

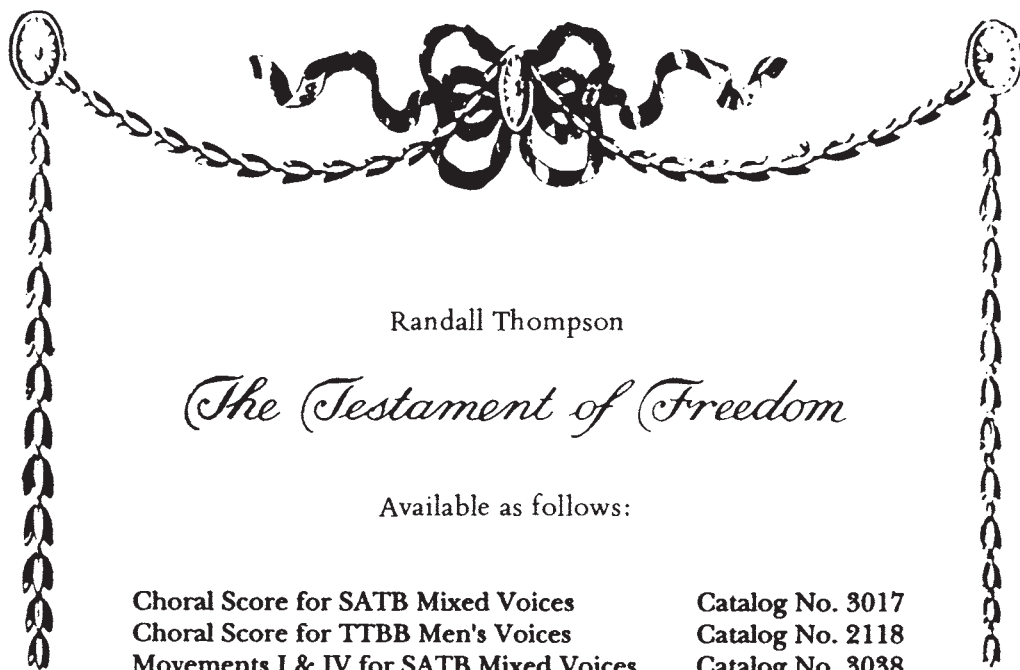
The Testament of Freedom

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Movements I & IV are also published together in a separate octavo for either TTBB Chorus, Catalog No. 2139 or SATB Chorus, Catalog No. 3038.

The Testament of Freedom was composed in honor of the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of Thomas Jefferson. The texts, from the writings of Mr. Jefferson, were chosen by the composer. Originally written for men's voices, the first performance was at Cabell Hall, University of Virginia, on Founder's Day, April 13, 1943. Dr. Stephen D. Tuttle conducted the University of Virginia Glee Club with the composer as accompanist. The performance was broadcast nation-wide and rebroadcast by the Office of War Information to the Armed Forces overseas. The orchestral version of the accompaniment was written shortly afterwards. Of the many performances that followed, the one that meant the most to the composer was that given by Serge Koussevitsky at Carnegie Hall in 1945. A Boston Symphony Orchestra performance had been scheduled, when news came of the death of President Roosevelt. Instead of calling off the concert, Koussevitsky insisted that the concert be given, but open to the public without charge. The program started with a moment of silence followed by the first movement of Shostakovich's Eighth Symphony, the first two movements of Beethoven's Third Symphony, and *The Testament of Freedom*. Another moment of silence and *The Star Spangled Banner* completed the concert.



Randall Thompson

The Testament of Freedom

Available as follows:

Choral Score for SATB Mixed Voices	Catalog No. 3017
Choral Score for TTBB Men's Voices	Catalog No. 2118
Movements I & IV for SATB Mixed Voices	Catalog No. 3038
Movements I & IV for TTBB Men's Voices	Catalog No. 2139

Orchestra and band materials (compatible with either voicing) for the complete work are available from the publisher on a rental basis.

Full Orchestra

2 flutes, 2 oboes, 2 clarinets, 2 bassoons, 4 horns, 3 trumpets, 3 trombones, tuba, timpani, snare drum, cymbals, bass drum, strings

Concert Band

Transcribed by John Corley in collaboration with the composer.

piccolo, 2 flutes, 2 oboes, 2 bassoons, 3 clarinets in B-flat, alto clarinet, bass clarinet, 2 alto saxophones in E-flat, tenor saxophone in B-flat, baritone saxophone in E-flat, 3 trumpets in B-flat, 4 horns, 3 trombones, baritone, tuba, string bass, timpani, snare drum, bass drum, cymbals

Approximate performance time is 24 minutes.



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TEXTS

The God who gave us life gave us liberty at the same time; the hand of force may destroy but cannot disjoin them.

—*A Summary View of the Rights of British America (1774)*

We have counted the cost of this contest, and find nothing so dreadful as voluntary slavery. Honor, justice, and humanity forbid us tamely to surrender that freedom which we received from our gallant ancestors, and which our innocent posterity have a right to receive from us. We cannot endure the infamy and guilt of resigning succeeding generations to that wretchedness which inevitably awaits them if we basely entail hereditary bondage upon them.

Our cause is just. Our union is perfect. Our internal resources are great...We gratefully acknowledge, as signal instances of the Divine favor towards us, that His Providence would not permit us to be called into this severe controversy until we were grown up to our present strength, had been previously exercised in warlike operation, and possessed of the means of defending ourselves. With hearts fortified with these animating reflections, we most solemnly, before God and the world, declare that, exerting the utmost energy of those powers which our beneficent Creator hath graciously bestowed upon us, the arms we have been compelled by our enemies to assume we will, in defiance of every hazard, with unabating firmness and perseverance, employ for the preservation of our liberties; being with one mind resolved to die freemen rather than to live slaves.

—*Declaration of Causes and Necessity of Taking up Arms (July 6, 1775)*

We fight not for glory or for conquest. We exhibit to mankind the remarkable spectacle of a people attacked by unprovoked enemies, without any imputation or even suspicion of offense. They boast of their privileges and civilization, and yet proffer no milder conditions than servitude or death.

In our native land, in defense of the freedom that is our birthright and which we ever enjoyed till the late violation of it; for the protection of our property, acquired solely by the honest industry of our forefathers and ourselves; against violence actually offered; we have taken up arms. We shall lay them down when hostilities shall cease on the part of the aggressors and all danger of their being renewed shall be removed, and not before.

—*Declaration of Causes and Necessity of Taking up Arms (July 6, 1775)*

I shall not die without a hope that light and liberty are on steady advance...And even should the cloud of barbarism and despotism again obscure the science and liberties of Europe, this country remains to preserve and restore light and liberty to them...The flames kindled on the 4th of July, 1776, have spread over too much of the globe to be extinguished by the feeble engines of despotism; on the contrary, they will consume these engines and all who work them.

—*Letter to John Adams, Monticello (September 12, 1821)*

* * * *

The God who gave us life gave us liberty at the same time; the hand of force may destroy but cannot disjoin them.

To the University of Virginia Glee Club, in memory of the Father of the University.

The Testament of Freedom

For Chorus of Mixed Voices

Thomas Jefferson
(1743 - 1826)

I. The God who gave us life

Randall Thompson

Largo (♩=60) **Moderato, ma con fuoco** (♩=72)

SOPRANO
ALTO
TENOR
BASS

PIANO

ff *marcato* *Rev. 8:* * *col Pedale*

The God who gave us life gave us
The God who gave us life gave us
The God who gave us life gave us
The God who gave us life gave us

6
S
A
T
B

lib-er-ty at the same time, at the same time; the hand of force may de-
lib-er-ty at the same time, at the same time; the hand of force may de-
lib-er-ty at the same time, at the same time; the hand of force may de-
lib-er-ty at the same time, at the same time; the hand of force may de-

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S
stroy, — the hand of force may de-stroy but can - not dis -

A
stroy, — the hand of force may de-stroy but can - not dis -

T
stroy, — the hand of force may de-stroy — but can - not dis -

B
stroy, — the hand of force may de-stroy but can - not dis -

Red. * Red. * Red. * Red.

14

S
join them, can - not dis - join them, can - not,

A
join them, can - not dis - join them, can - not,

T
join them, can - not dis - join them, can - not,

B
join them, can - not dis - join them, can - not,

* Red. * Red. * Red. * Red. * Red. * Red. * Red. * Red.