

**4 Protest Songs from  
The American Civil Rights Struggle**

**Oh, Freedom  
This Little Light of Mine  
Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me 'Round  
We Shall Overcome**

**SATB Unaccompanied  
Arranged by Jason Thoms**

## **4 Protest Songs from The American Civil Rights Struggle**

If your ensemble wishes to perform all four songs in a performance, it is suggested that you include reading to lead into each song.

Below are some suggested readings:

*Caged Bird* - Maya Angelou  
**Oh Freedom**

*Matthew 5:3-14 – Beatitudes/ Salt and Light*  
**This Little Light of Mine**

*Mother to Son* – Langston Hughes  
**Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me 'Round**

*Romans 12:9-21 – Marks of the True Christian*  
**We Shall Overcome**

Though it is not required to have Biblical texts read to perform this music, it is important to understand that historically Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's non-violence civil rights campaign was deeply rooted in Christianity. Most of the leaders that worked with Dr. King were also pastors, most of the venues for his speeches and headquarters for his actions were held in churches, many of Dr. King's speeches include quotes from the Bible or Christian hymnody. Dr. King's faith was vital in helping him stay on a very difficult course, and helped to encourage those who followed him.

# 4 Protest Songs from The American Civil Rights Struggle

## Oh Freedom

for Dr. Kathryn Galchutt, History Professor at Concordia College-New York

Traditional 19th Century Song  
Arr. Jason Thoms

Leader All

Oh \_\_\_\_\_ Free-dom, \_\_\_\_\_ Oh \_\_\_\_\_ Free-dom, \_\_\_\_\_ Oh \_\_\_\_\_

Free-dom \_\_\_\_\_ o - ver me, \_\_\_\_\_ and be - fore I'll be a slave \_\_\_\_\_ I'll be

bur - ied in my grave \_\_\_\_\_ and go \_\_\_\_\_ home to my Lord \_\_\_\_\_ and be free.

Leader All

\*\*No \_\_\_\_\_ more weep-ing, \_\_\_\_\_ No more weep-ing, \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ more

weep-ing \_\_\_\_\_ o - ver me \_\_\_\_\_ and be - fore I'll be a slave \_\_\_\_\_ I'll be

bur - ied in my grave \_\_\_\_\_ and go \_\_\_\_\_ home to my Lord \_\_\_\_\_ and be free.

\*\* This verse can be repeated inserting different texts each time:  
No segregation, No more shooting, No burning churches, No more jail house, No more Jim Crow...

Oh Free-dom Oh Free-dom

Free-dom Free-dom Oh Free-dom

ver me and be - fore I'll be a slave I'll be bur - ied in my grave

and go home to my Lord and be free!

### This Little Light of Mine

for D'Andre Grant, student leader at Concordia College-New York

Harry Dixon Loes  
Arr. Jason Thoms

Leader All

This lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon - na let it shine.

This lit-tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine. This lit-tle light of mine,

I'm gon-na let it shine. Let it shine, let it shine, Let it shine.

\*\*In the face of in-jus-tice, I'm gon-na let it shine. In the face of in-jus-tice,

I'm gon-na let it shine. In the face of in-jus-tice, I'm gon-na let it shine,

Let it shine, Let it shine, Let it shine.

This lit-tle light of mine, Light of mine. I'm gon-na let it shine. Let it shine!

This lit-tle light of mine, Light of mine! I'm gon-na let it shine. Let it shine!

\*\* This verse can be repeated inserting different texts each time:  
 All over America, All through this struggle...

This lit - tle light of mine, — I'm gon - na let it shine. — Let it shine,  
 Let it shine! Let it shine!

— let it shine, — Let it shine. — Let it shine!  
 Let it shine! Let it,

## Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me 'Round

for Rashida Abrahams, Concordia Choir president

Traditional American Freedom Song  
 Arr. Jason Thoms

Leader  
 Ain't gon - na let — no - bo - dy, turn me 'round, turn me 'round,  
 All  
 turn me round, Ain't gon - na let — no - bo - dy, turn me 'round I'm gon - na  
 keep on a - walk - in, keep on a - talk - in, march - ing up to free - dom land.  
 NO! NO!  
 \*\*Ain't gon - na let no in - junc - tion turn me 'round, turn me 'round,

\*\* This verse can be repeated inserting different texts each time:

Ain't gonna let Nervous Nelly, Ain't gonna let segregation, Ain't gonna let no jail, Ain't gonna let Chief Pritchett...

NO! YES!

turn me round, Ain't gon-na let no in-junc-tion turn me 'round I'm gon-na keep on a-walk-in,

YES!

keep on a-talk-in, march-ing up to free-dom land.—— Ain't gon-na let no-bo - dy

turn me 'round, turn me 'round, turn me 'round, Ain't gon-na let no-bo - dy

turn me 'round, I'm gon - na keep on a - walk-in, keep on a - talk-in,

march - ing up to free-dom land!—— free - dom land!

## We Shall Overcome

for those struggling with social injustice

Traditional American Freedom Song

Arr. Jason Thoms

We shall o - ver - come, \_\_\_\_\_ We shall o - ver - come, \_\_\_\_\_

We shall o - ver - come some - day. \_\_\_\_\_ Oh, \_\_\_ deep in my heart,

I do be - lieve, We shall o - ver - come some - day

We shall o - ver - come, \_\_\_\_\_ We shall o - ver - come, \_\_\_\_\_ We shall o - ver -

come some - day. \_\_\_\_\_ Oh, \_\_\_ deep in my heart,

I do be - lieve, We shall o - ver - come some - day