

HYMN TO FREEDOM

Words by HARRIETTE HAMILTON

Music by OSCAR PETERSON
Arrangement by JIM CLANCY

With intention ♩ = 70

Intro *legato, connected*

rit.

1 x x x 2 3 4

Tenor Lead

doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo

Bari Bass

Verse 1

a tempo

5 6 7 8

When ev - 'ry heart joins ev - 'ry heart and to -

rit.

9 10 11 12

geth - er years for li - ber-ty, that's when we'll be free. we'll be free.

we'll be free.

Hymn to Freedom

a tempo

13 14 15 16

When ev - 'ry hand, ev - 'ry hand, joins ev - 'ry hand and to
hand,

17 18 19 20

geth - er molds our des - ti - ny, that's when we'll be free. An-y

Bridge

21 22 23 24

an - y hour, an - y bless-ed day,
hour, an - y day, the time soon will come when

25 26 27 28

all will live in dig - ni - ty, that's when we'll be free.
all will we'll be free.

Verse 2

a tempo

ev - 'ry - one

When ev - 'ry, ev - 'ry one joins in our song, to -
ev - 'ry - one

geth - er sing - ing har - mo - ny, that's when we'll be

rit. free. be free. **Tag** That's when we'll be

free! We will all be free!

Performance Notes

Recognized as one of Oscar Peterson's most significant compositions, "Hymn to Freedom" was originally recorded by the Oscar Peterson Trio, and featured as the last track on the group's legendary 1963 album, *Night Train*. Peterson drew upon various church renderings of Negro spirituals he recalled from his childhood for inspiration to compose the tune with a definitive early-blues feel. Peterson and his producer, Norman Granz, decided that lyrics should be commissioned to complement the tune. They contacted Malcolm Dodds, prominent composer, arranger, and choir director, and Dodds turned to his collaborator, Harriette Hamilton, who had been writing lyrics for The Malcom Dodds Singers' original compositions for many years. According to Hamilton, "all the lyrics had to do was express in very simple language the hope for unity, peace, and dignity for mankind. It was easy to write." Peterson went on to record the song several times and it has become a powerful anthem for freedom and equality.

Jim Clancy has built an international reputation as a composer, arranger, conductor, clinician, and vocalist. He also serves as the primary director of **Vocal Majority**, a 12-time gold medal-winning champion of the Barbershop Harmony Society's International Chorus Contest. Jim has sung bass on countless jingles television and radio commercials nationwide and his distinctive arrangements have been performed internationally by choirs, glee clubs, and quartets, and praised by choral directors all over the globe. He currently resides in the Dallas, TX area with his beloved wife, Judy.

This piece was premiered by Vocal Majority to conclude their "swan song" set as 2018 chorus champions at the 2019 Barbershop Harmony Society International Convention in Salt Lake City, UT. The arrangement is simple, elegant, and powerful. The lyric is of utmost importance and should be communicated with deep conviction and heartfelt emotion.

As a final note: Questions about the contest suitability of this or any song/arrangement should be directed to the judging community and measured against current contest rules. Ask *before* you sing.