

3. The Alamo Moderato Affettuoso - A Tempo d'Allegro

The Battle of the Alamo is one of the great iconic events in the history of this country, and especially in the history of the State of Texas.

Fort Alamo was manned by a mere 180, and they all died in that battle when the Mexican army under their commander Santa Ana attacked and besieged them. The names of Jim Bowie, David Crockett and William Travis were immortalized by the tale of that fight, and also by the song "Remember the Alamo" by Texan country singer Jane Bowers. Motives from that song are worked into this movement.

"Remember the Alamo" became the battle cry for American soldiers wherever they fought, all the way into World War II.

Texas gained its independence from Mexico in the battle of San Jacinto and became a free republic before joining the United States in 1845.



4. Selma Molto Andante

Even though the right to vote regardless of race, color, or previous condition of servitude had been established by the 15th Amendment to the Constitution in 1870, the African-American community was exposed to severe hindrances in the execution of that right all the way into the second half of the 20th century. Some states utilized their authority to establish voter registration procedures that made it virtually impossible for the African-American population to participate in the democratic process.

The frustration about this situation culminated in the plan of a march from the town of Selma, Alabama to the state capitol in Montgomery.

The first march, on March 7th, 1965, was brutally ended by state and local police forces in what would later be known as "Bloody Sunday." The second march, on the following Tuesday, was diverted and led back to the church where it had started.

Yet, the march was unstoppable. In its third attempt, on March 11th, it successfully made it to Montgomery. The iconic song "We Shall Overcome" was its voice, and it became the anthem of the Civil Rights Movement.

Five months after the march, Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act into law.



5. The Deed Overcomes Death Marcia Funerale

There are numerous memorials in Washington, D.C., and elsewhere in the country reminding us of those who fought, suffered and died for the freedom and the liberties we enjoy today.

Friends from other parts of the world are telling me that they don't like American history, as it is so full of wars, bloodshed, and tragedy – as if any national history were free of that.

Yet, freedom comes at a price, and more often than not, it's the price of life. That price is paid by those who would rather die fighting than give up on their innate right to freedom and liberty – those, on whose shoulders we stand.

And so, in the midst of the grief for the fallen, a song is sung in praise of the heroes who paved the road to freedom with their own blood. To us, the heirs of the ages, the call is made not only to remember their sacrifice but to carry on their legacy.

