

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 in four systems. The first system is for the *Soli* part, consisting of a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The second system is for the *Cho.* (Chorus) part, also consisting of a grand staff. The third and fourth systems are for the piano accompaniment, with a grand staff. The piano part begins with a guitar-like texture, marked *Gt. f*. The right hand features chords and melodic lines, while the left hand plays a rhythmic accompaniment. Dynamics include *f* (forte) and *p* (piano). A section of the piano part is marked *Sw.* (Swell) and *p*. The score is in 4/4 time and B-flat major.

Soli

11

p bleak

Spareme, Lord, spareme, Lord! Oh spare me!

mf

Cho.

mf

Spareme, Lord, spareme, Lord.

Gt.

Sw.

Soli

25

Cho.

p heavy, resigned

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

Sw.

p

mf

36

Soli

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

mf

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

45

Soli

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

mf heavy *slightly ominous, like a dark cloud*

Cho.

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

p earnest & crisp

Soli

51 done lock me up with the key out of reach.

mf Spare me, spare me, I spoke the truth I did, oh yes I did,

mp

Cho.

I spokethe truth, I did, Lord.

mf Spare me, Lord, spare me, me,

mf

quasi gliss.

mf

Soli

58 Spare me, spare me, spare me,

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

Cho.

Lord, spare me Lord, 'Cos I spoke the truth there's pri-son cell for me.

58

65

f rich

mp crisp

gliss.

espress., sotto voce

pp

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

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

Free me,

72

burst out

pp

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

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

Soli

Cho.

79 *suppressed power*

Sw. p

Soli

88 *cri de coeur*

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

Cho.

mp heavy, emotionless

Free me, Lord, free me, Lord,

f impassioned

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, *mm*

Dm dm dm dm etc. Lord, Lord,

102 *ppp*

Soli

111 *pp* *gliss.* *gliss.* *gliss.*

Cho.

p *(hum)* *gliss.* *gliss.* *gliss.*

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

120 *mf* *etc.*

127
Soli
long, my brother how long 'Fore we done suff-ring here? It won't be long, 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? It won't be long, it won't be long, it won't be long 'Fore the Lord will call us

127
It won't be
mf

133
Soli
home. We'll walk the road, the mi-ry road, we'll walk the road Where plea-sure ne-ver dies.
mf
We'll walk the street, we'll walk the

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

133
Ah,
mf

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

Cho.

ah, Oh my Lord, how long?

139

Soli

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

Cho.

long?

145

mf plodding etc.

153

f *the sun's come out!*

mf

Soli

Free from bond-age and free from fear. Pro-mised mor-ning is here, my Lord, Free-dom wa-gon is at the door, Stops out-side, Doors o - pen wide,

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

Soli

169 *f excited*
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

169

Soli

174 *mf*
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. Step in - to day - light, step in - to day light, step in - to day-light 'Cos the Lord has set us

174 *mf*

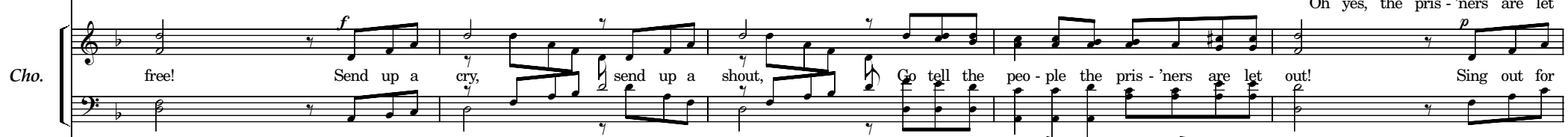
Soli

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

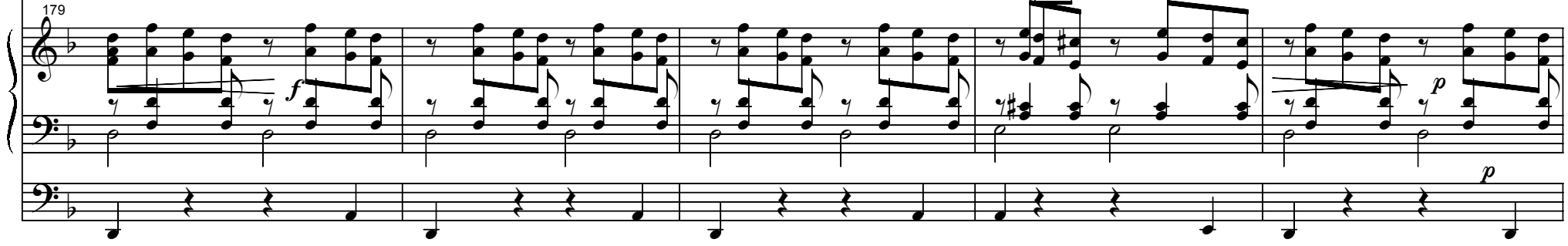


Cho.

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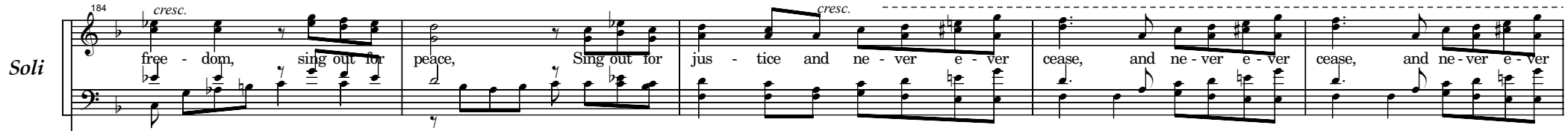


179 *f* *p*



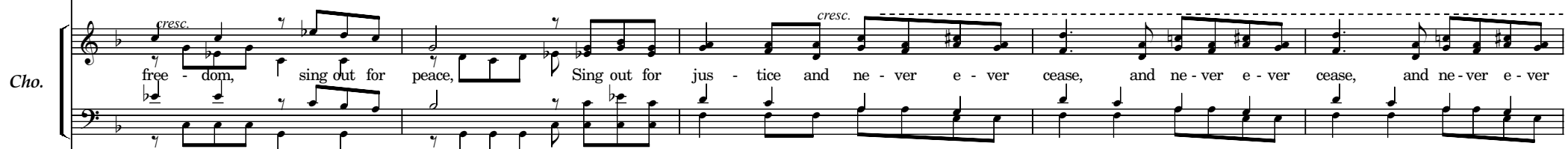
Soli

184 *cresc.* 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

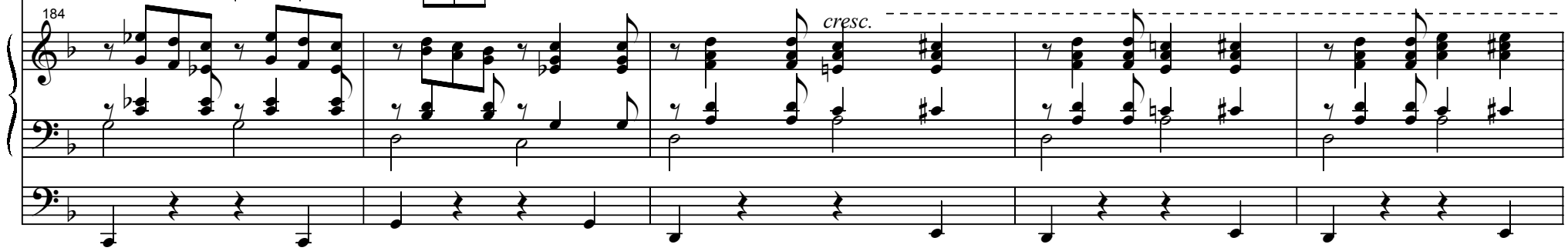


Cho.

cresc. 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



184 *cresc.*



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.

189 *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.

196

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

196

Soli

202

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

208

Ah, Lord. Ah.

fff *f* *mf* *mp*

Cho.

O Lord. Hear us, Lord.

fff *f* *p*

208