

# **Dona Nobis Veritatem**

*~ a setting of American text~*

*Viola, Soprano, & Piano*

*≈ 28'*

*by A. Green*

*text from the Preamble, the Declaration of  
Independence (paragraphs 1 & 2), and the Bill of Rights*

## **Preface**

It all began when Robert Mollicone gave my name to Ms. Amanda Bulat, to whom the piece is dedicated, as a suggestion to set the Bill of Rights. She was looking for a composer to set this text for a piece possibly for her senior recital. When we met, we both agreed that it needed more, so I suggested to add the Preamble and part of the Declaration of Independence. When I asked her how she envisioned the piece, she gave some wonderful suggestions about the inclusion of different styles of music, perhaps in a mocking, ‘hokey’ fashion. After mulling over the text, finding what exactly I needed from the Declaration, and then grouping them accordingly, I began the composition of this piece. It started 20 July, 2007. Composition was extremely sporadic when school started and the rest of the summer intervened. However, this piece was completed during Christmas break 13 January, 2008. Hilary Clinton won in New Hampshire, Barack Obama won the Iowa caucus, Bush was running as much of a muck he could before leaving. After completing this piece, I finally discovered my pride in being an American. This country, just like every country, has plenty of downs. But there are so many beautiful things about this country. It’s the people that are responsible for America’s deplorable international reputation – the ignorant people who refuse to open their minds to acceptance, tolerance, and peace. The documents, however, are indeed precious and should carefully be considered and internalized by all Americans. Hopefully, this piece will cause at least one more American besides myself to read these documents and re-establish what it means to truly be American for his or herself. I know I can’t change the whole country, but I also know I can plant a seed of change.

## **Performance Notes**

The vocal part is all about contrast. As much as possible, try to create a different character or mood with each movement. The last movement is the most expressive, and should be executed as such. In mocking music, drama is encouraged. In slower movements, rhythmic freedom is encouraged to a certain extent. Rhythms can be *bent* but not broken, especially in mvt. VI. All *touch-fourth* harmonics should produce a tone two octaves higher than the fundamental. Resultants of harmonics are provided otherwise. The pianist is encouraged to use a liberal amount of damper pedal, but not so much as to reduce clarity. Any fingerings are merely suggestions.

\* A possible realization of this piece can be a performance of just the Amendments alone. In this event, please title the piece: *Dona Nobis Veritatem: the Bill of Rights*, and do not change the movement numbers (ie, the first movement of this performance is actually movement III).

As always, have fun!

## ~ Text ~

### ***I. Preamble***

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

### ***II. Declaration of Independence: I***

When in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another, 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, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the Separation.

### ***III. Amendment I***

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

### ***IV. Amendment II & III***

A well-regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.

No soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

### ***V. Amendment IV***

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

### ***VI. Amendment V & VI***

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the state and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be

informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.

**VII. *Amendment VII, VIII, IX, & X***

In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise reexamined in any court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.

**VIII. *Declaration of Independence: II***

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, 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 to abolish it.

## VII. Amendments VII to X

Quick; quarter ~ 140

Vla. *ff* *sfz* *mp*

Sop. *f*

Pno. *f* *mp*

In suits at com - mon law

Vla. *mf*

Sop. *mf*

Pno. *mf*

where the va - lue in con - - - tro - ver - sy shall ex -

7

Vla. *pizz.* *f*

Sop. *mp* coy  
ceed twen - ty dol - lars

Pno.

10

Vla. *arco* *p* *mp* *f* *ff*

Pno. *ff*

13

Vla. *sul C, sul pont.* *ff* *mp* *pizz.* *sfz*

Pno. *p* *mf* 3

16 arco, sul tasto *p* norm., ricochet 3 *ffz* pizz. *mp* arco, sul pont. 3

Vla.

Pno.

20 norm., col legno battuto *mf* ord., sul pont. *sfz* norm. *mp*

Vla.

Pno.

24 sul pont. *ff* norm., col legno battuto *p* pizz.

Vla.

Pno.

28 *arco, ord.* + + + + *pizz.*

Vla. *ff* *fp* *mf*

Sop. *mp* 5

the right of tri - al by

Pno. *ff* *p*

31 *f* *p* *ff* *ff*

Sop. 3

ju - ry shall be pre - ser-ved and no fact no fact —

Pno.

35 *mp* 6

Sop. *mp*

— tried by a ju - ry shall be o - ther-wise re - ex -

Pno. *new*



39 *ff*

Sop. a - mined ex - a - mined in a - ny court of the u - ni - ted

Pno.

42 con sord. sul pont. *mp* sul G *pp* echo norm.

Sop. States than ac - cord - ing

Pno. *pp* murky 3 3 3 3

45 *mp* *f* *p*

Sop. to the rules of com - mon law

Pno.

48 *ff* *f* *sul pont.*

Vla.

Pno.

51 *mf* *sul tasto*

Vla.

Pno.

55 *pp* *senza sord.* *niente*

Vla.

Sop.

Ex - ces - sive bail \_\_\_\_\_ shall not \_\_\_\_\_ be re - qui - red

8va -

Pno.

59

Sop.

*mf*

*p*

nor ex - ces - sive fines im - po - - - - sed

(8va)

Pno.

63 *norm.*

Vla.

*mf*

*p*

63 *mf*

*p*

Sop.

nor cruel and un - u - su - al pu - nish - ments in - flict - ed

63 *f*

*p*

Pno.

68

Vla.

*mp*

*f*

*p*

68

Pno.

72

Vla. *ff* *mf* 3 3 3

Sop. *ff* eh

Pno. *ff* *mf* 3 3 3 3 3

75

Vla. *ff* niente

Sop. 75

Pno. 75

78

Vla. *mf* *pp* *mp* sul C, sul pont. sul G, sul tasto sul C, norm.

Sop. 78 *p* *pp* stacatto The e - nu - mer - a - tion in the

Pno. 78 *ppp*

~ 57 ~

Vla. *pp* *mf*

Sop. *mp*

81 con - sti - tu - tion of cer - tian rights shall not be con - strued to de -

Pno.

Vla. *f* *f* *mp* *sul pont.*

Sop. *mf* 3

84 ny or dis - pa - - - - rage o - thers re - tained by the

Pno.

Vla. *norm.* *ff* *p* *f* *p* *mysterious*

Sop. *ff* *mp*

87 peo - - - - ple

Pno. *f* *p* *simile*



100

Vla. *f*

Sop. *f* *mp*

shall not be con - - -

103

Vla. *f*

Sop. *ff* *mf* *mp*

stru - - - - - ed be con -

Pno. *ff* *mf*

106

Vla. *p*

Sop. *ff* *mf*

stru - - - - - ed to de - - ny or dis -

Pno. *ff* *mf*

~ 60 ~

Vla. *f*

Sop. *ff*

110 *ff*

pa - - rage o - thers re - tained

Pno. *f*

Vla. *sul tasto*

113 *p*

Sop. *mf*

113 by the peo - ple

Pno. *ff*

Vla. *sul pont.*

117 *mf*

*norm.*

*p*

Pno. *mp*



120

*sul C* -----

*molto vib.* -----

*non vib.* -----

Vla.

*mf*

Pno.

*mf*

123

*sul D* -----

*molto vib.* -----

*molto vib.* -----

*non vib.* -----

Vla.

*f*

Pno.

*f*

126

*norm. vib.* -----

Vla.

Pno.

129

Vla. *fp*

Sop. *spoken: f*

the e - nu - mer - a - tion in the con - sti - tu - tion

Pno. *p*

132

Vla. *ppp*

Sop.

of cer - tain rights shall not be con -

Pno.

135

Vla. *sul tasto p*

Sop.

strued to - de - ny or dis - pa - rage o - thers re -

Pno.

138

con sord.

Vla.

Sop.

138

tained by the peo - ple

Pno.

138

*f**dim.*

Pno.

141

*mp*

144

*Slower, relaxed*

Vla.

*ppp**f**ppp**mp*

Pno.

144

*pp**p* warm

Vla.

Pno.

149

Vla.

Pno.

153

Vla.

Pno.

157

*mf*

Vla. *161*

Pno. *161*

161

Vla. *164*

Sop. *164*

Pno. *164*

*pp* *mp* *mp* *ooh* *pp*

*sul pont.*

164

Vla. *168*

Sop. *168*

Pno. *168*

*norm.* *3* *p* *sul pont.* *ooh*

168

172 *senza sord.* *norm.* *V*

Vla. *mf* *mf*

Sop. *f*  
Aah

Pno.

176

Vla. *mp* *f*

Sop. *f*  
ts'of A - me - ri - ca

Pno. *mp* *f*

179

Vla.

Sop.

Pno.

Di - vi - ded Steh \_\_\_\_\_ ts'of \_\_\_\_\_ A - me - ri - ca

8va - - ,

183

Vla.

Sop.

Pno.

Di - vi - ded Steh \_\_\_\_\_ ts'of \_\_\_\_\_ A - me - - - ri - ca

*mp*

*p*

*mp*

(rh) (lh)

~ 68 ~

187

Vla.

Sop.

Pno.

Di - vi - ded States

of A - me - - ri - ca

Vla.

Sop.

Pno.

Di - vi - ded States

9



194

Vla. *fff*

Sop. *fff*  
YAH!

Pno. *f*  
*fff*

194

195

196

197

Vla.

Sop. *f*  
Yah!

Pno. *8va*  
*f*

~ 70 ~

197

198

199

200

Vla.

Sop.

Pno.

*mp*

*mp*

Nee - - aah

*pp*

*mp*

203

Vla.

Sop.

Pno.

Nee - - aah

Yeh - - yoo

206

Vla. *f*

Sop. *f*

Nee - - - aah Nee - - - aah Yeh - yoo

Pno. *mp* *f*

209

Vla. *ff*

Sop. *ff*

Aah Eh Aah Eh

Pno. *mf* *ff*

~ 72 ~

212

Vla.

Sop.

Pno.

Yeee - - ooh Aah!

*mp*

9

215

Vla.

Pno.

*ff*

*ff*

217

Vla.

Pno.

*ff*

*ff*

A Tempo

219

Vla.

219

Pno.

*mf*

*ff*

*mp*

*sfz*

222

Vla.

222

Pno.

*pp*

*pp*

3 3 3 3

226

Vla.

226

Pno.

*sul pont.*

*f*

*mp*

*ff*

*sfz*

231

con sord.

Vla. 231 *p*

Pno. 231 *p* *sfz* *>*

236

Vla. 236 *norm.* *b* *mf*

Pno. 236 *p* *f*

240

Vla. 240 *mp* *pp*

Sop. 240 *mp* molto espressivo e legato  
The po - wers not

Pno. 240 *mp* *pp*

244

Vla. *pp*

Sop.

de - le - ga - ted to the U - ni - ted States by the

Pno.

248

Vla. *sul tasto*

Sop.

Con - sti - tu - tion nor pro - hi - bi - ted by it to the

Pno.

252

Vla. *norm.*  $\nabla$

Sop.

states, are re - served to the states

Pno.

256 *sul tasto*  
*(at bow tip)*

Vla.

256 *re - - spec - tive - ly*

Sop.

256

Pno.

260 *f*

Vla.

260 *re - - - spec - tive - ly,*

Sop.

260

Pno.

263 *sul pont.*  
*sfz* *mp*

Vla.

263 *mp* *resolute*  
*or to the peo-ple.*

Sop.

263

Pno.