

# I. We Hold These Truths

Text: Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826)  
Music: J. Todd Frazier (b. 1969)

(Score in C)

*Actor (Thomas Jefferson):* To the task of composing the American Declaration of Independence from England, Benjamin Franklin quickly declined, stating, "I make it a policy never to write documents subject to editing by others." John Adams, was then called upon. Adam's said, "There are three reasons why I should not accept this honor: first, I am disliked and obnoxious, so the document would lack credibility; second, it should be written by a Virginian; and third, Thomas Jefferson is ten times a better writer than I." The daunting task then fell upon me at the early age of 33 years. I composed the draft in 1776 over a 17 day period in a second floor room in Philadelphia. Among the activities which helped focus and inspire my mind and words during this period was music – the playing of my violin. (*music begins - Actor sits*)

The score is for a full orchestra and vocal soloists. It begins with a tempo of 46 beats per minute and a mood of 'Reverent and aspiring'. The orchestration includes Flute 1,2; Oboe 1,2; Clarinet 1,2 in Bb; Bassoon 1,2; Horn 1,3 in F and Horn 2,4 in F; Trumpet 1,2 in Bb; Trombone 1,2 and Trombone 3/Tuba; Percussion 1 (Chimes), Percussion 2 (Wind Chimes), and Percussion 3 (Marimba); Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass; Soprano Solo and Tenor Solo; Violin 1 Solo and Violin 1; Violin 2 Solo and Violin 2; Viola Solo and Viola; Cello Solo and Cello; and Double Bass. The vocal soloists enter at measure 8 with the lyrics: 'We hold these truths to be self ev - i - dent,'. The score features various dynamics such as *pp*, *p*, *mp*, and *mf*, and includes performance instructions like 'expressive', 'with mute', and 'without mute'. The music is written in 4/4 time and consists of 8 measures shown on this page.

*rit.*

5

Fl 1,2

Ob 1,2

Cla 1,2

Bsn 1,2

Hn 1,3

Hn 2,4

Tp 1,2

Tb 1,2

Tb 3, Tba

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

*mp*

S

A

T

B

*rit.*

Sop. Solo

Ten. Solo

*p* *mf* *mp* *mf*

that all Men are cre - a - ted e - qual

*rit.*

Vln 1 Solo

*p* *mf* *mp* *mf*

Vln 1

with mute

*mp*

Vln 2 Solo

without mute

*mf* *pp*

Vln 2

*mp*

Vla Solo

*p* *mf* *pp*

Vla

*mp*

Cello Solo

*mf* *pp*

Cello

Bass.

9 *a tempo*

Fl 1,2

Ob 1,2

Cla 1,2

Bsn 1,2

9 *a tempo*

Hn 1,3

Hn 2,4

Tp 1,2

Tb 1,2

Tb 3, Tba

9 *a tempo*

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

9 *a tempo*

S

A

T

B

We hold these truths to be self ev - i - dent, that

9 *a tempo*

Sop. Solo

Ten. Solo

9 *a tempo*

Vln 1 Solo

Vln 1

Vln 2 Solo

Vln 2

Vla Solo

Vla

Cello Solo

Cello

Bass.

pizz arco

13 *rit.* *a tempo* *rit.*

Fl 1,2 *mf* *mf* *f* *p*

Ob 1,2 *mf* *f* *f* *p*

Cla 1,2 *mf* *f* *f* *p*

Bsn 1,2 *mf* *mp* *f* *p*

Hn 1,3 *mp* *f* *p*

Hn 2,4 *mf* *mp* *f* *p*

Tp 1,2 2. with mute *f* *f* *p*

Tb 1,2 *mf* *mp* *f* *p*

Tb 3, Tba 3. with mute *mf* *f* *p*

Perc. 1 *rit.* *a tempo* *rit.*

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

S *mp* *rit.* *f* *a tempo* *rit.*  
that all that all that all Men all are cre - a - - - ted

A *mf* *mp* *mf* *f* *f* *p*  
all that all that all Men all are cre - a - - - ted

T *mf* *mp* *f* *f* *p*  
all that all that all Men that all

B *mf* *mp* *f* *f* *p*  
all that all that all Men that all

Sop. Solo *rit.* *a tempo* *rit.*

Ten. Solo

Vin 1 Solo *rit.* *a tempo* *rit.*

Vin 1

Vin 2 Solo

Vin 2

Vla Solo

Vla

Cello Solo

Cello

Bass.

17 *a tempo* *rit. molto* *a tempo*

Fl 1,2

Ob 1,2 *p* *pp*

Cla 1,2 *p* *pp*

Bsn 1,2 *p* *pp*

Hn 1,3 *a tempo* *rit. molto* *a tempo*

Hn 2,4

Tp 1,2 *p* *pp*

Tb 1,2

Tb 3, Tba

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3 *mp* *pp*

S *a tempo* *pp* *rit. molto* *a tempo*  
e - qual

A *p* *pp*  
è - qual,

T *pp*  
e - qual,

B *pp*  
e - qual,

Sop. Solo *a tempo* *rit. molto* *a tempo*  
expressive *p*  
We hold these

Ten. Solo *a tempo* *rit. molto* *a tempo*  
expressive *p*  
We hold these

Vln 1 Solo *a tempo* *rit. molto* *a tempo*  
expressive *p*

Vln 1 *mp* *p*

Vln 2 Solo

Vln 2 (natural) (to) (non vib.) II  
*mp* *pp*

Vla Solo

Vla *mp* *p* II *pp*

Cello Solo

Cello with mute *p* *mp* *p* *mp*

Bass. *p* *mp* *p*









*a tempo* *rit. molto* *a tempo* (take time)

33 1,2 *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *pp*

Fl 1,2

Ob 1,2

Cla 1,2

Bsn 1,2 *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *pp*

*a tempo* *rit. molto* *a tempo* (take time)

33 1,3 *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *pp*

Hn 1,3

Hn 2,4

Tp 1,2 1,2 with mutes *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *pp*

Tb 1,2

Tb 3, Tba

*a tempo* *rit. molto* *a tempo* (take time)

33 *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *pp*

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

*a tempo* *rit. molto* *a tempo* (take time)

33 *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *pp*

S Hap - pi - ness

A Hap - pi - ness

T Hap - pi - ness

B Hap - pi - ness

*a tempo* *rit. molto* *a tempo* (take time)

33 *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *pp*

Sop. Solo Hap - pi - ness

Ten. Solo Hap - pi - ness

*a tempo* *rit. molto* *a tempo* expressive (take time)

33 *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *pp*

Vln 1 Solo *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *pp*

Vln 1

Vln 2 Solo *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *pp*

Vln 2 (natural) *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *pp*

Vla Solo *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *pp*

Vla

Cello Solo *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *pp*

Cello

Bass. *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *pp*







*rit.*

Fl 1,2  
Ob 1,2  
Cla 1,2  
Bsn 1,2

Hn 1,3  
Hn 2,4  
Tp 1,2  
Tb 1,2  
Tb 3, Tba

Perc. 1  
Perc. 2  
Perc. 3

S  
A  
T  
B

to be self ev - i - dent, that all that all that  
to be self ev - i dent, that all that all that  
be self ev - i - dent, that all that all that all  
be self ev - i - dent, that all that all that all

Sop. Solo  
Ten. Solo

Vln 1 Solo  
Vln 1  
Vln 2 Solo  
Vln 2  
Vla Solo  
Vla  
Cello Solo  
Cello  
Bass.

*a tempo* *rit.* *a tempo*

Fl 1,2 *f* *p*

Ob 1,2 *f* *p* *pp*

Cla 1,2 *f* *p* *pp*

Bsn 1,2 *f* *p* *pp*

Hn 1,3 *f* *p*

Hn 2,4 *f* *p*

Tp 1,2 *f* *p* *pp*

Tb 1,2 *f* *p*

Tb 3, Tba *f* *p*

Perc. 1 *a tempo* *rit.* *a tempo*

Perc. 2

Perc. 3 *mp*

S *a tempo* *rit.* *a tempo*  
*f* *p* *pp*  
 all Men all are cre - a - - - ted e - qual

A *f* *p* *pp*  
 all Men all are cre - a - - - ted è - qual,

T *f* *p* *pp*  
 Men that all e - qual,

B *f* *p* *pp*  
 Men that all e - qual,

Sop. Solo

Ten. Solo

Vln 1 Solo *a tempo* *rit.* *a tempo*

Vln 1

Vln 2 Solo

Vln 2

Vla Solo

Vla *mp* *p*

Cello Solo

Cello *p* *mp* *p*

Bass. *p* *mp* *p*



