

No union is more profound

Words by
Justice Anthony Kennedy
(b. 1936)

Solo and SSA a cappella

Music by
Joshua Fishbein

Steadily, contemplative ♩ = 69 *broadening*

p *mp* *p*

cantabile N. B. (♩ = ♩) (♩ = ♩)

Soprano I
Ooh, _____ No un-ion, no un-ion is more pro-found than

Soprano II
Ooh, _____ ooh, _____ more pro-found than

Alto
Ooh, _____ ooh, _____ Ah, than _____

Steadily, contemplative ♩ = 69 *broadening* (♩ = ♩) (♩ = ♩)

Keyboard
(for rehearsal only)

6 **Faster**

mp *pressing forward* *relaxing (poco rit.)* *p* *pp* ♩ = 76

S I
mar-riage, for it em-bod-ies the high-est i-deals of love, fi-

S II
mar-riage, for it em-bod-ies the high-est i-deals of love, _____

A
mar-riage, for it em-bod-ies the high-est i-deals of love, fi-

mp *pressing forward* *relaxing (poco rit.)* *p* *pp* ♩ = 76

Keyboard

* Note: This composition may also be sung a half-step lower than notated.

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11 *cresc. poco a poco* *p* *mp* *mf* *pressing forward* *relaxing*

S I del - i - ty, de - vo - tion, sac - ri - fice, and fam - i - ly.

S II *pp* *p* *mp* *mf* *cresc. poco a poco*

fi - del - i - ty, de - vo - tion, sac - ri - fice, and fam - i - ly.

A *cresc. poco a poco* *p* *mp* *mf*

del - i - ty, de - vo - tion, sac - ri - fice, and fam - i - ly.

pressing forward *relaxing*

A little slower $\text{♩} = 72$

16 *mf dolce* *p* *mp* *mf*

S I In form - ing a mar - i - tal un - ion, two peo - ple be - come some - thing great - er than once they

S II *mf dolce* *p* *mp* *mf*

In form - i (ng) ng, Mm, un - ion, Hm, once they

A *mf dolce* *p*

In form - i (ng) ng, Mm,

A little slower $\text{♩} = 72$

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21

S I *mp* < > *p* *mf dolce* *poco ritardando* *mp* > *p*
 were, un - io(n) nn, great-er than once they were, they

S II *mp* < > *p* *mf dolce* *poco ritardando* *mp* > *p*
 were, un - io(n) nn, great-er than once they

A *mf dolce* *poco ritardando* *mp*
 In form-ing a mar-i - tal un-ion, two peo-ple be-come some-thing great-er than once they were,

ritardando **Faster, march-like** ♩ = 84 (♩ = 42)

26

Solo *mf quasi-recitative* *poco ritardando*
 As some of the pe-ti-tion-ers in these cas - es

S I *pp* *pp* *pp*
 were Ooh, ooh,

S II *p* *pp* *pp*
 were. Ooh, ooh,

A *p* < > *pp* *pp* *pp*
 than once they were. Ooh,

ritardando **Faster, march-like** ♩ = 84 (♩ = 42)

No union is more profound

broadening

30

Solo *f p mf* *cresc.*

S I *p* *fp* *mf* *cresc.*

S II *p* *fp* *mf* *cresc.*

A *p* *fp* *mf* *cresc.*

dem-on-strate, mar-riage em-bod-ies a love that may en - dure, en -

dem-on - strate, mar-riage, en - dure, en -

dem-on-strate, mar - riage, en - dure, en -

dem-on-strate, mar - riage, en - dure, en -

broadening

34

Solo *f* *molto* *relaxing* *mp* *sfz p* *ritenuto* *Slower, grave* $\text{♩} = 76 (\text{♩} = c. 38)$ *mp* *solemn*

S I *f* *molto* *mp* *p*

S II *f* *molto* *mp* *p*

A *f* *molto* *mp* *p*

dure e - ven past death. It would mis - un - der -

dure, e - ven past death.

dure past death.

dure, past death.

relaxing *ritenuto* *Slower, grave* $\text{♩} = 76 (\text{♩} = c. 38)$

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A little slower,
but faster than tempo primo ♩ = 76

67 *p* *cantabile* *mp*

Solo Their hope, Their hope is not to be con-

S I Oh, [Our] hope,

S II Oh,

A Oh, oh,

A little slower,
but faster than tempo primo ♩ = 76

72 *p* *mf* *scornfully* *mp*

Solo demned to live in lone-li-ness, ex-clud-ed from one of civ-i-li-za-tion's old - est in-sti-

S I in lone - li - ness,

S II con-demned, lone li - ness, ex -

A oh, oh,

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77

Solo tu - tions.

S I ex - clud-ed from one of civ-i-li - za-tion's old - est in - sti -

S II clud-ed from one of civ-i-li - za - tion's old - est in - sti - tu - tions, in - sti -

A ex - clud-ed from one of civ-i-li - za-tion's old - est in - sti - tu - tions, in - sti -

mp scornfully *mf* *scornfully* *mf*

Tempo primo (♩ = 69), broadening gradually

82

Solo They ask for e-qual dig-ni-ty in the eyes of the law.

S I tu - tions. dig - ni - ty, law,

S II tu - tions. dig - ni - ty, law,

A tu - tions. dig - ni - ty, [We] ask for e-qual

mf sustained *p* *(p)* *p* *mf sustained*

Tempo primo (♩ = 69), broadening gradually

No union is more profound

87 *f* *molto allargando*

Solo They ask for e-qual dig - ni-ty,

S I *mp* *cresc. poco a poco* *mf* *f* *ff*
dig - ni - ty, dig - ni - ty, dig - ni-ty in the eyes of the

S II *mp* *cresc. poco a poco* *mf* *f* *ff*
dig - ni - ty, dig - ni - ty, dig - ni-ty in they eyes of the

A *f* *ff*
dig - ni-ty, [We] ask for e-qual dig - ni-ty in the eyes of the

molto allargando

91 *a tempo* (♩ = 69) *f* *reassured* *holding back (ritardando)* (♩ = ♩)

Solo The Con-sti - tu - tion grants them that right.

S I *mf* *p* *calm, reassured*
law. Ooh, The Con-sti - tu - tion grants [us] that

S II *mf* *p* *calm, reassured*
law. Ooh, The Con-sti - tu - tion grants [us] that

A *mf* *p* *calm, reassured*
law. Ooh, The Con-sti - tu - tion grants [us] that

a tempo (♩ = 69) *holding back (ritardando)* (♩ = ♩)

No union is more profound

95 **Slower, freely** ♩ = c. 60 (♩ = c. 30) *mf* *boldly* *f* *molto*

Solo
The Con - sti - tu - tion grants them that

S I
right. The Con - sti - tu - tion, Con - sti - tu - tion, The Con - sti - tu - tion,

S II
right. The Con - sti - tu - tion, The Con - sti - tu - tion, The Con - sti - tu - tion,

A
right. The Con - sti - tu - tion, The Con - sti - tu - tion,

Slower, freely ♩ = c. 60 (♩ = c. 30)

100 **Slower than tempo primo** ♩ = 63 *mp* *broadening* *rit. poco a poco al fine*

Solo
right.

S I
p *mp cantabile* *p*
Ooh, No un - ion, No un - ion is more pro - found than

S II
p *pp* *mp* *p*
Ooh, ooh, more pro - found than

A
p *pp* *p*
Ooh, ooh, Ah, than

Slower than tempo primo ♩ = 63 *broadening* *rit. poco a poco al fine*

105 *(ritardando poco a poco al fine)*

Solo

S I

S II

A

mar - riage, than mar - riage. mar - riage, than mar - riage. mar - riage, than mar - riage.

(ritardando poco a poco al fine)

June 29 - July 14, 2015
Rockville, Maryland
c. 7'30"

*No union is more profound than marriage, for it embodies the highest ideals of love, fidelity, devotion, sacrifice, and family. In forming a marital union, two people become something greater than once they were. As some of the petitioners in these cases demonstrate, marriage embodies a love that may endure even past death. It would misunderstand these men and women to say they disrespect the idea of marriage. Their *[our] plea is that they *[we] do respect it, respect it so deeply that they seek to find its fulfillment for themselves *[ourselves]. Their *[our] hope is not to be condemned to live in loneliness, excluded from one of civilization's oldest institutions. They *[we] ask for equal dignity in the eyes of the law. The Constitution grants them *[us] that right.*

From the United States Supreme Court majority opinion on the case of Obergefell v. Hodges (June 26, 2015), written by Justice Anthony Kennedy (b. 1936).
Note: This text is in the public domain.

* These words, not included in the original text, were inserted by the composer.