

I. We Hold These Truths

for Voice, Violin and Piano (or Harpsichord)
from the original version for Voice and Orchestra
from the Oratorio "Thomas Jefferson: The Making of America"

Narrator (Optional - to be spoken by a separate narrator or the vocal soloist as an introduction to the piece): To the task of composing the American Declaration of Independence from England, Benjamin Franklin, the internationally respected senior member of the Continental Congress, quickly declined, stating, "I make it a policy never to write documents subject to editing by others." John Adams, the seasoned and experienced politician, 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 came to the 33 year old Jefferson, who composed the draft in 1776 over a 17 day period in a hotel room in Philadelphia. Among the activities which helped focus and inspire his mind and words during this period was music - the playing of his violin.

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

1 $\bullet = 46$ Reverent and aspiring

Voice (Soprano or Tenor 8vb) expressive *p* *mp* *p* *mf*

We hold these truths to be self evident,

Violin (with optional mute, may be preferred for balance or color) expressive *pp* *mp* *p* *mf*
(using open strings as much as possible)

Piano (with generous use of sustain pedal throughout, or harpsichord) *mp*

5 *p* *f* *mp* *mf* *rit.*

that all Men are created equal

Vln. *p* *f* *mp* *mf*

Pno. *f* *rit.*

9 *a tempo* *pp*

Voice

Vln.

Pno.

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

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

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

Voice

Vln.

Pno.

f

mf *mp* *f*

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

expressive *p*

expressive *p*

We hold these

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

p *mf* *p*

21 *mp* *p* *mf* *p* *f*

truths to be self evident, that all Men are cre

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

21 *f*

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

Voice
 a ted— e qual— that they are en dowed by their Cre a tor— with cer tain in

Vln.
mf *p* *mp* *p*

Pno.
p

29 *mf* *p* *rit. molto* *a tempo* *f* *rit.* (take time)

Voice
 alien a ble Rights, that among these are Life, Lib er ty, and the Pur suit of

Vln.
mf *p* *f*

Pno.
mf *p* *f*

33 *a tempo* *rit. molto* *a tempo*

Voice: Hap pi ness

Vln.: expressive (take time)

Pno.: *f* *p* *f* *p* *mf*

(stems up for piano, stems down for harpsichord)

37 *rit.* *a tempo*

Voice: We hold these

Vln.: expressive *p* *mp* *pp*

Pno.: *p* *mp*

41 *mp* *p* *mf* *p* *f* (take time) *mp*

Voice: truths to be self evident, that all Men are cre

Vln. *mp* *p* *mf* *p* *f* *mp*

Pno. 41 *f*

(optional cut to m. 56 including pickup)

45 *rit.* *mf* *a tempo* *pp*

Voice: a ted equal

Vln. *mf* *p* *mp*

Pno. 45 *rit.* *a tempo* *p* *p* *mp* *p*

49 *rit.*

Voice

Vln.

Pno.

p *mf* *p* *f*

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

53 *a tempo* *rit.* *a tempo* (*if cut*)

Voice

Vln.

Pno.

p

p *mf*

57 *rit. molto* *a tempo* *rit.*

Voice

Vln. *expressive V*
p *mp* *p* *mf*

Pno. *rit. molto* *a tempo* *rit.*
mp *p* *mf*

61 *rit. molto*

Voice

Vln. *pp*

Pno. *rit. molto*
pp *mp* *(ped off if piano)*
slowly