

Ulrik Remy

Symphony # 4 "Liberty Bell"

1. Liberty Bell

Adagio sostenuto

Liberty Bell was cast in England in 1752 for the Pennsylvania Statehouse (which now is Independence Hall). It is inscribed with the words "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof".

It rang for the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence on July 8th of 1776. During the British occupation of Philadelphia, it was hidden in Allentown and eventually returned to Independence Hall in 1778.

It cracked on July 8th of 1835, while tolling the death of Chief Justice John Marshall. However, its voice was not silenced, and to this day its call is heard the world around – "let freedom ring".

In 1992, the American Procrustians' Club sent a request to the foundry in England (which, surprisingly, was still in business) claiming the lifetime warranty for the bell. The foundry responded that they would be happy to replace the bell at no charge as long as it be returned in its original packaging.

Liberty Bell was pitched at a deep E flat. Its call will accompany us throughout this symphony.

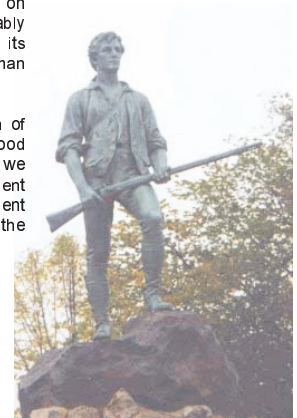


1a. Independence

Vivace

Independence is the key to understanding what the United States of America is all about. The fight for independence from the King of England was just the beginning of a legacy that has carried on throughout the centuries. The Declaration of Independence, probably the most ingenious political paper ever written, did not only serve its political purpose of the day – it defined the most fundamental human rights for generations and centuries to come.

We are, like Theodore Roosevelt said in his inauguration speech of 1905, "the heirs of the ages." We carry the legacy of those who stood up to tyranny, who fought oppression with wit and ingenuity, and we shall not relent in sending this message to the world: That government is not the business of the few, the rich, and the powerful. Government is the business of the people, and it depends on the consent of the governed.



2. The Statue Of Liberty Lento e Maestoso - Andante Cantabile

A gift from the people of France, the Statue of Liberty was erected and dedicated in 1886. Its message to the ships entering New York Harbor and, more importantly, its message to the world, is:

"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, your wretched refuse of your teeming shore; send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

I came to this country tired and poor, tempest-tost and homeless, and yearning to breathe free. Liberty kept her promise.

