

THE SPIRITUALS SERIES

Oh, Freedom

African-American Spiritual
Arranged by Stephen M. Lee

Determined (♩ = ca. 72)

Tenor 1

1, 4. Free - dom, free - dom! Oh, _____
2. Cry - in', cry - in'! No _____ more
3. Dy - in', dy - in'! No _____ more

Tenor 2

1, 4. Oh, _____ free - dom! Oh, _____
2. No _____ more cry - in'! No _____ more
3. No _____ more dy - in'! No _____ more

Bass 1

1, 4. Oh, _____ free - dom, free - dom,
2. No _____ more cry - in', cry - in',
3. No _____ more dy - in', dy - in',

Bass 2

1, 4. Oh, _____ free -
2. No _____ more cry -
3. No _____ more dy -

Keyboard
(for rehearsal only)



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FROM THE COLLECTION **Stand by Me: A Celebration of African-American Song**
Octavo Packet #30113342 CD #30113343

1, 4. free - dom, free - dom! Oh, free - dom o - ver,
 2. cry - in', cry - in'! No! No more cry - in' o - ver,
 3. dy - in', dy - in'! No! No more dy - in' o - ver,

1, 4. free-dom! Oh, free - dom o - ver
 2. cry - in'! No more cry - in' o - ver
 3. dy - in'! No more dy - in' o - ver

1, 4. free - dom! Oh, free - dom o - ver
 2. cry - in'! No more cry - in' o - ver
 3. dy - in'! No more dy - in' o - ver

1, 4. dom! Oh, free - dom o - ver,
 2. in'! No, no more cry - in' o - ver,
 3. in'! No, no more dy - in' o - ver,

1, 4. free - dom o - ver me! }
 2. cry - in' o - ver me! } And be - fore I'd be a
 3. dy - in' o - ver me! }

1, 4. me! }
 2. me! } And be - fore I'd be a
 3. me! }

1, 4. free - dom o - ver me! }
 2. cry - in' o - ver me! } And be - fore I'd
 3. dy - in' o - ver me! }

1-4. slave, I'll be bur - ied in my grave, and

1-4. slave, I'll be bur - ied in my grave, and go

1-4. be a slave, I'll be bur - ied in - a my grave,

1-4. be a slave, I'll be bur - ied in my grave,

The piano accompaniment consists of two staves. The right hand plays a melody with eighth notes and rests, while the left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines. There are two measures with a '2' above the notes, indicating a second ending or a specific fingering.

D.C.
(Fine)

1-4. go home to my Lawd and be free!

1-4. home to my Lawd and be free!

1-4. and go home to my Lawd and be free!

1-4. and go home to my Lawd and be free!

The piano accompaniment continues with two staves. The right hand has a melodic line with a glissando (gliss.) marking over a note. The left hand continues with harmonic support. The system concludes with a double bar line and a final chord in the piano part.

Composer Notes

“Oh, Freedom” is a cry for freedom from all forms of injustice, oppression and slavery. It would serve as a fitting choral response to a homily/reflection, or as the song after communion.

This arrangement is scored in the style of a male barbershop quartet. Although the traditional melody and vocal harmonization have been altered ever so slightly, the four constantly weaving contrapuntal lines and subtle harmonies make this new and fresh arrangement seem like an old, beloved friend. Consider having a soloist sing the first verse as an unaccompanied, improvisatory solo before the choir begins singing the four verses as written.

—*Stephen M. Lee*

Preview

