

# *A Spiritual for Freedom*

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



*Oliver Barton*

*published by  
MusicOLib, 2001*

**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

Oliver Barton

The musical score is arranged for a four-part vocal ensemble (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano. It consists of two systems of staves. The first system has four vocal staves (S, A, T, B) and a piano accompaniment. The second system has four vocal staves (S, A, T, B) and a piano accompaniment. The piano part includes a guitar (Gt.) and a bass line. The score is in 4/4 time and B-flat major. The vocal parts are mostly rests, indicating a voice-over. The piano accompaniment features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The guitar part is marked 'Gt. f' and plays a rhythmic accompaniment. The bass line is marked 'f' and features a melodic line with a (b) marking under a note in the second measure of the second system.

©2001 MusicOLib

You may copy this score for performance and archival purposes only.

If you want to reproduce it in journals, books, websites or other publications, you must obtain written consent from MusicOLib .

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@virgin.net

8

*p bleak*

Spare me,— Lord,——

17

*mf*

Oh spare me!

spare me,— Lord!——

17

*mf*

Spare me,— Lord, spare me,—

*mf*

Spare me,— Lord, spare me,—

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

45 *p* *slightly ominous, like a dark cloud*

Lord! *mf heavy* Ah

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

Lord! *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.

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 *p earnest & crisp*

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

I spoke the truth,— I did, Lord,

*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*

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

*mf*

57 truth I did, oh yes I did, Spare me, spare me, spare me, Ah *p*  
 truth, 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.

61 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*

I stay strong, I ain t going to

*gliss.*

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,—

*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.*

74

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

79

*p suppressed power*

Sw.

79

79

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,

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

91 *mf*  
 Ah  
 How  
 Ah *f*  
 How

91 *f impassioned*  
 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?

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

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

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

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

*mp*

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

*ppp* dull, thudding

Lord, — Lord, — dm, dm, etc.

*ppp* Dm dm dm dm dm, dm, etc.

*ppp* Dm dm dm dm dm, dm, etc.

*ppp* Dm dm dm dm dm, dm, etc.

101 *mf*

107 *bleak* *pp*

(hum) *pp*

(hum) *pp*

(hum) *pp*

(hum) *pp* *gliss.*

107 *p*

Lord, Lord, — mm — dm dm dm dm dm dm dm dm (hum)

*p*

(hum)

Lord, Lord, — dm dm

107

113 *gliss.* *gliss.* *gliss.* *gliss.*

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

113

(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. The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat. The vocal line is marked *mf*. The lyrics are: "We ll soon be free, we ll soon be free, we ll soon be".

Musical score for the second system, measures 120-123. The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat. The vocal line is marked *mf*. The lyrics are: "We ll soon be free, we ll soon be free, we ll soon be".

Musical score for the piano accompaniment, measures 120-123. The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat. The piano part is marked *mf* and includes the instruction *etc.*

Musical score for the first system, measures 124-127. The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat. The vocal line is marked *mf*. The lyrics are: "free When the Lord will call us home. My bro-ther how long, my bro-ther how".

Musical score for the second system, measures 124-127. The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat. The vocal line is marked *mf*. The lyrics are: "free When the Lord will call us home. My bro-ther how long, my bro-ther how".

Musical score for the piano accompaniment, measures 124-127. The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat.

127

long, my bro-ther how long Fore we done suff- ring here? It wont be

127

long, my bro-ther how long Fore we done suff- ring here? It wont be  
 my bro-ther how long, my bro-ther how long— Fore we done suff- ring here? It wont be

127

*mf*

130

long, it wont be long, it wont be long Fore the Lord will call us  
 Ah, ah, Ah, ah,

Ah lord, ah Lord, the Lord will

130

long, it wont be long, it wont be long Fore the Lord will call us  
 It wont be long, it wont be long, it wont be long Fore the Lord will call us  
 long, it wont be long, it wont be long Fore the Lord will call us  
 It wont be long, it wont be long, it wont 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.

133 home.

136

road Where plea-sure ne-ver dies.

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

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,

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

139 *gradual dim.* -----

ah, ah, ah,

139

ah,

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,

*mp*

145

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

*p*

long?

long?

145

long?

*mf plodding* etc.

151

Time to pray, Save us to-day, Free from bon-dage and free from fear. Prom-ised mor-ning is the sun's come out!

*f*

*mf press on beats 1 & 3*

151

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*

*f* Pro-mised mor-ning is here, my Lord, Free-dom wa-gon is

*f* Pro-mised mor-ning is here, my Lord, Free-dom wa-gon is

*f* Pro-mised mor-ning is here, my Lord, Free-dom wa-gon is

*f* Pro-mised mor-ning is here, my Lord, Free-dom wa-gon is

161

*mf*

*f* Pro-mised mor-ning is here, my Lord, Free-dom wa-gon is

166

at the door, Stops out - side, Doors o - pen wide, Loose the shack-les and

166

at the door, Stops out - side, Doors o - pen wide, Loose the shack-les and

170 *f excited*

Throw off the chains, *f* throw off the

Throw off the chains, *f*

Throw off the chains, *f*

Throw off the chains, *f*

170 *f excited*

climb a - board! Throw off the chains, *f* throw off the

climb a - board! Throw off the chains, *f*

climb a - board! Throw off the chains, *f*

climb a - board! Throw off the chains, *f*

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.

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.

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

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, step in - to day - light Cos were

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

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,

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, 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,

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,

202

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,

202

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*

207

peace. Ah. *fff* Lord. Ah. *p*  
 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. *p*

207

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