

FRANK STEMPER

LAST WORDS

EXCERPTS FROM THE FINAL SPEECH OF
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Delivered the night before his murder,
3 APRIL 1968

FOR
UNACCOMPANIED
MIXED CHOIR

5.5 MINUTES

PERFORMANCE NOTES

During long durations, breathing should be staggered, wherever necessary.

Accented syllables should be stressed normally even when they fall on rhythmically weak beats or subdivisions of beats.

In measures 7 and 29, the word “the” should be pronounced with the formal long “E” sound. IN all other occurrences, however, the “E’ in the word “the” should be pronounced informally, like the “u” in butter.

Throughout most of this piece, the choir should be divided into six equal parts – three women and three men. In measures 36-40, the men should divide into two equal sections.

Following brief solo passages, the remainder of that section should return, “sneaking” back into the texture – marked:

Tutti niente cresc.

**For
The Donovan Family**

LAST WORDS

Frank Stemper

♩ = 60 - Like a Prayer

Soprano
I may not get there with you with you.

M. Sop.
I may not get there with you with you.

Alto
I may not get there with you with you.

Tenor
Some Some -

Baritone
Some Some -

Bass
Some Some -

S
The is - sue the is - sue is IN -

MS
The is - sue the is - sue is IN -

A
The is - sue the is - sue is IN -

T
where I read of the FREE - DOM of SPEECH.

B
where I read of the FREE - DOM of SPEECH

Bs
where I read of the FREE - DOM of SPEECH

10

S
JUS-TICE. We are de - ter - mined to be PEO - - - - PLE.

MS
JUS-TICE. We are de - ter - mined to be PEO - - - - PLE.

A
JUS-TICE. We are de - ter - mined to be PEO - - - - PLE.

T
FREE - DOM to be PEO PLE. *pp*

B
FREE - DOM to be PEO - PLE. *pp*

Bs
FREE - DOM to be PEO - PLE.

15 *pp*

S
pp

MS
pp

A
pp

T
15 *pp*, *mf* SOLO *mf* 3
If I were stand - ing Tutti *nienté cresc.* (ing) be - - gin - ning of

B
SOLO *mf* 3
at the be - gin - ning Tutti *nienté cresc.* (ing) I would

Bs
SOLO *mf* 3
of time Tutti *nienté cresc.* (ime)

20 *mf* On t'ward On

MS *mf* On t'ward On

A On t'ward On

T *mf* 8 time I would take my flight through the wil-der-ness

B *mf* take my flight through the wil-der-ness a - cross the Red

Bs *mf* I would take my flight through the wil-der-ness.

24 t'ward the Pro-mised Land. I may not get there with

MS t'ward the Pro-mised Land. I may not get there with

A t'ward the Pro-mised Land. I may not get there with

T *bring out* 8 to Mount O - lym - pus *dim.* *mf* on t'ward the Pro - mised Land. I

B *dim.* Sea on t'ward the Pro - mised Land. I

Bs *dim.* on t'ward the Pro - mised Land. I

28 ; *subito p* *dolcé* YOU. If YOU al-

MS *subito p* *dolcé* YOU. If YOU al-

A *subito p* *dolcé* YOU. If YOU al-

28 *subito p* *dolcé* would turn to the AL - MIGH - TY and say SOLO If YOU al-

T 8 would turn to the AL - MIGH - TY and say

B *subito p* *dolcé* would turn to the AL - MIGH - TY and say

Bs *subito p* *dolcé* would turn to the AL - MIGH - TY and say

33 *mf* *dim.*
 S low me to LIVE just a few years I will be hap - py.

MS *mf* *dim.*
 low me to LIVE just a few years I will be hap - py.

A *mf* *dim.*
 low me to LIVE just a few years I will be hap - py.

33 *pp* *Tutti niente cresc.* *mf* *dim.*
 T 8 low me to LIVE just a few years I will be hap - py just

B *pp* *mf* *dim.*
 LIVE just a few years

Bs *pp* *mf* *dim.*
 LIVE just a few years I will be hap - py just

49

S head. But it does-n't mat - - ter to me now. Be-cause I've

MS head. But it does-n't mat - - ter to me now. Be-cause I've

A head. But it does-n't mat - - ter to me now. Be-cause I've

49

T Some - - - Some-where I read that the GREAT - NESS of A -

B Some - - - Some-where I read that the GREAT - NESS of A -

Bs Some - - - Some-where I read that the GREAT - NESS of A -

pp subito mf

mf

54

S BEEN to the MOUN - - - TAIN Moun-tain TOP. for

MS BEEN to the MOUN - - - TAIN Moun-tain TOP. for

A BEEN to the MOUN - - - TAIN Moun-tain TOP. for

54

T ME-RI - CA Is the RIGHT to pro-test for

B ME-RI - CA Is the RIGHT to pro-test for

Bs ME-RI - CA Is the RIGHT to pro-test for

f

7
59 *mf*

S
RIGHT. *mf*
On - ly when it's dark enough, can you see the stars.

MS
RIGHT. *mf*
On - ly when it's dark enough, can you see the stars.

A
RIGHT. *mf*
On - ly when it's dark enough, can you see the stars.

T
8
RIGHT. *mf*
We've got to see it through to see the stars.

B
RIGHT. *mf*
We've got to see it through to see the stars.

Bs
RIGHT. *mf*
We've got to see it through to see the stars.

64 *pp* *mf* *pp* *p*

S
pp I just want to do God's will. And He's al -

MS
pp I just want to do God's will. And He's al -

A
pp I just want to do God's will. And He's al -

T
8
pp I just want to do God's will. And He's al -

B
pp I just want to do God's will. And He's al -

Bs
pp I just want to do God's will. And He's al -

accel.

71

S lowed me to go up to the Moun-tain

MS lowed me to go up to the Moun-tain and I've looked o-ver

A lowed me to go up to the Moun-tain and I've looked o-ver and I've seen

T 71 up to the moun-tain and I've looked o-ver and I've seen the

B and I've looked o-ver and I've seen the

Bs

o-ver and I've seen the

76

S I may not get there with you. But

MS I may not get there with you. But

A I may not get there with you. But

T 76 Pro - mised Land. So I'm hap-py to -

B Pro - mised Land. hap-py to -

Bs Pro - mised Land. hap-py to -

a tempo ♩ = 60

9

81 *mp* *mf*

S I want you to know to - night, that we as a peo - ple

MS I want you to know to - night, that we as a peo - ple

A I want you to know to - night, that we as a peo - ple

81 *mp*

T night. I'm not wor - ried a - bout a - ny - thing. I'm

B night. I'm not wor - ried a - bout a - ny - thing. I'm

Bs night. I'm not wor - ried a - bout a - ny - thing. I'm

85 *f* *mf* *f* *accel.*

S will get to the Pro-mised Land. Mine eyes have seen the Glo - ry of the

MS will get to the Pro-mised Land. Mine eyes have seen the Glo - ry of the

A will get to the Pro-mised Land. Mine eyes have seen the Glo - ry of the

85 *mf* *f*

T not fear-ing a - ny man. Mine eyes have seen the Glo - ry of the

B not fear-ing a - ny man. Mine eyes have seen the Glo - ry of the

Bs not fear-ing a - ny man. Mine eyes have seen the Glo - ry of the

Faster $\bullet = 76$

poco rit.

ff wait until
echo fades

89

S
com - ing of the LORD.

MS
com - ing of the LORD.

A
com - ing of the LORD.

89

T
com - ing of the LORD.

B
com - ing of the LORD.

Bs
com - ing of the LORD.