

*Commissioned by Shannon Lyles and Freedom High School's Patriot Singers
for the Southern Division ACDA Conference 2018 in Louisville, Kentucky*

PROGRAM NOTES

When I was a young child, I imagined that America was like living on Sesame Street in Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood—a utopic land of opportunity and freedom. When I finally arrived at age ten, my dreams had mostly come true, but I also learned a somber lesson that not all principles are easy to put into practice. It was that friction between professed ideals and painful reality that Langston Hughes captured in his poem, "Let America Be America Again." That friction is also the foundation of the piece commissioned by Shannon Lyles and the FHS Patriot Singers in Orlando, Florida. Freedom High School serves such a diverse community of immigrants that eleven languages were represented in Ms. Lyles' top choir. As hateful and xenophobic rhetoric became prominent in national discourse, we worked together to capture the essence of the choir's ethnic diversity and artistic unity. Emma Lazarus' words, which are engraved at the base of the Statue of Liberty, are a perfect foil to Hughes' dark (but ultimately hopeful) sentiments. To add a personal touch to the piece, I also asked the members of the choir to complete three prompts—I hope.../I dream.../I sing...—which they would then translate and record so that I could get a sense of the rhythm of their respective languages. In the end, the piece aims to make plain how far we are from the ideals we've set for ourselves, but it also clings to the hope that we will one day achieve them. I can't think of anything more American than that.

—Joel Thompson

PRONUNCIATION SOUND FILES

The statements on page 3 can be heard spoken in their respective languages by members of the commissioning ensemble by downloading the free MP3s from the publisher's product page for this edition.

Joel Thompson (b. 1988)

For biographical information visit:
www.ecspublishing.com/composers

TEXTS

Who are you that mumbles in the dark
and who are you that draws your veil across the stars?

[...]

I'm the one who dreamt a dream while still a serf of kings
A dream so strong, so brave, so true that even yet it sings.
To build a homeland of the free.

[...]

For all the songs we've sung,
and all the dreams we've dreamed,
America was never America to me,
and yet I swear: America will be!

Adapted from Langston Hughes' *Let America Be America Again*
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by permission of Harold Ober Associates Incorporated.

Give me your tired, your poor,
your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
give me the wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these to me!

I lift my lamp beside the golden door!

Adapted from Emma Lazarus' *The New Colossus*

STATEMENT

IPA PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

English Translation

Spanish

Yo sueño de un nuevo amanecer.

jɔ.'sweɲo de un.'nweβo a.'maneser

I dream of a new dawn.

Sinhala

Mage anagatha sinduwa.

Ma.gə ə.'na.gə.θə sm.du:wə

I sing for the future.

Filipino

Umaasa ako no may pagbabago.

ʔu.'ma.sa.ko no māɪ pag.ba.'bæ.go

I hope there is a change.

Arabic

اتمنى ان البشر يتعلم ان يحب

'Atamanaa 'an albashar yatealam an yu hib.

ʔa.ta.ma.nā ʔaɪ al'ba.ʃar ja.te.aɫ.am an ju hiβ

I hope that people can learn to love.

Portuguese

Eu canto porque estou livre.

'ew 'kẽ.tu poɾ.'ke es. to(w) 'li.vri

I sing because I am free.

Mandarin

我梦想着美好的未来。

Wǒ mèngxiǎngzhe měihǎo de wèilái.

Wǒ: mǝŋɕǎŋʃɿ i:k kǝŋ mǝixǎu tɿ wèilái?

I dream of a better future.

Japanese

せいぎをもとめて

Seigi o motomote.

sɛ:gi o mo.to.mo.te

I hope for justice.

German

Ich singe für eine Flucht aus der Welt.

iç 'ziŋə fy:ɐ̯ 'ʔaɪnə floxt aos dɛɐ̯ velt

I sing for an escape from the world.

Vietnamese

Còn ước mong hoà bình.

kənɺ ʔiəkʰ mawŋmɨɪ hwa:ɺ ʔbɨŋɺ

I dream of peace.

Haitian Creole

Mwen chante pou lapè sou Latè.

mwẽ ʃã.te pu la.pe su la

I sing for peace.

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America Will Be!

for Two Soprano Soli, SATB Chorus (*divisi*) unaccompanied

Langston Hughes (1902–1967), J. T., alt;
Emma Lazarus (1849–1887), J. T., alt;
Students from the Freedom High School Chorus,
Orlando, Florida

Joel Thompson (BMI)

Heavy; dark ♩ = 58

p < *mp* > *pp* < *f* >

gliss. *gliss.* *gliss.*

Soprano Solo 1

Soprano Solo 2

Soprano Alto

Tenor Bass

Keyboard (for rehearsal only)

Notes for the two soloists do not appear in the reduction.

Words by students from the Freedom High School Chorus, Orlando, Florida.

Words by Langston Hughes: Copyright © 1994 by The Estate of Langston Hughes,
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7

Sop. Solo 1
oh oo oh mm *pp* join the section

Sop. Solo 2
oh oo mm *f* *pp* join the section

S
oh oo mm ah Yo
mf *pp* *gliss.* *gliss.* *ff* *p*

A
oh oo mm ah Yo
mf *div. pp* *ff* *unis. p*

T
oh oo mm ah mm
mf *pp* *ff* *stomp pp*

B
oh oo mm ah mm
mf *div. oo* *pp* *ff* *stomp pp*

Reh. Kbd.

12

S
sue-no de un nue-vo a-ma-na-cer. ah mm Yo
mf *p*

A
sue-no de un nue-vo a-ma-na-cer. ah mm Yo
mf *p*

T
ah mm
mf *div.* *p*

B
ah mm
mf *p*

Reh. Kbd.

The Statue of Liberty: **f**

Sop.
Solo 1

15

Who are_ you that

each singer repeat ad libitum

S
A

sue-no deun nue-vo a-ma-na - cer._

T

B

Reh.
Kbd.

repeat ad libitum

Sop.
Solo 1

18

mum-bles_ in the dark Who are_you that draws your veil_ a-cross the stars?

S
A

ah

T

ah

B

ah

Reh.
Kbd.

22 Restless ♩ = 108

p

B

Ma - ge a - na - ga - tha sin - du wa.

Body Perc.

stomp *clap*

f

Reh. Kbd.

Restless ♩ = 108

24

B

Ma - ge a - na - ga - tha sin - du - wa.

Body Perc.

Reh. Kbd.

26

p

T

U - maa sa - a - ko na may — pag - ba - ba - go.

B

Ma - ge a - na - ga - tha sin - du - wa.

Body Perc.

Reh. Kbd.

8

28 *mp*

A - ta -

T U - maa - sa-a - ko na may pag - ba - ba - go.

B Ma - ge a - na - ga - tha sin - du - wa.

Body Perc.

Reh. Kbd.

30

A ma - naa 'an al - ba - shar ya - te - a - lam an yu hib. 'A - ta -

T *mp* U - maa - sa-a - ko na may pag - ba - ba - go.

B *mp* Ma - ge a - na - ga - tha sin - du - wa.

Body Perc.

Reh. Kbd.

32

mp

S
Eu

A
ma - naa 'an al - ba-shar ya - te - a - lam an yu hib. 'A - ta -

T
U - maa - sa-a - ko na may — pag - ba - ba - go.

B
Ma - ge a - na - ga - tha sin - du - wa.

Body Perc.

Reh. Kbd.

34

S
can - to por - que es - tou liv - re. Eu

A
ma - naa 'an al - ba-shar ya - te - a - lam an yu hib. 'A - ta -

T
U - maa - sa-a - ko na may — pag - ba - ba - go.

B
Ma - ge a - na - ga - tha sin - du - wa.

Body Perc.

Reh. Kbd.

36

S
can - to por - que es - tou liv - re.

A
ma - naa 'an al - ba - shar ya - te - a - lam an yu hib.

T
U - maa - sa - a - ko na may pag - ba - ba - go.

B
Ma - ge a - na - ga - tha sin - du - wa.

Body Perc.

Reh. Kbd.

38

S
ff
I'm the one who dreamt a dream, while still a serf of

A
ff
I'm the one who dreamt a dream, while still a serf of

T
ff unis.
I'm the one who dreamt a dream, while still a serf of

B
ff unis.
I'm the one who dreamt a dream, while still a serf of

Body Perc.
ff

Reh. Kbd.

41

S kings A dream so strong, so brave, so true that

A kings A dream so strong, so brave, so true that

T kings A dream so strong, so brave, so true that

B kings *unis.* A dream so strong, so brave, so true that

Body Perc.

Reh. Kbd.

44

S e-ven yet it sings, e-ven yet it sings. *pp* *gliss.* *gliss.* *gliss.* mm ah

A e - - ven yet it sings. *pp* mm ah *gliss.*

T e-ven yet it sings, it sings. *pp* *f div.* mm ah

B e - - ven yet it sings. *pp* *f unis.* mm ah

Reh. Kbd.

48 *ff* *p*

S *Eu*

A *'A - ta -*

T *U - maa - sa-a - ko na may pag - ba - ba - go.*

B *Ma - ge a - na - ga - tha sin - du - wa.*

Body Perc.

Reh. Kbd.

50 *f*

Sop. Solo 2 *The Immigrant: To*

S *can - to por - que es - tou liv - re. ah*

A *ma - naa 'an al - ba - shar ya - te - a - lam an yu hib. ah*

T *U - maa - sa-a - ko na may pag - ba - ba - go.*

B *Ma - ge a - na - ga - tha sin - du - wa.*

Body Perc.

Reh. Kbd.

52

Sop. Solo 2

mf

build a home - - land of the

ah oh oo

S

mf

oh oo

A

mf

oh oo

T

mf

ah oh oo

oh oo

B

mf

ah oh oo

Body Perc.

Reh. Kbd.

55

Sop. Solo 2

rit.

free. Free?

Free?

S

Free? Free? Free?

A

Free? Free? Free?

T

Free? Free? Free?

B

Free? Free? Free?

Reh. Kbd.

Free? Free? Free?

rit.

58 Heavy, dark ♩ = 58

Soprano (S): *p* ————— *mp*
 Alto (A): *p* ————— *mp*
 Tenor (T): *pp* ————— *f*
 Bass (B): *pp* ————— *f*

Reh. Kbd. Heavy, dark ♩ = 58

Tempo I ♩ = 58

The Statue of Liberty:

61 *mf*
 Sop. Solo 1 Give me your tired, give me your
 S oh Wò mèng-xiàng-zhe měi-hào de wèi - lái. —
 A oh
 T oh
 B oh

Reh. Kbd. Tempo I ♩ = 58

64

Sop. Solo 1

poor, your hud-dled mass-es

S

oh

A

Sei - gi o mo - to - mo - te. oh

T

B

Reh. Kbd.

67

Sop. Solo 1

yearn-ing to breathe free, give me the

S

ah

A

ah

T

Ich sin - ge für ei - ne Flucht aus der Welt.

B

ah

Reh. Kbd.

70

Sop. Solo 1
wretch-ed re - fuse of your teem-ing shore.

S
Còn ước mong hoà bình. ah

A

T
ah

B
Mwen chan - te pou

Reh. Kbd.

73

Sop. Solo 1
Send these to me, send these to me,

S
Send these to

A
Send these to

T
Send these to me, send these to

B
la - pè Send these to
unis.

Reh. Kbd.

77

Sop. Solo 1

Send_ these_ to_ me!

S

me, to, send_ these_

A

me, to, send_ these_ to

T

me, to, to me, to

B

me, to, send_ these_ to

Reh. Kbd.

81

Passionate and hopeful ♩ = 80

Sop. Solo 1

f I lift my lamp_ beside the

S 2

mp (S 2 only) Send_ these, send_ these, send_ these_ send_ these, send_ these, send_

A 1

me! ah

A 2

me! ah

T

mp me, to me, to me, to me, to me, to me,

B

me!

Passionate and hopeful ♩ = 80

Reh. Kbd.

83

Sop. Solo 1
gold - en door!

S 2
these, send_ these, send_ these,

A 1
Send *mf*

A 2
Send

T
to me, to me, to me,

B
ah Send

Reh. Kbd.

85

S 1
f
I lift my lamp be - side the

S 2
mp
send these, send these, send these, send these, send these, send

A 1
these to me, send

A 2
these to me, send

T
these to me, to me, to me to me to me

B
these to me, send

Reh. Kbd.

87

S 1 gold - en door,

S 2 these, send_ these, send_ these, send_ these, send_ these, send_ these,

A 1 these to me, send

A 2 these to me, send

T to me, to me, to me, to me, to me, to

B these to me! Send

Reh. Kbd.

89

S 1 I lift my lamp be - side the

S 2 send_ these, send_ these, send_ these, send_ these, send_ these,

A 1 these to me, send

A 2 these to me, send

T me to me to me to me to me to me

B these to me! Send

Reh. Kbd.

91

S 1 gold - en door!

S 2 these, send_ these, send_ these, send_ these, send_ these, send_ these

A 1 these to me, send

A 2 these to me, send

T to me, to me to me, to me, to me, send

B these to me, send

Reh. Kbd.

93

S 1 *ff* I lift my lamp be-side the

S 2 *ff* I lift my lamp be-side the

A 1 *mf* these, send_ these, send_ these, send_ these, send_ these, send_ these,

A 2 *mf* these_ to me, to me, to me, to me, to me, to

T *f* these to me, send

B *f* these to me, send

Reh. Kbd.

95

S 1 gold-en door,

S 2 gold-en door,

A 1 — send these, send these, — send these, send these, — send these,

A 2 me, — to me, — to me, — to me, — to me, — to me,

T these — to me, send

B these to me, send

Reh. Kbd.

97

S 1 I lift my lamp — be - side the

S 2 I lift my lamp — be - side the

A 1 send these, — send these, send these, — send, — these send these, — send —

A 2 to me — to me — to me — to me — to me

T these — to me, send

B these to me, send

Reh. Kbd.

99 *ff*

S 1 gold - en door! ah

S 2 gold - en door! ah *ff*

A 1 these, send_ these, send_ these! ah

A 2 to me, to me, to me! ah *ff*

T these to me! ah *ff*

B these to me! ah

Reh. Kbd.

102 **Rubato; chorale-like** ♩ = 72 *unis. mp*

S For all the songs we've sung, and all the dreams we've dreamed, A

A For all the songs we've sung, and all the dreams we've dreamed, A

T For all the songs we've sung, and all the dreams we've dreamed, A
(unis.) mp

B For all the songs we've sung, and all the dreams we've dreamed, A

Rubato; chorale-like ♩ = 72

Reh. Kbd.

107 *mf* *f*

S 1
mer - i - ca, was nev - er A - mer - i - ca to me; and

S 2
mer - i - ca, was nev - er A mer - i - ca to me;

A
mer - i - ca, was nev - er A - mer - i - ca to me;

T
mer - i - ca, was nev - er A - mer - i - ca to me; and

B
mer - i - ca, was nev - er A mer - i - ca to me;

Reh. Kbd.

111 *p* *poco stringendo*

S 1
yet, and yet I swear, and yet I swear:

S 2
and yet, and yet I swear, and yet I swear, and yet I swear:

A
and yet, and yet I swear and yet, and yet I swear:

T
yet, and yet I swear, and yet I swear, and yet I

B 1
and yet and yet I swear, and yet I swear, and yet, and yet I

B 2
and yet and yet I swear, and yet I swear, yet I

Reh. Kbd.

molto allargando

Grand ♩ = 48

114 *mf* *f* *ff* *fff*

S 1 A - mer - i - ca will be!

S 2 A - mer - i - ca will, will be!

A A - mer - i - ca will, will be!

T swear: A - mer - i - ca will be!

B 1 swear: A - mer - i - ca will, will be!

B 2 swear: A - mer - i - ca will, will be!

Reh. Kbd. *molto allargando* Grand ♩ = 48 (optional)

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