

To all the artistic Needlers at Plymouth Congregational Church

The Four Freedoms

*Words by Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882-1945)

Music by David Evan Thomas

With assurance $\text{♩} = 56$

Four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major, 4/4 time. Each staff contains a whole rest in every measure, indicating that the vocalists are silent during this section.

With assurance $\text{♩} = 56$

Piano accompaniment in G major, 4/4 time. The right hand features a melodic line with a crescendo from piano (*p*) to forte (*f*). The left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving bass lines.

SA unis. *p*

TB unis. *p*

Vocal staves for Soprano and Tenor with lyrics: "This na-tion has placed its des - ti - ny in the hands". The piano accompaniment continues with chords and bass lines. The lyrics are: "This na-tion has placed its des - ti - ny in the hands".

*Message to Congress, January 6, 1941, in *Public Papers*, vol. 9, p. 672 (public domain), edited by the composer.

2
10

S
A

T
B

and heads and hearts of its free men and wom - en;

and heads and hearts of its free men and wom - en;

16

S
A

T
B

and its faith in free - dom, free - dom, free - dom un - der the

and its faith in free - dom, free - dom, free - dom un - der the

tratt. *a tempo*
p cresc.

tratt. *a tempo*

23

S
A

T
B

guid - ance of God.

guid - ance of God.

p subito

rit.

Somewhat more relaxed

S
A
T
B

p

Free-dom means the su - prem-a - cy of

Free-dom means the su - prem-a - cy of

Free-dom means the su - prem-a - cy of

Free-dom means the su - prem-a - cy of

Somewhat more relaxed

p freely

pp

Red.

Sub

S
A
T
B

hu - man rights ev' - ry - where. Free-dom means the su -

hu - man rights ev' - ry - where. Free-dom means the su -

hu - man rights ev' - ry - where. Free-dom means the su -

hu - man rights ev' - ry - where. Free-dom means the su -

più f

più f

più f

Red.

Sub

Sub

37

S prem - a - cy of hu - man rights ev' - ry - where.

A prem - a - cy of hu - man rights ev' - ry - where.

T prem - a - cy of hu - man rights ev' - ry - where.

B prem - a - cy of hu - man rights ev' - ry - where.

37

mp

(Sub) * Ped. *

Tempo I ♩ = 56

mf

41

S We look for - ward to a world, we look for - ward to a world found - ed up - on four

A We look for - ward to a world found - ed up - on four es - sen -

T We look for - ward to a world, we look for - ward to a world found - ed up - on four

B We look for - ward to a world found - ed up - on four es - sen -

Tempo I ♩ = 56

f

41

f *mp*

sostenuto

moving back into tempo

47

S
es - sen - tial free - doms: Four free - doms.

A
- tial hu - man free - doms: Four free - doms.

T
es - sen - tial free - doms: Four free - doms.

B
- tial hu - man free - doms: Four free - doms.

f

sostenuto

moving back into tempo

47

f

ff

More relaxed; simply

poco p

53

A
free - dom of ev' - ry per -

B
free-dom of speech and ex-pres-sion- ev' - ry-where in the world.

poco p

3 3

More relaxed; simply

p legato

53

p legato

A
T

57

son to wor - ship God in his own way;

free-dom from

p

57

p

Red.

S
T

61

free - dom from

want— ev' - ry - where in the world.

mp

61

Red.

sim.

movendo

64

S fear— an - y - where in the world, _____

A _____

T _____

B _____

mp

movendo

64

Free-dom from

Tempo I

mp

68

S Free - dom of speech, _____ and ex - pres - - - sion—

A _____

T Free-dom from fear— _____ an - y-where in the

B _____

Free-dom to wor - - - ship, to wor - - - ship,

want, _____ from want, _____

Tempo I

(reduced notes for rehearsal)

68

(Play)

72 *più f*

S Free-dom to wor - - - ship, free - dom from want- ev' - ry-where in the

A *più f*

world, free - dom from fear. Free -

T *più f*

Free - dom of speech and ex - pres - sion- ev' - ry-where in the

B *più f*

Free-dom from want.

72

76 *f*

S world, an - y - where in the world.

A *f*

dom ev' - ry - where in the world.

T *f*

world, an - y - where in the world.

B *f*

Free - - - - - dom.

76

80 *mp marcato*

S This is no vi - sion of a dis - tant mil - len - ni - um.

A This is no vi - sion of a dis - tant mil - len - ni - um.

T This is no vi - sion of a dis - tant mil - len - ni - um.

B *mp marcato*

This is no vi - sion of a dis - tant mil - len - ni - um.

80 (Play) *f mp* (mark the E)

84

S — It is at - tain - a - ble,

A — it is at - tain - a - ble,

T — It is at - tain - a - ble,

B — it is at - tain - a - ble,

84 *mf*

10
88

S *f* it is at - tain - a - ble: Free-dom of

A *f* it is at - tain - a - ble: Free-dom of speech,

T *f* it is at - tain - a - ble: Free-dom of speech,

B *f* it is at - tain - a - ble: Free-dom of speech,

88 *pp* *f* *mf*

92

S speech, free-dom to wor - ship God, free-dom from

A free-dom to wor - ship God, free - dom from want,

T free-dom to wor - ship, free - dom from want,

B free-dom to wor - ship, free-dom from want, free-dom from

92 *f*

Red.

The Four Freedoms (2012)

for SATB vocal quartet (or chorus) and piano

Music by David Evan Thomas

Words by Franklin Delano Roosevelt, from Message to Congress, January 6, 1941,
in *Public Papers*, vol. 9, p. 672 (public domain), edited by the composer.

Commissioned by Plymouth Congregational Church in celebration
of the "Summer of the First Amendment" embroidery.

First performance: July 15, 2012

by Maria Jette, Lisa Drew, Dan Dressen, James Bohn and James Lee Bobb
Plymouth Congregational Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Duration: 4 minutes

Text

This nation has placed its destiny
in the hands and heads and hearts
of its free men and women;
and its faith in freedom under the guidance of God.

Freedom means the supremacy of human rights everywhere.
We look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms:

freedom of speech and expression;
freedom of every person to worship God in his own way;
freedom from want—everywhere in the world.
freedom from fear—anywhere in the world.

This is no vision of a distant millennium.
It is attainable in our own time.

Born in Rochester, New York, David Evan Thomas studied at Northwestern University, the Eastman School, and with Dominick Argento at the University of Minnesota. His work has been commissioned by the Minnesota Orchestra and Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, honored by the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and published by ECS, Augsburg Fortress and MorningStar. More: www.davidevanthomas.com.