

A Spiritual for Freedom

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

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

Oliver Barton

The musical score is arranged for Soli, Chorus, and Guitar. It is in 4/4 time and B-flat major. The Soli and Chorus parts are initially silent. The guitar part begins with a first-measure rest, followed by a series of chords and a melodic line. The guitar part includes dynamic markings of *f* and *p*, and a section marked *Sw.* (Swell). The score concludes with a long, sustained note in the bass line.

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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

11

Soli

p *bleak*

Spareme, Lord,

mf

spareme, Lord! Oh spare me!

Cho.

mf

Spareme, Lord, spareme, Lord.

Gt.

Sw.

25

Soli

Cho.

p *heavy, resigned*

Spare me, Lord, spare me, Lord, spare me

Sw.

p

Sw.

mf

Soli

Oh spare me, Lord, oh spare me, Lord, oh spare me,

Cho.

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

Soli

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

mf heavy *slightly ominous, like a dark cloud*

Cho.

speak the truth then hun-dred lash for me. I spoke the truth, I did, Lord,

p earnest & crisp

Soli
 done lock me up with the key out of reach.
 Spare me, spare me, I spoke the truth I did, oh yes I did,

Choro
 I spoke the truth, I did, Lord. Spare me, Lord, spare me,

quasi gliss.

mf

Soli
 Spare me, spare me, spare me,
 Lord. I spoke the truth, oh yes I did, Lord, 'Cos I spoke the truth, yes Lord. They beat me and starve me and want me to die,

Choro
 Lord, spare me Lord, 'Cos I spoke the truth there's prison cell for me.

f

65

Soli

f rich

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

gliss.

espress., sotto voce

p

Free me,

mp crisp

Cho.

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

65

muffled pp

quasi gliss.

pp

72

Soli

burst out

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

pp

Cho.

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

72

79

Soli

Cho.

suppressed power

Sw. p

88 *cri de coeur*

Soli

My bro - ther, my sis - ter, is the prom - ised day near?

mp heavy, emotionless

f impassioned

Cho.

Free me, Lord, free me, Lord, Let it be near, oh my Lord.

88 *gradual dim.*

f

Soli

95 *mf* How long will it be fore we done suff - 'ring here? *dim.*

Cho.

p Free me, Lord, For we migh - ty sad and sore from suff'ring here, *mf resigned* Let it be near, oh my Lord.

95 *mp*

Soli

102 *pp inward but comforting* Oo oo oo *bleak (hum)*

Cho.

ppp dull, thudding Lord, Lord, Lord, Lord, *mp*

Dm dm dm dm etc. Lord, Lord,

102 *ppp*

Soli

Cho.

p
(hum)

Soli

120 *mf*

We'll soon be free, we'll soon be free, we'll soon be free When the Lord will call us home. My brother how long, my brother how

Cho.

mf

We'll soon be free, we'll soon be free, we'll soon be free When the Lord will call us home. My brother how long, my brother how

Soli

127

long, my brother how long 'Fore we done suff-ring here? *f* It won't be long, *f* it won't be long, it won't be long 'Fore the Lord will call us

Cho.

long, my brother how long 'Fore we done suff-ring here? *f* It won't be long, *f* it won't be long, *f* it won't be long 'Fore the Lord will call us

127

It won't be

mf

Soli

133

home. We'll walk the road, the mi-ry road, we'll walk the road Where plea-sure ne-ver dies. *mf*

Cho.

home. We'll walk the road, the mi-ry road, we'll walk the road Where plea-sure ne-ver dies. *mf* Ah,

133

Ah,

Soli

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

street, my Lord, how long Fore we done suff'ring

gradual dim.

Cho.

ah, Oh my Lord, how long?

gradual dim.

139

Soli

145 *p* here? *mp* Pro-mised morning is al-most here, Free-dom wa-gon is draw-ing near, Time to pray, Save us to-day,

Cho.

here?

145 long?

mf plodding *etc.*

153 *f* *the sun's come out!* *mf*

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

Free from bondage and free from fear.

Cho.

153

161

Soli Loose the shackles and climb a - board!

f *exultant*

Cho. Pro - mised mor-ning is here, my Lord, Free - dom wa-gon is at the door, Stops out-side, Doors o - pen wide,

161 *mf* *f*

169

f excited

Soli Throw off the chains, throw off the chains, throw off the

Cho. Loose the shackles and climb a - board! *f excited* Throw off the chains, throw off the chains, throw off the

174

mf

Soli chains And walk out-side the door. Step in - to day - light, step in - to day - light, step in - to day-light 'Cos the Lord has set us

Cho. chains And walk out-side the door. *mf* Step in - to day - light, step in - to day light step in - to day-light 'Cos the Lord has set us

light,

179

Soli

free. Send up a cry, send up a shout, Go tell the peo - ple the pris - 'ners are let out! Sing out for

Chor.

free! Send up a cry, send up a shout, Go tell the peo - ple the pris - 'ners are let out! Sing out for

Oh yes, the pris - 'ners are let

184

Soli

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

Chor.

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

Soli

189 *ff*
cease! Oh glo - ry, Lord, oh glo - ry, glo - ry, Lord, oh glo - ry, glo - ry, Lord, oh glo - ry, Hear my

Cho.

ff
cease! Oh glo - ry, Lord, glo - ry, Lord, glo - ry, Lord, Hear my

189 *ff*

Soli

196
cry, bring free-dom to the whole wide world. Hear them, Lord, oh hear them Lord, oh hear them, Lord, Oh yes in - deed, Lord,

Cho.

cry, bring free-dom to the whole wide world. Hear them, Lord, hear them, Lord,

196

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

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

202

Soli
 Ah. Lord. Ah.

Cho.
 O Lord. *p* Hear us, Lord.

208

fff *f* *mf* *mp* *p*