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For Matt Rund TO REAP THE **BLESSINGS OF FREEDOM**

A Medley of Hymns of the United States Armed Forces

Arranged by DOUGLAS E. WAGNER (ASCAP)

25 INSTRUMENTATION Conductor 2nd B[,] Trumpet l st Violin L 2 C Flute 3 Trombone 8 2nd Violin 2 Oboe Т Tuba 3rd Violin Mallet Percussion I st B[,] Clarinet Т (Viola T.C.) 2nd B[,] Clarinet 5 Viola (Chimes, Bells) 5 Cello 2 Bassoon Т Timpani 4 Horn in F Percussion I (Snare Drum) L String Bass Ist B[,] Trumpet 2 Percussion II (Suspended Cymbal, Crash Cymbals) PROGRAM NOTES

This reverent medley presents the hymns of the major branches of the United States Armed Forces and includes (in order of appearance) "Eternal Father, Strong to Save/Eternal Father, Lord of Hosts" (Navy/Coast Guard), "Lord, Guard and Guide the Men Who Fly" (Air Force), "From the Halls of Montezuma" (Marines), and "God of Our Fathers" (Army).

The title of the work takes a phrase from Thomas Paine's tract, The American Crisis (No. 4), written September 12, 1777, the day after the bloodiest conflict of the Revolutionary War on the Battlefield at Brandywine. The text begins as follows:



Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom, must, like men, undergo the fatigues of supporting it. The event of yesterday was one of those kinds of alarms, which is sufficient to rouse us to duty, without being of consequence enough to depress our fortitude. It is not a field of a few acres of ground, but a cause, that we are defending, and whether we defeat the enemy in one battle, or by degrees, the consequences are the same.

Paine's words have as a profound meaning today as they did in 1777, eerily reminiscent of carnage of another sort some 224 years later on September II, 2001. Whether that "few acres of ground" be a battlefield or the heart of one of our largest cities, we can be sure that the American spirit will triumph and that the brave men and women of our armed forces will be there to ensure our lasting freedom and democratic way of life for all time.



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