

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** $\text{♩} = 76$

No union is more profound

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* *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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poco ritardando

21

T
8
were, un - io(n) nn, great-er than once they were, they

Bar
were, un - io(n) nn, great-er than once they

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

mp < > *p* *mf dolce* < > *mp* > *p*

mf dolce < > *mp* > *p* *molto*

mf dolce < > *mp* >

poco ritardando

ritardando

Faster, march-like ♩ = 84 (♩ = 42)

26

Solo
8
As some of the pe-ti-tion-ers in these cas - es

T
8
were. Ooh, ooh,

Bar
were. Ooh, ooh,

B
than once they were. Ooh,

mf quasi-recitativo < > < > < >

pp , *(pp)*

p < > *pp* , *(pp)*

p < > *pp* , *(pp)*

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

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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 ritenuato 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.

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

67

Solo *p cantabile* Their hope, — *mp* Their hope is not to be con-

T *pp* Oh, — *p cantabile* [Our] hope, —

Bar *pp* Oh, — *pp* oh,

B *pp* Oh, — *pp* oh,

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

72

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

T *p* in lone - li - ness, —

Bar *p* con-demned, *(p)* lone - li - ness, — *mp* ex -

B *p* oh, — *(p)* oh, —

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77

Solo

tu - tions.

T

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

Bar

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

B

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*

mp *scornfully* *mf*

Tempo primo (♩ = 69), broadening gradually

82

Solo

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

T

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

Bar

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

B

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

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

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

p *mf* *sustained*

Tempo primo (♩ = 69), broadening gradually

No union is more profound

molto allargando

87 *f*

Solo They ask for e-qual 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-qual 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* *calm, reassured* *p*
 law. Ooh, The Con - sti - tu - tion grants [us] that

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

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

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

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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).
Note: This text is in the public domain.

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