

No union is more profound

Words by
Justice Anthony Kennedy
(b. 1936)

Solo and TBB a cappella

Music by
Joshua Fishbein

Steadily, contemplative $\text{♩} = 69$ *broadening* *p* *mp* *cantabile* *N. B.* $(\text{♩} = \text{♩})$ *p*

Tenor
Ooh, No un-ion, no un-ion is more pro-found than

Baritone
Ooh, ooh, more pro-found than

Bass
Ooh, ooh, Ah, than

Keyboard
(for rehearsal only)

Steadily, contemplative $\text{♩} = 69$ *broadening* $(\text{♩} = \text{♩})$ $(\text{♩} = \text{♩})$

6 *mp* *pressing forward* *relaxing (poco rit.)* **Faster** $\text{♩} = 76$ *p* *pp*

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

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

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

pressing forward *relaxing (poco rit.)* **Faster** $\text{♩} = 76$

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pressing forward *relaxing*

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

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

Bar **pp** *cresc. poco a poco* **p** *mp* **mf**
fi-del-i-ty, de-vo-tion, sac-ri-fice, and fam-i-ly.

B *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 ♩ = 72

16 **mf dolce**

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

Bar **mf dolce** **p** *mp* **mf**
In form-i(ng) ng, Mm, un-ion, Hm, once they

B **mf dolce** **p**
In form-i(ng) ng, Mm,

A little slower ♩ = 72

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30 *broadening cresc.*

Solo *f p mf*

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

T *p > < fp mf < > cresc.*

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

Bar *p > < fp mf < > cresc.*

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

B *p > < fp mf < > cresc.*

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

34 *relaxing ritenuito Slower, grave ♩ = 76 (♩ = c. 38)*

Solo *f molto mp sfz p mp solemn*

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

T *f molto mp < > p*

dure e - ven past death.

Bar *f molto mp < > p*

dure, past death.

B *f molto mp < > p*

dure, past death.

relaxing ritenuito Slower, grave ♩ = 76 (♩ = 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-

T Oh, [Our] hope, —

Bar Oh,

B 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-

T in lone - li - ness, —

Bar con-demned, lone - li - ness, — ex -

B oh, oh,

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molto allargando

87 *f*

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

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

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

B dig - ni-ty, [We] ask for e-equal dig - ni-ty in the eyes of the

molto allargando

a tempo (♩ = 69)

holding back (ritardando)

91 *f* *reassured*

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

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

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

B *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 *mf* *boldly* *f* *molto*
The Con - sti - tu - tion grants them that

T *mf* *boldly* *f* *molto*
right. The Con - sti - tu - tion, Con - sti - tu - tion, The Con - sti - tu - tion,

Bar *mf* *boldly* *f* *molto*
right. The Con - sti - tu - tion, The Con - sti - tu - tion, — The Con - sti - tu - tion,

B *mf* *boldly* *f* *molto*
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 *mp* *broadening* *rit. poco a poco al fine*
right.

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

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

B *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

T
mar - riage, than mar - riage.

Bar
mar - riage, than mar - riage.

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