Hymn To Freedom

Words by Harriette Hamilton Music by Oscar Peterson arr. Seppo Hovi

When ev'ry heart joins ev'ry heart and together yearns for liberty, that's when we'll be free.

When ev'ry hand joins ev'ry hand and together molds our destiny, that's when we'll be free.

Any hour, any day, the time soon will come when men will live in dignity that's when we'll be free.

When ev'ry man joins in our song and together singing harmony that's when we'll be free.

Oscar Peterson

(b. 1925

Oscar Peterson was born in Montreal, the fourth of five children. He studied piano with his sister before pursuing formal training with the gifted Hungarian classical pianist, and deMarky. Later, Oscar won the Ken Soble Amateur Show and made various appearances on local radio shows as guest artist. He also appeared on National radio shows such as "Happy Gang," and the "Light Up and Listen Hour." About this time, he debuted his radio program, "Fifteen Minutes Piano Rambling."

In 1947, Oscar Peterson formed his first Canadian Trio consisting of double bassist Austin "Ozzie" Roberts, drummer Clarence Jones, and, for a time, guitarist Ben Johnson. At an appearance in the Alberta Lounge in 1949, impresario Norman Granz heard him and enticed him into making a guest appearance at Carnegie Hall with his all-star concert troupe known as "Jazz at the Philharmonic." He commenced recording with Norman Granz' Mercury label and formed his first U.S. duo with bassist Ray Brown. With this trio and as a soloist, Oscar Peterson performed many concerts in the United States, Canada, and Europe.

During his touring schedules, he formed a jazz school in Toronto, known as the Advanced School of Contemporary Music, which attracted students from all over the world.

In recent years, Oscar has devoted more time to composition. Among his works are CANADIANA SUITE, HALLELUJAH TIME, BLUES FOR BIG SCOTIA, AFRICAN SUITE, EASTER SUITE, ROYAL WEDDING SUITE, and HYMN TO FREEDOM.

Winner of many awards, he was appointed an Officer to the Order of Canada in 1972, and then elevated to Companion to the Order of Canada in 1984. In 1991, he was named as Chevalier in the Order of Quebec, and awarded the Toronto Arts Award (Lifetime Achievement); in 1992, The Order of Ontario as well as Governor General's Award (Lifetime Achievement); in 1993, The Glenn Gould Prize; and recently, in 1997, the Loyola Medal, Concordia University.

Mr. Peterson resides in Mississauga, Ontario. His hobbies include fishing, photography and astronomy, and he is an avid audiophile and synthesist. His home contains his own private recording studio, enabling him to work as well as continue to enjoy his family life.

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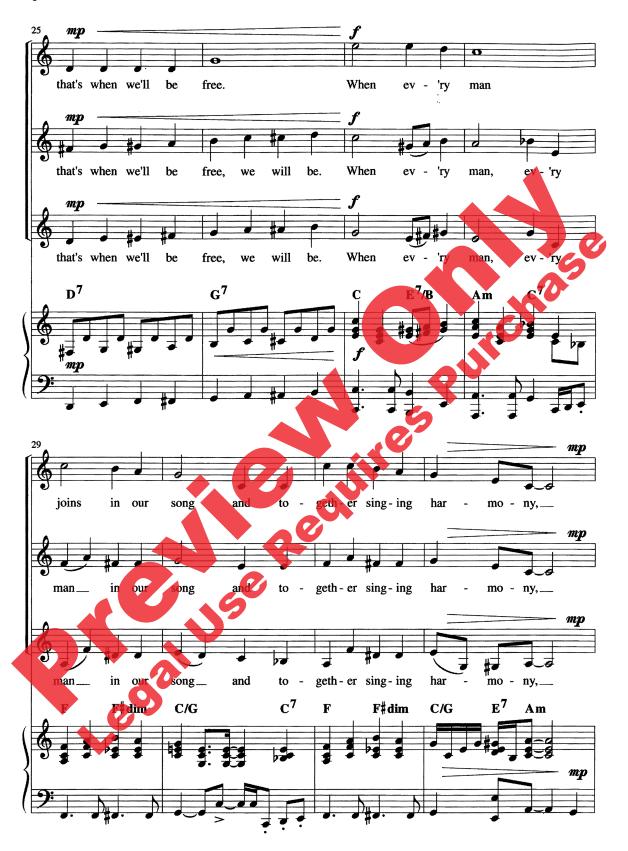
For S.S.A. Choir and Piano



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