PIANO-VOCAL SCORE

David Avshalomov



Principles

secular cantata on texts of Thomas Jefferson

for SATB mixed chorus, solo bass-baritone and orchestra (or piano)

Raven Music

PRINCIPLES

(Brief note by the composer)

This work was inspired by my first encounter with Jefferson's personal Creed, chiseled high on the stone wall of his Memorial in Washington, D.C., during cherry blossom time. It stunned me like a lighting bolt. Other texts there intrigued me as well, given my lifelong concern with social justice. Some research provided further texts, culminating in the amazing *Statute of Virginia for religious freedom*, a document for our time, which sets the tone for the whole work. The piece evolved across several versions into a setting for mixed chorus, baritone soloist, and orchestra.

Musically, the piece is a hybrid; it draws on the old formal conventions of oratorio, with choral sections, solo arioso, interludes, more choral passages, recitative, and so on. But it is dramatic in emotional range, and stylistically rooted in mid-20th-century, in the neo-tonal vein. The form was delineated by my choices of text, and the text was a challenge to set. Jefferson's prose uses the long, earnest cadence of the Enlightenment, with formal rhetorical flourishes and extended series of clauses. To get a manageable "libretto," I made frequent ellipses—without altering meanings or inflections. Although many of his formulations spoke directly to me, few evoked lyricism. My response was to develop a hortatory, structured singing rhetoric to match the logic, rhythm, and structure of the ideas; I managed to develop some lyric passages as well.

The principles set to music here are not worn out, nor are they merely empty rhetoric (remember Tian an Men and Tahrir squares). We have scarcely begun to realize the potential that lies behind Jefferson's optimistic view in his last days, that "All eyes are opened, or opening, to the rights of Man." I simply hope that my music will help to "refresh our recollection of these rights, and an undiminished devotion to them."

The text sources, in order of setting, are:

His personal Creed

Statute of Virginia for religious freedom, 1779/86

Letter, London, 1787, in reference to Shay's Rebellion

His personal Motto

Declaration of Independence, 1776

His self-penned Epitaph

His last letter, June 24, 1826, declining an invitation to the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, due to his failing health. [He died July 4, 1826]

DURATION: Ca. 32 minutes

PRINCIPLES

Secular Cantata on texts of Thomas Jefferson for male chorus, solo bass/baritone and orchestra (music by David Avshalomov)

I HAVE SWORN UPON THE ALTAR OF [ALMIGHTY] GOD ETERNAL HOSTILITY AGAINST EVERY FORM OF TYRANNY OVER THE MIND OF MAN.

[his Creed]

- . . . Almighty God hath created the mind free, and manifested His supreme will that free it shall remain, by making it altogether insusceptible of restraint;
- . . . all attempts to influence it by temporal punishments, or burthens, or by civil incapacitations, tend only to beget habits of hypocrisy and meanness. . .
- ... the impious presumption of legislature and ruler, civil as well as ecclesiastical, who, being themselves but fallible and uninspired men, have assumed dominion over the faiths of others,

setting up their own opinions and modes of thinking as the only true and infallible, and as such endeavoring to impose them on others,

hath established and maintained false religions over the greatest part of the world and through all time. . .

. . . our civil rights have no dependence on our religious opinions, any more than our opinions in physics or geometry;

and therefore the proscribing any citizen as unworthy the public confidence . . . unless he profess or renounce this or that religious opinion, is depriving him injudiciously of those privileges and advantages to which . . . he has a natural right;

it tends also to corrupt the principles of that very religion it is meant to encourage, by bribing with a monopoly of worldly . . . emoluments those who will externally profess and conform to it:

indeed, these are criminals who do not withstand such temptation; yet neither are those innocent who lay the bait in their way;

- ... the opinions of men are not the object of civil government, nor under its jurisdiction;
- ... to restrain the profession ... of principles on supposition of their ill tendency is a dangerous fallacy, which at once destroys all religious liberty
- . . . it is time enough for the rightful purposes of civil government for its officers to interfere when principles break out into overt acts against peace and good order;

therefore,

We, the General Assembly of Virginia, do enact:

that no man shall be compelled to frequent or support any religious worship, place, or ministry whatsoever,

nor shall be enforced, restrained, molested, or burthened in his body or goods, or shall otherwise suffer, on account of his religious opinions or beliefs;

but that all men shall be free to profess, and by argument to maintain their opinions in matters of religion,

and that the same shall in no wise diminish, enlarge, or affect their civil capacities.

- . . . we are free to declare, and do declare, that the rights hereby asserted are of the natural rights of mankind . . .
- ... the truth is great and will prevail if left to herself; she is the proper and sufficient antagonist to error, and has nothing to fear from the conflict unless by human interposition deprived of her natural weapons, free argument and debate; errors ceasing to be dangerous when it is permitted freely to contradict them.

[from the Statute of Virginia for religious freedom, 1779/86]

What country can preserve its Liberties, if its rulers are not warned from time to time, that this people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms.

The tree of Liberty must be refreshed from time to time, with the blood of patriots and tyrants. It is its natural manure.

[From a letter, London, 1787, in reference to Shay's Rebellion]

REBELLION TO TYRANTS IS OBEDIENCE TO GOD.

[Personal motto]

We hold these Truths to be self-evident,

that all men are created equal,

that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights, [and] that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.

That, to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.

That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends it is the Right of the People to alter or abolish it, and to institute new Government . . . in such form as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

- . . . Governments long established should not be changed for light or transient causes; . . . mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed.
- But . . . under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress Assembled,

appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare

That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be *Free and Independent States*;

[... and to assume among the Powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them]

... and that as Free and Independent States they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do.

And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

[from the Declaration of Independence, 1776]

Here was buried Thomas Jefferson Author of the Declaration of American Independence of the Statute of Virginia for Religious Freedom and Father of the University of Virginia.

[His self-penned epitaph]

- ... that host of worthies, who joined with us on that day, in the bold and doubtful election we were to make for our country . . .
- ... the choice we made ... between submission or the sword ... may it be to the world .
- .. the signal ... to burst the chains ... and to assume the blessings and security of self-government.

That form which we have substituted, restores the free right to the unbounded exercise of reason and freedom of opinion.

These are grounds of hope for others.

All eyes are opened, or opening, to the rights of man.

. . . the mass of mankind has not been born with saddles on their backs, nor a favored few booted and spurred, ready to ride them legitimately, by the grace of God.

[... all men are created equal.]

For ourselves, let the annual return of this day forever refresh our recollections of these rights, and an undiminished devotion to them.

[From his letter, June 24, 1826, declining an invitation to the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, due to his failing health. He died July 4, 1826]

1. CREED





























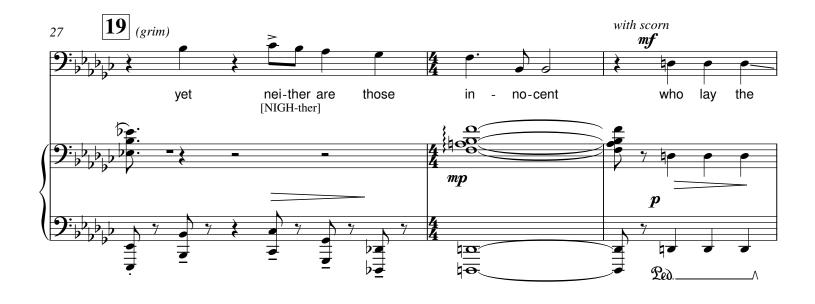


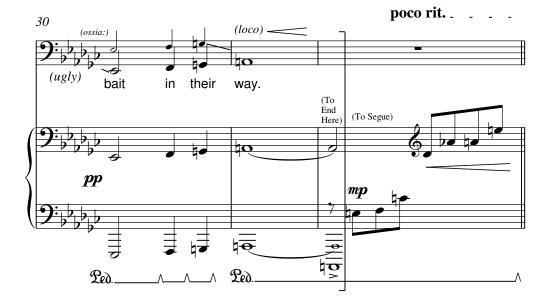










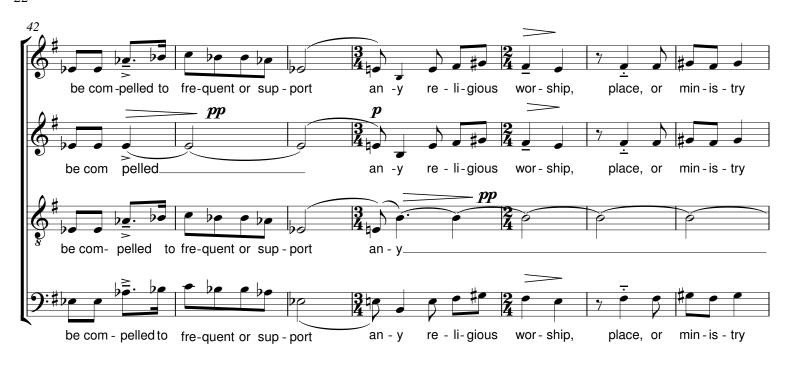


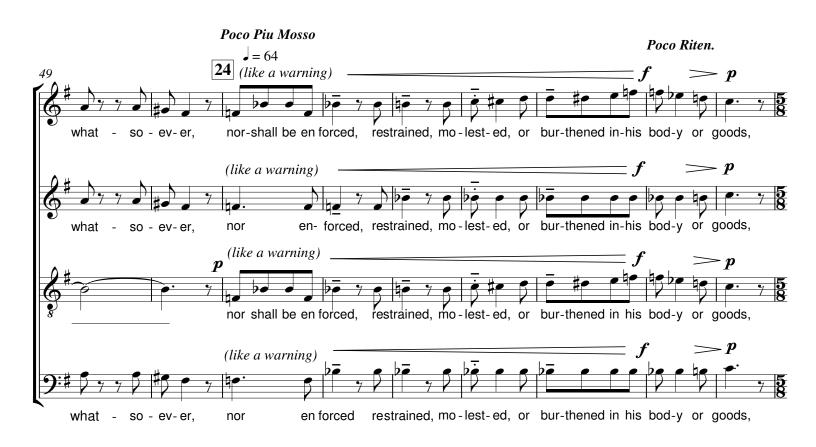


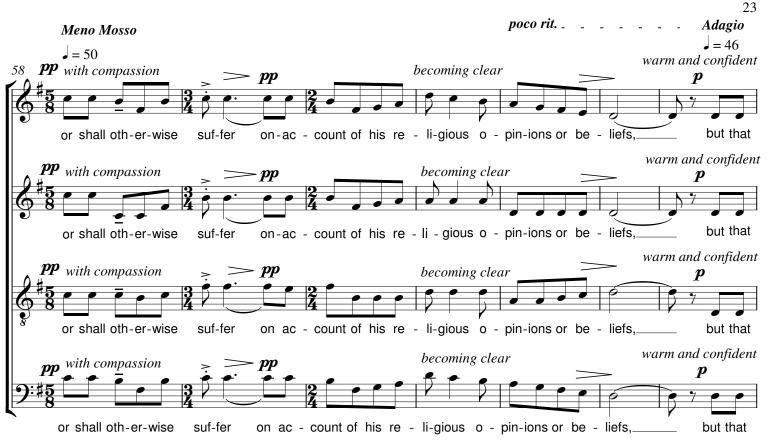


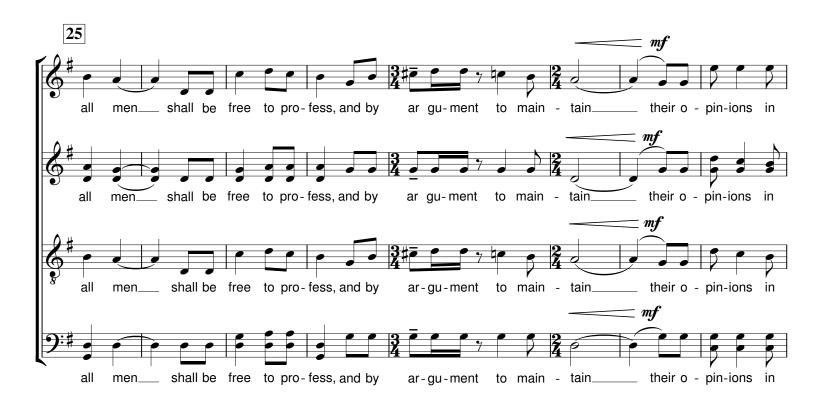




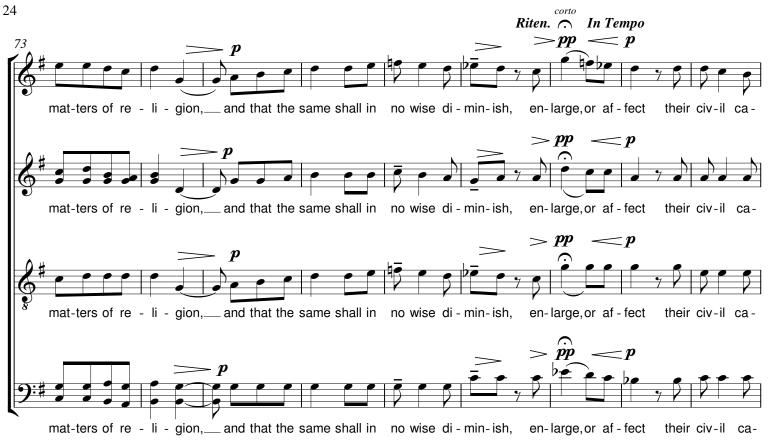












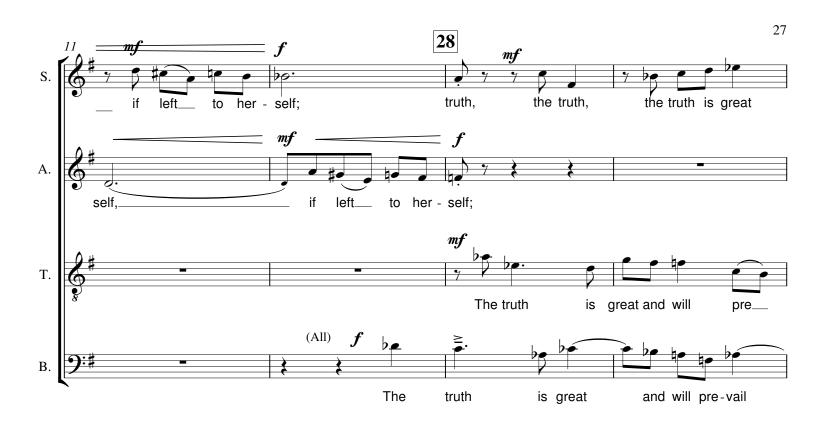


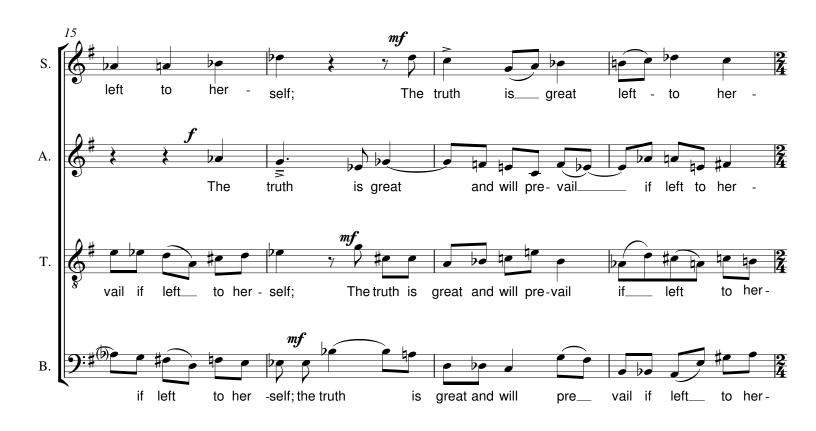


4. The Truth is Great

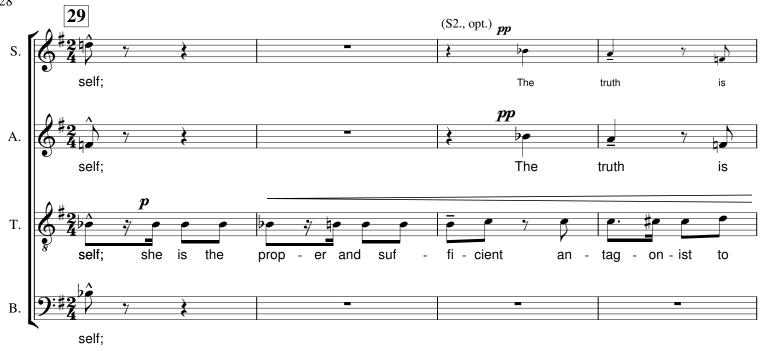
NOTE: In performance with piano, sing this fugue *a* cappella if possible. If necessary, the pianist may play along discreetly to help with intonation. This may be performed with chamber choir to shorten rehearsal time.

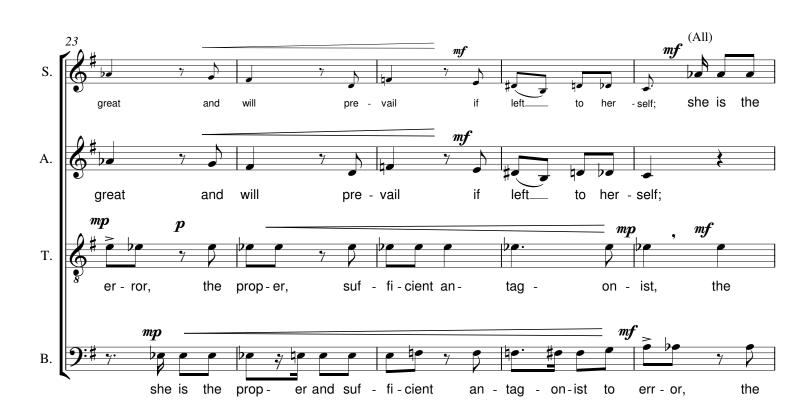


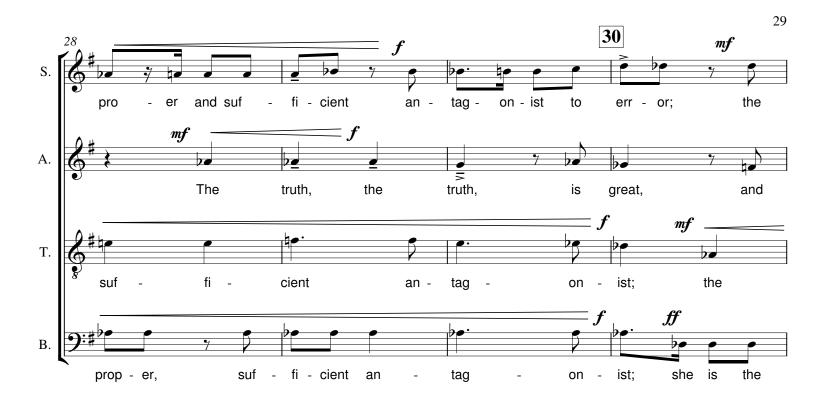


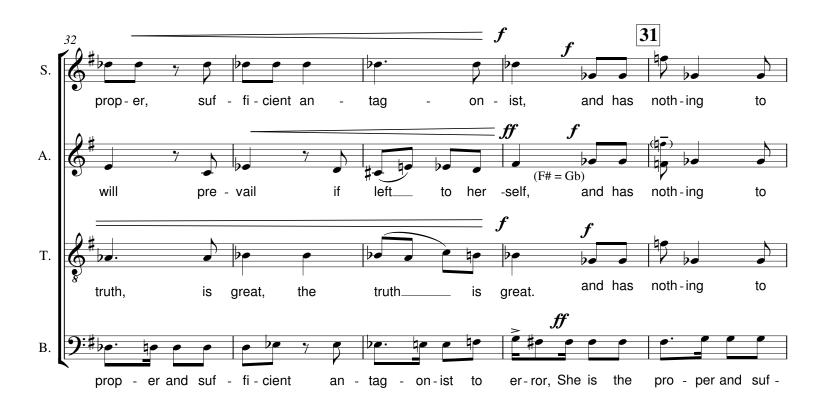


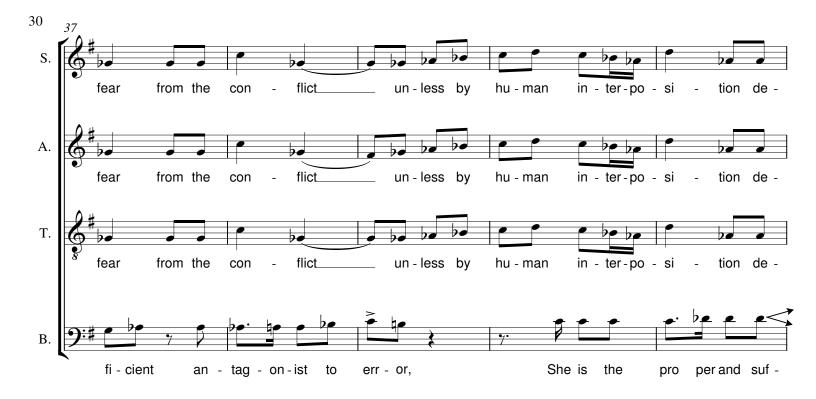


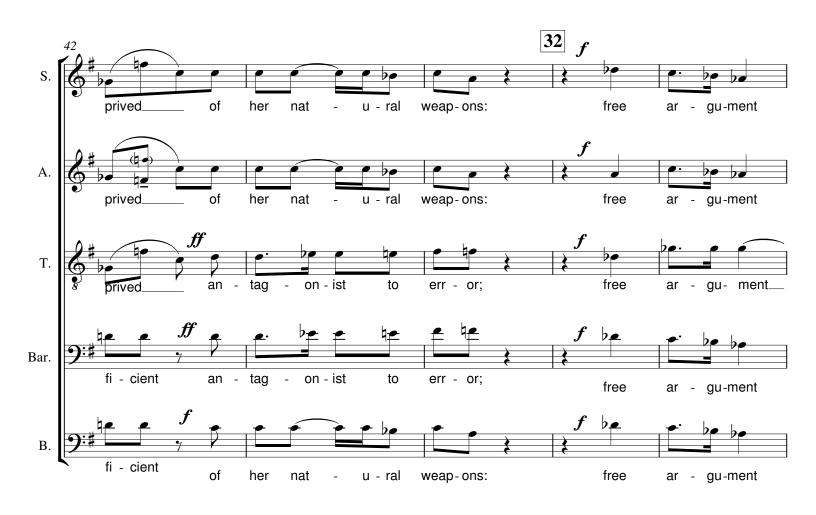














when it is per - mit-ted free-ly

to con-tra - dict them.

er-rors

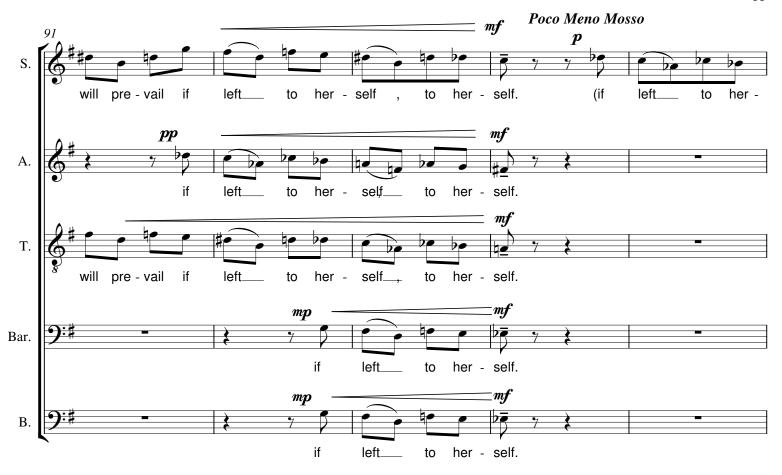
ceasing to be dange-rous

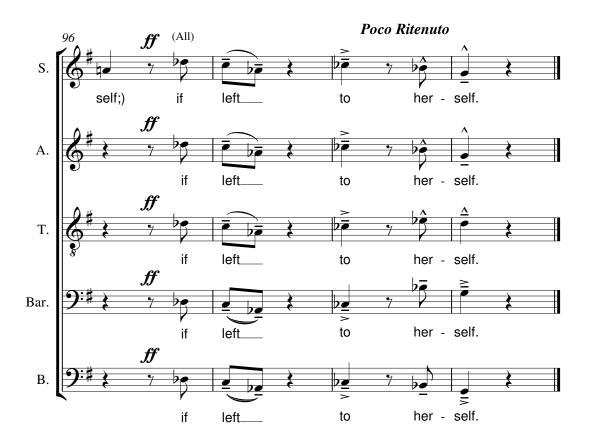
















6. We Hold These Truths









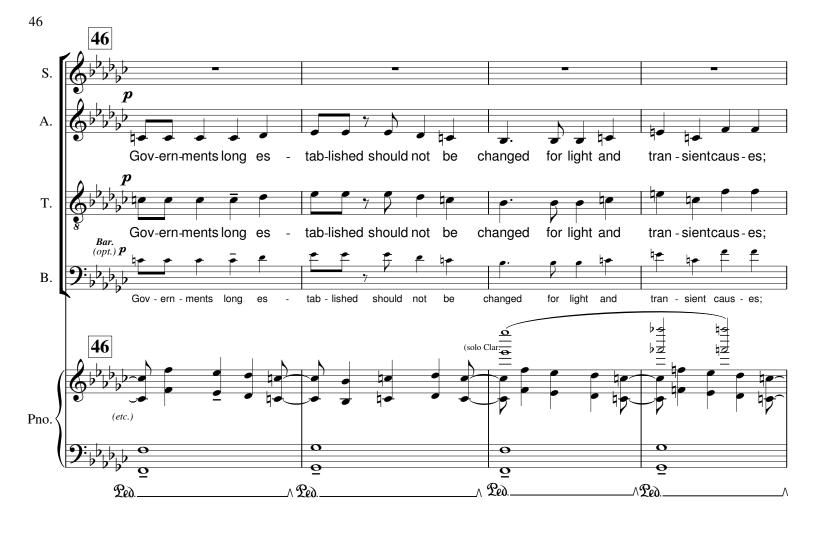
6 Principles SATB V3 Transp We Hold P-V































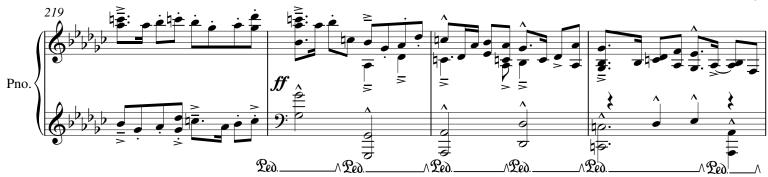


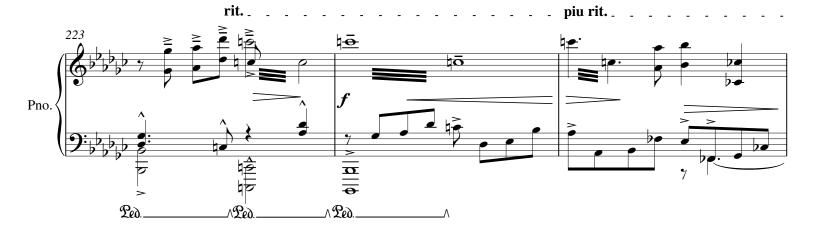


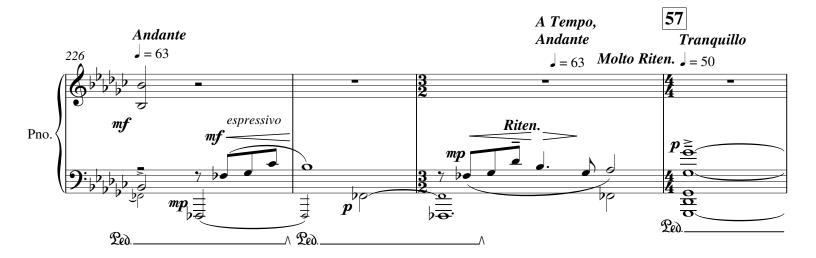










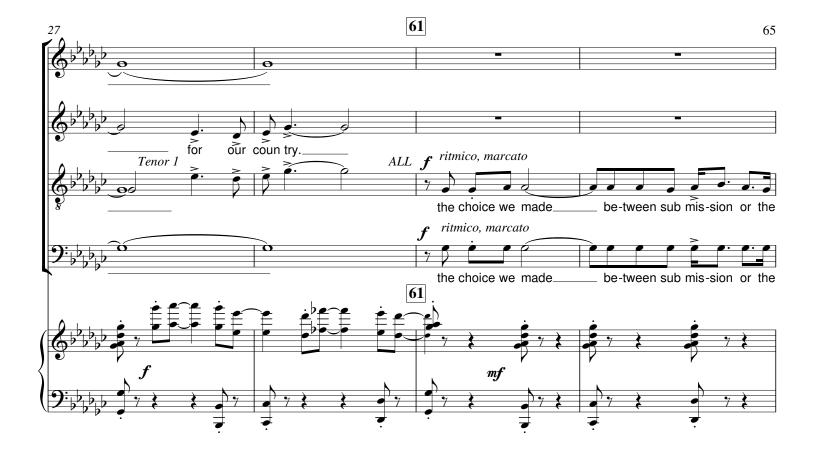




7. All Eyes Are Opened (Epilog - July 4, 1826)





















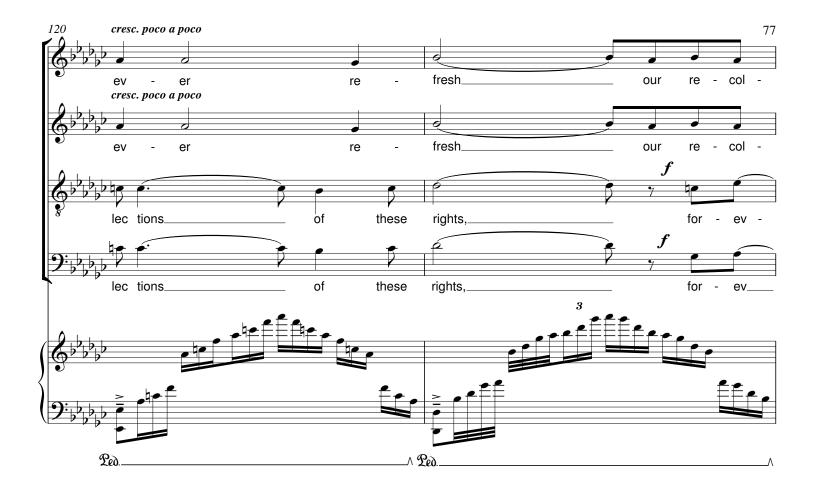


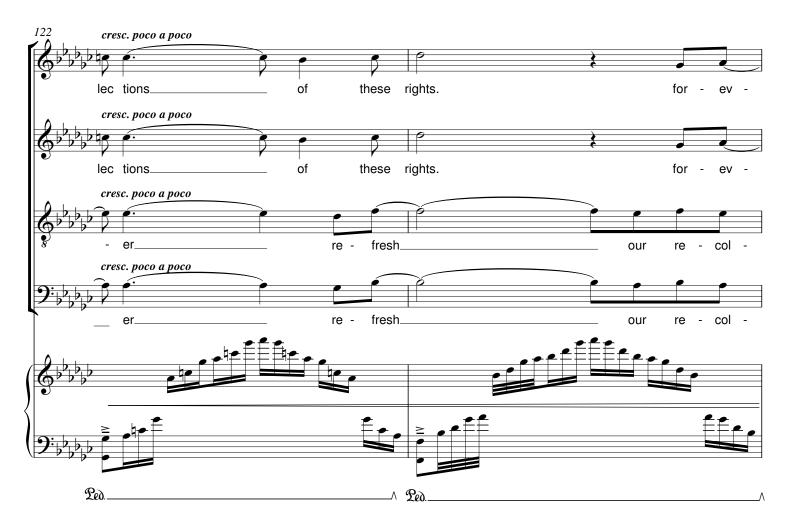












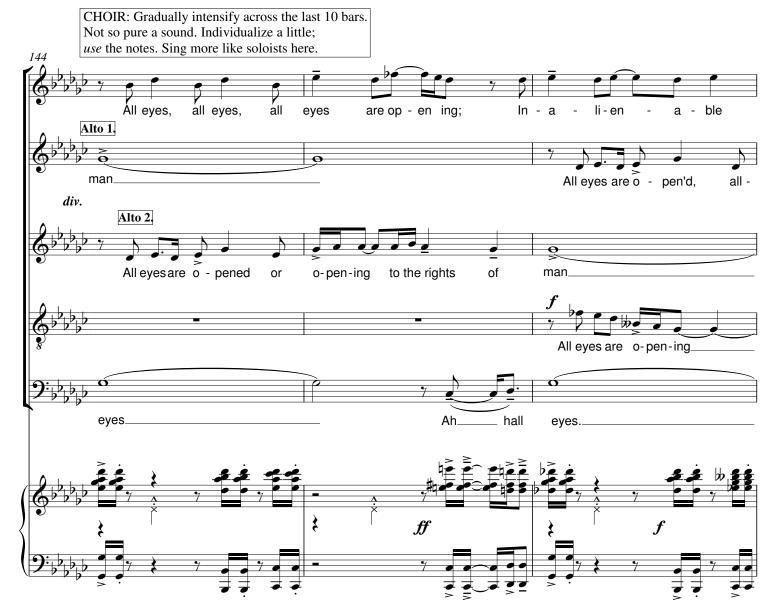






CONDUCTOR: When singing from memory or with music stands, if there is room and the choir feels it, they may show the character of the music here by gradually adding some or all of these signs:

Lift your gaze; Raise a hand; raise both; Raise your arms slowly; Shake your hands slowly; Turn right, left, 30 degrees every 2 beats: Lift your chin and SING TO THE SKY! Otherwise, simply continue the hand claps on beat two instead, until the peak at rehearsal 72. (Side-stepping also permitted.) Do NOT encourage the audience to clap along.

















Choral Works by DAVID AVSHALOMOV

MIXED CHORUS

Secular

Songs of Innocence and of Experience SATB (divisi in a few) (Wm. Blake)

Double cycle, 45 separate settings, averaging 1-4 min. ea. See full list overleaf.

Principles, secular cantata (Thos. Jefferson) [32'] SATB (divisi), solo baritone, orchestra, (or piano, can add perc.) (also version with band) (also for TTBB, below)

There's a Wind [4'] SATB (divisi), (brief S1 solo), opt. wind whistling (lyrics by the

Let the Children Play [4'] SAB (or SAA), piano, opt. flute(s), (lyrics by the composer)

Go Ahead and Rejoice [2'] SATB (divisi) (Doris Avshalomov)

Father the Tree [4'] SATB (brief S1 solo) (Doris Avshalomov)

Song For Late Summer [4] SATB (divisi) (Doris Avshalomov)

U.S. 30 in Idaho [2'] SATB (divisi) (Doris Avshalomov)

Sacred

The Mixed Blessings, [12'] SSAATTBB, (*Beatitudes*—Matthew/Luke)

handbells (6-7 players)

Praise the Lord! [4:40] SATB (divisi), organ, opt. cymbal (Psalm 150)

This Sacred Space [4:45] Consecration Anthem with congregational hymn

SATB (divisi) (brief alto solo)/organ/4 brass/timpani (text by the composer)

I Bend the Knee of My Heart [5'] SATB (divisi) (Canticle 14/Manasseh)

O Euchari (*Columba Virtutem Illius*)—Meditation [5] SATB (divisi) (Hildegarde von Bingen)

Kedushah, High Holy Days (Trad.) [5'] Cantor (solo ten. *or* sopr.), SATB, piano, flute **Chanukah tonight!** [2:45] SATB (opt. divisi), piano, opt. tamb. (lyrics by the composer) Also with string orchestra (or mandoline or balalaika orchestra)

WOMEN'S VOICES

Let the Children Play [4'] SAA, piano, opt. flute(s), (lyrics by the composer)

Where You Go, I Will Go (Ruth and Naomi) [12'] SSAA (brief S2, A2 soli)

Do You Believe in Angels? [9'] SSAA, 8 high strings (or organ reduction)

(poem by the composer)

The Angel [3'] SSA from Songs of Innocence and of Experience (Wm. Blake)

Enchanted River [2'], SA, opt. S solo (Meredith Kennedy)

MEN'S VOICES

Principles, secular cantata (Thos. Jefferson) [32] Orig. version TTBB (divisi),

solo baritone, concert band (or piano, can add perc.)

The Star Spangled Banner [1:45] arranged for barbershop quartet or ensemble, TTBB

Happy Anniversary [1'] TTBB (lyrics by the composer)

Medley - Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band (Lennon/McCartney) [15'] transcribed for TTBB chorus and/or 5 soli, piano/bass/drums/guitar (OR concert band)

NOVELTY

The Chocolate Carol, Holiday version [4:15] (David/Randi Avshalomov)

- o SATB (brief divisi), piano, optional flute
- o SATB a cappella caroling version
- o SSAA, piano, optional flute

Love & Chocolate. Valentine's version [4:15]

- o SATB (brief divisi), piano, optional flute
- o SATB solo quartet, piano

Goodnight Moon (M.W. Brown), Unis. Trebles, piano/keyboard (opt. flute/string qtt.) [3']

Happy Anniversary [1'] SATB, or SSAA, or TTBB (lyrics by the composer)

The Garlic Blessing [3'] SATB (brief divisi), piano (lyrics by the composer)

Flopsy, the Christmas Pup [4:45] SATB, piano, opt. bass, drums (lyrics by the composer)

The U.S. Air Force Fugue [3'] TTBB (parody on "Off we Go, into the Wild Blue Yonder")

Performance materials, pricing: Raven Music davshalomov@earthlink.net - www.davidavshalomov.com - (310) 480-9525

Songs of Innocence and of Experience, A Cappella Settings

-								pella Settings	
TITLE Alphabetical	Level *		Div., Soli	also solo Quar tet	Туре	Character	Energy/ speed	Topic	Opt. Special FX, Stage Business
Ah! Sun-Flower	M	2:10		OK	Air	Wistful, poignant	slow, limp, soft	Death, time, release	
The Angel	II		SSA, women only		Melodrama	Mysterious	slow	Age, womanhood	
The Blossom	III	1:00			Playful Madrigal	Fun, light	fast, light, rhythmic	Nature	
The Chimney Sweeper I	I		SSAATTBB middle		Melodrama	Ironic, ecstatic	slow fast slow	Child labor	
The Chimney Sweeper II	II	2:00			Melodrama	Bitter	moderate	Child labor	
The Clod & the Pebble	III	2:00		OK	Madrigal	Ironic. Formal	moderate	Love's illusions	
A Cradle Song	III	3:15		OK	Lullaby	Sweet with a twist		Baby innocence, mother worry	eyes shutting, end
The Divine Image I	III	2:00		OK	Prayer	Reverent	moderate	Tolerance	
A Divine Image II	II	1:30			Aphorism	Bitter, ironic	slow, solid, full	Darkness of the soul	
A Dream (the lost ant)	M	2:00	BB end		Melodrama	Play spooky	moving, rhythmic	Lost ant	
Earth's Answer	III	2:30			Plaint	Dark	slow, strong	Forbidden love	
The Ecchoing Green	II	2:30			Carol, glee	Exuberant		Children's play, sleep	Bell tones
The Fly	III	1:20			Playful Madrigal	Witty	lively, rhythmic	Fly or Man?	eye movement, end
Freedom/Uhuru	I		opt. Bar. solo		Affirmation	Proud, African	J ,	Divine soul of a slave child	Chant BG. Clapping, rhythmic movement
The Garden of Love	II	2:30		OK	Moral Madrigal	bitter, poised	intense	Forbidden love	
Hear the Voice of the Bard	III	2:45			Prophecy	Hortatory	strong	Mystery, end of night	
Holy Thursday I	III	2:00			Hymn	Hopeful	steady	Exploitation of children	
Holy Thursday II	III	3:15			Sermon	Tragic	slow	Poverty	
The Human Abstract	I	3:30			· ·	Bitter, sharp		Selfishness	
Infant Joy	M		light Sopr. Solo		Air/rocking song	Sweet	moderate , rhythmic	Innocence	
Infant Sorrow	III	2:15			Blues moan	Soulful	slow, heavy	Pains of birth	moan, groan
The Lamb	M	2:20		OK	Prayer	Sweetest	gentle, soft	Lamb and Christ	
Laughing Song	I	3:40			Playful Madrigal	Hilarious	lively, rhythmic, full	Laughter and youth	Laughter, Hilarity breakdown near end
The Lilly	III	1:30			Nature Madrigal	Esthetic	slow, soft	Lilly vs. rose	

The Little Boy	II	3:30			Melodrama	Worried	moving,	Boy lost in the	1 1
Lost/Found							rhythmic		
A Little Boy Lost [II]	I	4:00			Sermon	Righteous	moderate	Boy burned at the stake	
A Little Girl Lost (Ona)	II	3:00		OK	Madrigal/ melodrama	Light, then heavy	lively, then slow	Forbidden young love	
The Little Girl Lost/Found	II	4:00			Story Madrigal	Narrative, varied	moderate	Lost girl, symbolic nature	
(Lyca) The Little	II	1:45			Glee	High- spirited	lively, rhythmic	Need for ale in church	
Vagabond London	III	2:00			Sermon	Gloomy	slow	Degradation in the city	
Motto to the Songs of I&E	II	2:15			Conundrum	Ironic	lively, rhythmic	The turning of human nature	
Night	III	3:00			Prayer	Sweet	moderate	Angels while we sleep	
Nurse's Song I	II		SSAATT-B end		Vignette	Innocent		Children on the Green	Echo divisi ending
Nurse's song II	III	1:30			Vignette	Bitter	moderate	-	
On Another's Sorrow	III	1:30		OK	Hymn	Sweet	moderate	Compassion	
Piping down the Valleys Wild	III	2:00	SSAATTBB end		Playful Madrigal	Cheery	lively, rhythmic	The Poet's inspiration	solo whistle intro
A Poison Tree	I	3:45		OK	Moral Madrigal	Bitter	slow, intense	Revenge	
My Pretty Rose Tree	II	1:45		*	Madrigal	Ironic	moderate , gentle	Spurned love	
The School Boy	II	3:30		OK	Madrigal	Ironic	lively, rhythmic	Summer school	
The Shepherd	M	1:30			Prayer	Sweet	gentle	Guarding the flock	solo whistle intro and end
The Sick Rose	II	1:45		*	Madrigal	Bittersweet	slow	Love/death	
Spring	III	1:30		*	Playful Madrigal	Charming	lively, rhythmic	Children in spring	
To Tirzah	III	2:15			Chorale	Bitter	steady	Misogyny	
Tyger Tyger Burning Bright	II	2:10			Paean	Sharp	lively, rhythmic	Fearsome nature	Eye movement end
The Voice of the Ancient Bard	I	2:00		OK	Sermon	Hortatory	moderate	Folly	

LEVEL RANKINGS: I. Professional, Advanced University or Collegiate

(NOTE: **All**, naturally, are suitable for pro and advanced groups.)

II. Upper Division High School (chamber/madrigal, all-city, all-state honor), and Advanced Community or above

III. General High School, Community College, and general Community or above

M. Level III but ALSO suitable for Advanced Middle School (chamber/madrigal, honor): based on suitable ranges, age-appropriate subject matter