

We Hold These Truths

for Renee Fleming

for Voice, Cello and Piano (or Harpsichord)
from the original version for Voice and Orchestra

Narrator (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. Adams 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*

Cello (with optional mute, may be preferred in duet sections with voice for balance or color) *expressive p mf*

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

5 *rit.* *p f mp mf*

Voice *rit.*

Cello *p f (open strings) mp mf*

Pno. *f rit.*

We hold these truths to be self evident,

that all Men are created equal

9 *a tempo* *pp*

Voice

Cello

Pno.

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

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

p *mf* *p*

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

Voice

Cello

Pno.

f

mf *mp* *f*

f

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

expressive *p*

expressive *p*
(open strings)

We hold these

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

p *mp* *p*

mf

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

truths to be self ev i dent. that all Men are cre

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

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

Cello
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

Cello
mf *p* *f*

Pno.
mf *p* *f*

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

Voice

Hap pi ness

Cello

expressive (take time)

(stems up for piano, stems down for harpsichord)

Pno.

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

37 *rit.* *a tempo*

Voice

We hold these

Cello

p *mp* *pp*

Pno.

p *p*

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

trUTHS — to be self ev i dent, that all Men — are cre

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

41

Pno. *f*

(optional cut to m. 56 including pickup)

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

a ted — e qual

mf *p* *mp*

45 *rit.* *a tempo*

Pno. *p* *p* *mp* *p*

p

49 *rit.*

Voice

Cello

Pno.

p *mf* *p* *f*

p *mf* *p* *f*

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

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

Voice

Cello

Pno.

p

p *mf*

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

Voice

Cello

expressive ∇

p *mp* *p* *mf*

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

Pno.

mp

61 *rit. molto*

Voice

Cello

pp

61 *rit. molto*

Pno.

mp *(ped off if piano)*

slowly