* marking. The left hand provides a simple bass line.

Musical score for the third system, measures 124-127. It features a vocal line with lyrics: "free When the Lord will call us home. My bro-ther how long, my bro-ther how". The piano accompaniment is minimal, with rests in the upper staves and a simple bass line.

Musical score for the fourth system, measures 124-127. It features a vocal line with lyrics: "free When the Lord will call us home. My bro-ther how long, my bro-ther how". The piano accompaniment includes a second vocal part with lyrics: "free When the Lord will call us home. My bro-ther how long,".

Piano accompaniment for the third system, measures 124-127. The right hand features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with a *mf* dynamic marking. The left hand provides a simple bass line.

127 *f*
 It won't be
 long, my bro-ther how long 'Fore we done suff-'ring here?

127 *f*
 long, my bro-ther how long 'Fore we done suff-'ring here? It won't be
 my bro-ther how long, my bro-ther how long— 'Fore we done suff-'ring here?
 It won't be *f*

127 *mf*

130
 long, it won't be long, it won't be long 'Fore the Lord will call us
 Ah, ah,
 Ah, ah,
 Ah lord, ah Lord, the Lord will

130
 long, it won't be long, it won't be long 'Fore the Lord will call us
 It won't be long, it won't be long, it won't be long 'Fore the Lord will call us
 long, it won't be long, it won't be long 'Fore the Lord will call us
 It won't be long, it won't be long, it won't be long 'Fore the Lord will call us

130

133

home. We'll walk the road, the mi - ry road, we'll walk the

We'll walk the road, mi - ry road,

ah, We'll walk the road, the road,

call us home, Ah Lord, mi - ry road,

133

home. We'll walk the road, the mi - ry road, we'll walk the

home. We'll walk the road, the mi - ry road, we'll walk the

home.

home.

133

home.

136

road Where plea - sure ne - ver dies.

Where plea - sure lies, We'll walk the street,

Where plea - sure lies, We'll walk the street, we'll walk the

Where plea - sure lies, We'll walk the street, we'll walk the

136

road Where plea - sure ne - ver dies. Ah,

road Where plea - sure ne - ver dies. Ah,

Ah,

Ah,

136

139 *gradual dim.*

Ah,
 we'll walk the street, we'll walk the street Where plea-sure ne-ver dies. My Lord, how
 street, we'll walk the street Where plea-sure ne-ver dies, it ne-ver dies.

139 *gradual dim.*

ah,
 ah,
 ah,

139

142

My Lord, how long, my Lord how long? Ah.
 long, my Lord, how long, Ah.
 My Lord, how long, my Lord, how long 'Fore we done suff-ring
 long, my Lord, how long, my Lord, how long 'Fore we done suff-ring

142

Oh my Lord, how long?
 Oh yes, my Lord, how
 Oh yes, my Lord, how
 Oh yes, my Lord, how

142

145

here? Pro-mised mor-ning is al-most here, Free-dom wa-gon is draw-ing near,

here? Pro-mised mor-ning is al-most here, Free-dom wa-gon is draw-ing near,

long? long? long?

mf plodding etc.

151

Time to pray, Save us to-day, Free from bon-dage and free from fear. Prom-ised mor-ning

Time to pray, Save us to-day, Free from bon-dage and free from fear. Prom-ised mor-ning

the sun's come out!

f Pro-mised mor-ning is *f* Pro-mised mor-ning is

mf press on beats 1 & 3

156

here, my Lord, Free-dom wa-gon is at the door, Stops out-side, Doors o - pen wide,

here, my Lord, Free-dom wa-gon is at the door, Stops out-side, Doors o - pen wide,

here, my Lord, the free-dom wa - gon at the door, it stops out-side, Doors o - pen wide, so

156

156

161

Loose the shack-les and climb a - board!

Loose the shack-les and climb a - board!

loose the shack - les, climb a - board!

161

f exultant Pro - mised mor-ning is here, my Lord,

f Pro - mised mor-ning is here, my Lord,

f Pro - mised mor-ning is here, my Lord,

f Pro - mised mor-ning is here, my Lord,

f Pro - mised mor-ning is here, my Lord,

161

mf Pro - mised mor-ning is here, my Lord,

Musical notation for measures 165-169, consisting of four staves (treble and bass clefs) with rests.

Musical notation for measures 165-169 with lyrics: "Free-dom wa-gon is at the door, Stops out-side, Doors o - pen wide, Loose the shack-les and". Includes piano accompaniment.

Musical notation for measures 170-174 with lyrics: "Throw off the chains, throw off the chains, throw off the chains". Includes dynamic markings *f* and *f excited*.

Musical notation for measures 170-174 with lyrics: "climb a - board! Throw off the chains, throw off the chains". Includes dynamic markings *f* and *f excited*.

173

chains, throw off the chains And walk out-side the door. Step in - to

throw off the chains, throw off the chains And walk out-side the door. Step in - to

chains, throw off the chains And walk out-side the door. Step in - to

throw off the chains, throw off the chains And walk out-side the door.

mf

173

chains, throw off the chains And walk out-side the door. Step in - to

throw off the chains, throw off the chains And walk out-side the door. Step in - to

chains, throw off the chains And walk out-side the door. Step in - to

throw off the chains, throw off the chains And walk out-side the door.

mf

173

chains, throw off the chains And walk out-side the door. Step in - to

throw off the chains, throw off the chains And walk out-side the door. Step in - to

chains, throw off the chains And walk out-side the door. Step in - to

throw off the chains, throw off the chains And walk out-side the door.

mf

176

day - light, step in - to day - light, step in - to light, the Lord has set us

day - light, step in - to day - light, step in - to day-light 'Cos the Lord has set us

day - light, step in - to day - light, step in - to light, the Lord has set us

Step in - to day - light, step in - to day-light 'Cos the Lord has set us all

mf

176

day - light, step in - to day - light, step in - to day-light 'Cos the Lord has set us

Step in - to day - light, step in - to light, step in - to day-light 'Cos the Lord has set us

day - light, step in - to day - light 'Cos we're

Step in - to day - light, step in - to light, step in - to day-light 'Cos the Lord has set us

mf

176

day - light, step in - to day - light, step in - to day-light 'Cos the Lord has set us

Step in - to day - light, step in - to light, step in - to day-light 'Cos the Lord has set us

day - light, step in - to day - light 'Cos we're

Step in - to day - light, step in - to light, step in - to day-light 'Cos the Lord has set us

mf

179

free. *f* Send up a cry, send up a shout, Go tell the

free, Oh yes, the Lord has set us free, *f* Send up a cry, send up a shout, Go tell the

free. *f* Send up a cry, send up a shout, Go tell the

free, oh yes, the Lord has set us free. Go tell the

179

free! *f* Send up a cry, send up a shout, Go tell the

free! Send up a cry, send up a shout, Go tell the

free! *f* Send up a cry, send up a shout, Go tell the

free! *f* Send up a cry, send up a shout, Go tell the

179

free! *f* Send up a cry, send up a shout, Go tell the

182

peo - ple the pris-'ners are let out! *p* Sing out for free - dom, *cresc.* sing out for

peo - ple the pris-'ners are let out! *p* Sing out for free - dom, sing out for

peo - - - ple! *p* Sing out for free - dom, sing out for

peo - ple the pris-'ners are let out, Oh yes, the pris-'ners are let out! *p* Sing out for free - dom, *cresc.*

182

peo - ple the pris-'ners are let out! *p* Sing out for free - dom, sing out for

peo - ple the pris-'ners are let out! *p* Sing out for free - dom,

182

peo - ple the pris-'ners are let out! *p* Sing out for free - dom, sing out for

peo - ple the pris-'ners are let out! *p* Sing out for free - dom,

185 *cresc.*

peace, Sing out for jus - tice and ne - ver e - ver cease, and ne - ver e - ver

peace, Sing out for jus - tice and ne - ver e - ver cease, and ne - ver e - ver

peace, Sing out for jus - tice and ne - ver e - ver cease, and ne - ver e - ver

sing out for peace, Sing out for jus - tice and ne - ver e - ver cease, and ne - ver e - ver

185 *cresc.*

peace, Sing out for jus - tice and ne - ver e - ver cease, and ne - ver e - ver

sing out for peace, Sing out for jus - tice and ne - ver e - ver cease, and ne - ver e - ver

peace, Sing out for jus - tice ne - ver cease, and ne - ver

sing out for peace, Sing out for jus - tice and ne - ver e - ver cease, and ne - ver e - ver

185 *cresc.*

188 *ff*

cease, and ne - ver e - ver cease! *ff* Oh glo - ry, Lord, oh glo - ry, glo - ry,

cease, and ne - ver e - ver cease! *ff* Oh glo - ry, Lord, glo - ry,

cease, and ne - ver e - ver cease! *ff* Oh glo - ry, Lord, oh glo - ry, glo - ry,

cease, and ne - ver e - ver cease! Oh glo - ry, Lord, glo - ry,

188 *ff*

cease, and ne - ver e - ver cease! *ff* Oh glo - ry, Lord, glo - ry,

cease, and ne - ver e - ver cease! *ff* Oh glo - ry, Lord, glo - ry,

cease, and ne - ver e - ver cease! *ff* Oh glo - ry, Lord, glo - ry,

188 *ff*

cease, and ne - ver e - ver cease! Oh glo - ry, Lord, glo - ry,

193

Lord, oh glo-ry, glo - ry, Lord, oh glo-ry, Hear my cry, bring free-dom to the whole wide world.

Lord, glo - ry,— Lord, Hear my cry, bring free-dom to the whole wide world.

Lord, oh glo-ry, glo - ry, Lord, oh glo-ry, Hear my cry, bring free-dom to the whole wide world.

Lord, glo - ry,— Lord, Hear my cry, bring free-dom to the whole wide world.

Lord, glo - ry,— Lord, Hear my cry, ————— Oh Lord,

Lord, glo - ry,— Lord, Hear my cry, ————— Oh Lord,

Lord, glo - ry,— Lord, Hear my cry, ————— Oh Lord,

Lord, glo - ry,— Lord, Hear my cry, ————— Oh Lord,

198

Hear them, Lord, oh hear them Lord, oh— hear them, Lord, Oh— yes in - deed,— Lord,—

Hear them,— Lord, hear them,— Lord,

Hear them, Lord, oh hear them Lord, oh— hear them, Lord, Oh— yes in - deed,— Lord,—

Hear them,— Lord, hear them,— Lord,

Hear them,— Lord, hear them,— Lord,

Hear them,— Lord, hear them,— Lord,

Hear them,— Lord, hear them,— Lord,

Hear them,— Lord, hear them,— Lord,

202

hear them, Lord, yes Lord, Hear your chil-dren's cry and bring them

hear them, Lord, Hear your chil-dren's cry, hear them, O Lord,

hear them, Lord, yes Lord, Ah, hear them, O Lord.

hear them, Lord, Ah, hear them, O Lord,

hear them, Lord, Hear your chil-dren's cry and bring them

hear them, Lord, Hear your chil-dren's cry, hear them, O Lord,

hear them, Lord, Hear your chil-dren's cry, hear them O Lord,

hear them, Lord, Hear your chil-dren's cry, hear them O Lord,

207

peace, Ah. *fff* *f* *mf*

peace. Ah *fff* Lord. Ah. *mp*

Peace. Ah *fff* Lord. Ah. *p*

peace. Ah Lord. Ah.

peace, O *fff* Lord. Hear us, Lord. *p*

peace. O *fff* Lord. Hear us, Lord. *p*

peace. O *fff* Lord, Lord. Hear us, Lord. *p*

peace. O Lord. Hear us, Lord.

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