

DOUGLASS PORTRAIT

Narrator

Commissioned by the Hopkins Symphony Orchestra

PART I: IN THE BEGINNING

J. Kimo Williams

A = 60

Tremolo Strings Enter

NARRATOR:

8

1. Frederick Douglass was born Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey, in 1818, a child in chains in a land that called itself free. He was denied a birthdate, and a childhood —but he was never denied his humanity, for he refused to surrender it. By his own will, he seized the tools of freedom: the knowledge to read, the courage to speak, and the strength to act.

NARRATOR cont...

14 His life was the story of America's unfinished promise — the same story we live today. These are his words. They are our inheritance. They are our warning. And they are our hope.

-Birth and Bondage-

B

NARRATOR cont...

20

2. In the fields of Talbot County Maryland, this young boy learned the weight of chains before he knew the weight of years. He saw a nation that spoke of liberty while dealing in human flesh. From the first days of his life, he understood what hypocrisy feels like, not as an idea, but as an iron collar around the soul.

ORATOR:

C

ORATOR cont....

26

3. "You have seen how a man was made a slave; you shall see how a slave was made a man."

4. "I have often wished myself a beast or a bird — anything rather than a slave. I was wretched and gloomy beyond my power to describe. "I was too thoughtful to be happy"

Narrator

Narrator

2

ORATOR cont.... D

34

5. "Find out just what any people will quietly submit to, and you have found out the exact measure of injustice and wrong which will be imposed upon them..."

6. "This struggle may be a moral one, or it may be a physical one, and it may be both, but it must be a struggle."

-Awakening of Mind-

E Brass Chorale

ORATOR cont....

40

7. This is American slavery; no marriage—no education—the light of the gospel shut out from the dark mind of the bondman—and he is forbidden by law to even learn to read."

44

NARRATOR:

51

8. The law said he must remain ignorant. He broke the law. With stolen words and smuggled lessons, he opened a door in his mind that no jailer could close.

NARRATOR cont...

56

9. In the light of literacy, he saw the truth of slavery and he could no longer accept it.

ORATOR: F

Solo Trpt with Narrator

58

10. I heard my master say, if you teach that black man how to read, here would be no keeping him. It would forever unfit him to be a slave.

ORATOR cont....

62

11. These words sank deep into my heart, and called into existence an entirely new train of thought.

ORATOR cont....

12. "It was a new and special revelation, explaining dark and mysterious things, with which my youthful understanding had struggled with.
From that moment, I understood the pathway from slavery to freedom!!"s

Passage: -Flight To Freedom-

G = 150

Woodwind Tutti

70

Snare Enters

82

85

88

I

WW tutti Repeats

94

100

J

Bsns and Hrns 8th solo Rhythm

106

113

Narrator

4 **-Free From Bondage-**

K ♩ = 120

Piano Enters

117

NARRATOR:

13. On a September morning
in 1838, he put on a sailor's uniform and stepped onto a
train.

NARRATOR cont...

122

14. He carried borrowed papers,
a pounding heart, and a will that no law could crush.

L NARRATOR cont...

NARRATOR cont...

NARRATOR cont...

126

15. He traveled north,
not just toward freedom,
but toward the rest of his life.

16. Escaping slavery
demanded both
courage and cunning.

17. It was a
gamble with
everything at stake

ORATOR:

M

134

18. I now resolved that, however long I might remain a slave
in form, the day had passed forever when I could be a slave in fact"

ORATOR cont....

N ♩ = 100
WW soli

140

19. "Slaveholders, are only a band of successful robbers,
who, went into Africa stealing and reducing my people to slavery."

ORATOR cont....

146

20. "I had a right to liberty,
against every obstacle even against the lives of our enslavers."

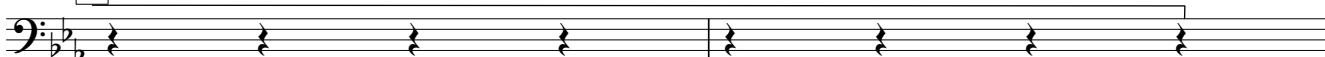
ORATOR cont....

Strings Tremolo

150

21. "No man can be truly free
whose liberty is dependent upon the thought, feeling and action of others,

ORATOR cont...

O Basses Glissando

155 and who has himself no means in his
own hands for guarding, protecting, defending and maintaining that liberty

ORATOR cont....

ORATOR cont....

157

22. "Everybody
has
asked the question..."

23. "What
shall we do with the Negro?"

ORATOR cont....

ORATOR cont....

162

24. "I have had
but one
answer from the beginning."

25. "Do nothing with us! Your doing with
us has already played the mischief with us."

ORATOR cont....

26. "Do nothing with us!"!

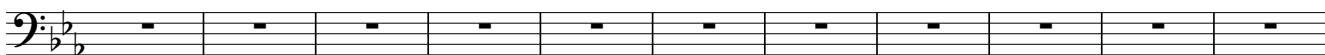
♩ = 150

P

Woodwinds melody w/hrms



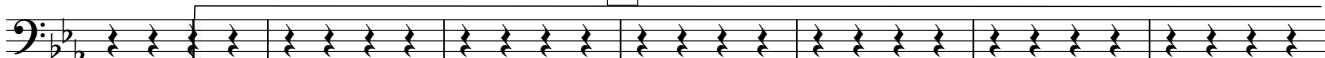
171

Q Passage: -Across The Atlantic-

180

NARRATOR:

Bsns and Hrns 8th note rhythm

R

191

27. When his words became too dangerous for America,
he took them across the sea to Ireland, where he found no color line drawn

NARRATOR cont...



198

between himself and others. But he found another people also
under oppression and he knew now that the fight for freedom has no borders

Narrator

6 **-An Irish Welcome-**

S Irish Tune Brass Chorale



205

ORATOR:

T Irish Tune String Melody



213

28. "In Ireland, I have seen no one degraded by me, or made to feel that he or she would be exalted by keeping me down.

ORATOR cont....



216

29. "Amongst them all, I saw no one that seemed to be shocked or disturbed by my dark presence.

ORATOR cont....



30. The warm and generous co-operation contrasted so strongly with my long and bitter experience in the United States

NARRATOR:

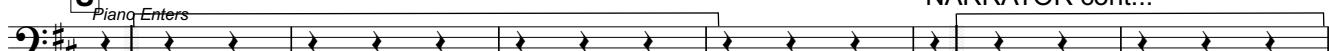
U Piano Enters



221

31. In Europe, Frederick Douglass was welcomed into homes, invited to lecture, and never treated as less-than human

NARRATOR cont...



32. When he came back, his speeches more boldly attacked the hypocrisy of so-called American democracy

NARRATOR cont...

V

NARRATOR cont...



227

33. How could a nation that claimed liberty and equality treat its Black citizens worse than the most impoverished Europeans were treated.

34. This contradiction was cemented in his mind and he knew he had a greater vision of the role he must play in the shaping of America

ORATOR:



233

35. "I can truly say, I have spent some of the happiest moments of my life since landing in Ireland. I seem to have undergone a transformation. I believe I live a new life."

**Passage: - A Return To
America Fully "Woke"-**

W

Trumpets Enter

150 BPM

238

X

249

Y*My Country 'Tis of Thee*

254

ORATOR:

266

36. "In thinking of America, I find myself admiring her blue sky, her grand old woods, her fertile fields, her beautiful rivers and lakes, and her star-crowned mountains.

ORATOR cont....

275

"But my rapture is soon checked—my joy turned to mourning. I remember that all is cursed with the infernal spirit of slaveholding

PART II: AMERICA A NEW LIFE

Z $\text{♪} = 80$ *ORATOR cont....*

280

37. as America will not allow her children to love her.

AA*Strings melodic line*

284

8

NARRATOR:Piano Enters
BB

288

38. After arriving back in America a free man, his speeches were more critical of the southern slaveholders, but more importantly he attacked and condemned those who allowed the atrocities to manifest and spread.

NARRATOR cont...

39. He was less willing to stay in the stereotypical slave narrative his white abolitionist allies had built for him,

NARRATOR cont...

293

40. He was more determined to speak with authority as a leader in his own right and to agitate those who perpetuated hatred. This was now the sole purpose of his life and he attacked with a moral conviction that could not be denied.

ORATOR:**CC**

NARRATOR cont...

297

41. Here, Douglass exposes not only the cruelty of slavery, but the corruption of conscious that allowed it to flourish. His words cut through the polite facade of his age, and if we listen, they pierce through ours as well.

42. The white man's happiness cannot be purchased by the black man's misery

ORATOR cont....

ORATOR cont....

302

43. The persecuted Red man the original owners of the soil escaped before the footsteps of the white man and has disappeared from the face of the country.

44. Not so with the Black Man, for more than 200 years we have been identified with its soil under the bitterest circumstances of Slavery

ORATOR cont....

ORATOR cont....

307

45. "We can be remodified, changed, and assimilated,

46. but never extinguished. We Are Here!

7

-The Moral Hypocrisy-

DD $\text{♪} = 120$ **ORATOR cont...**

310

47. "There is not a man beneath the canopy
of heaven, that does not know that slavery is wrong for him."

NARRATOR:

314

48. Douglass was a man of deep moral conviction,

NARRATOR cont... **NARRATOR cont...** **NARRATOR cont...**

316

49. but he never
confused religion
with righteousness.

50. He saw churches
that preached
charity but practiced cruelty,

51. Pulpits that blessed
chains
instead of breaking them.

EE *High Strings Background*

NARRATOR cont...

322

52. He spoke against a faith that
served the master's
whip, instead of the slave's cry.

FF **ORATOR:** *Melody Enters*

329

53. "Between the Christianity of this land, and the
Christianity of Christ, I recognize the widest possible difference."

ORATOR cont.... **ORATOR cont....**

333

54. "I love the
pure, peaceable, and
impartial Christianity of Christ:"

55. "I therefore hate the corrupt, slaveholding,
women-whipping, cradle-plundering,
partial, and hypocritical Christianity of this land."

GG **ORATOR cont....**

339

56. "I regarded them with contempt
and scor too deep for utterance,
and my soul
revolted at their mean and selfish conduct."

Narrator

10

ORATOR cont....

344

57. "The slave auctioneer's bell and the church-going bell chime in with each other, and the bitter cries of the heart-broken slave are drowned in the religious shouts of his pious master!"

-The Cries and the Sermons-

HH *Percussion Solo*

349

-The Woman-

II

$\text{♪} = 110$

361

NARRATOR:
58. Douglass believed that the struggle for freedom was incomplete without women at its heart.

365

59. For him, the rights of women were inseparable from the rights of the enslaved and the oppressed.

NARRATOR cont...
60. He knew that the denial of equality to women was born of the same in justice that denied equality to his people.

JJ *Background Enters*
NARRATOR cont...

369

61. His words remind us that liberty must be universal, or it is no liberty at all.

ORATOR:

KK *Melody*

62. I believe no man, however gifted can voice the wrongs and present the demands of women with the skill and power of woman herself

ORATOR cont....

373

63. Her right to be and to do is as full, complete and perfect as the right of any man on earth.

376

64. I say of her, as I say of the colored people, "Give her fair play, and hands off."

LL

NARRATOR:

380

65. Frederick Douglass
belonged to the 19th century, but his voice belongs to the present.

383

Strings Tremolo
NARRATOR cont...

66. He told us that the limits of tyranny are set by the endurance
of those who resist it. Let us be resistant, Let us be better than
we were yesterday.
Let us be, in his words and in our deeds, a people worthy of freedom!

MM Your 4th of July-

391

ORATOR:

395

67. What, to the
American slave, is your 4th of July?

68. I answer: a day that
reveals to him, more
than all other days in the year,

399

ORATOR cont....

69. the gross injustice and cruelty to which he is the constant victim.

401

ORATOR cont....

ORATOR cont....

70. This Fourth of
July is yours, not mine.

71. You may
rejoice, I must mourn!

Narrator

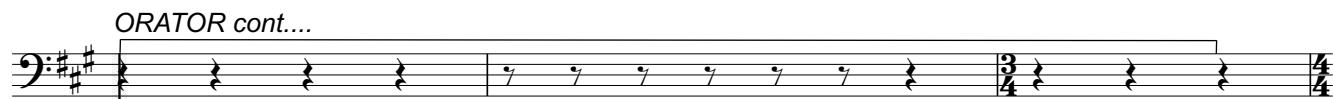
12

J = 55

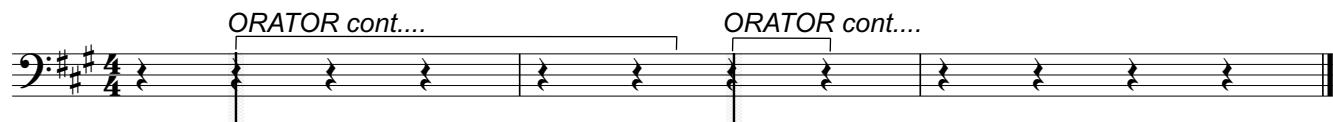
ORATOR cont....



405 72. Allow me to say, in conclusion, notwithstanding the
dark picture I have this day presented of the state of the nation.



408 73. "I do not despair of this
country, drawing encouragement from the
Declaration of Independence,
the great principles it contains, and the genius of American Institutions."



411 74. I, therefore, leave off where I began,

ORATOR cont....

75. with hope!