

composed for the San Francisco Girls Chorus, Susan McMane, conductor,
and the San Francisco Boys Chorus, Ian Robertson, conductor
for the Presidential Inauguration of Barack Obama, January 20, 2009

An Exhortation

Barack Obama
from his *Victory Speech*
November 4, 2008

for SSA Chorus and Piano

David Conte

Moderately, not too slow ♩ = 80

mf

Sopranos

A - mer - i - ca, we have come so far.

mf

Altos

A - mer - i - ca, we have come so far.

Piano

f *mf*

6

We have seen so much. But there is so much more to do. Let us

We have seen so much. But there is so much more to do. Let us

12

ask our-selves: If our chil - dren should live to see The next cen - tu - ry, — What

ask our-selves: If our chil - dren should live to see The next cen - tu - ry, — What

17

A bit faster ♩ = 96

f

pro-gress will we have made? — This is our chance to

pro-gress will we have made? — This is our chance to

A bit faster ♩ = 96

f

22

re - af - firm that

an - swer that call. — This is our time To re - af - firm that fun - da - men - tal

an - swer that call. — This is our time — To re - af - firm that fun - da - men - tal

28 *rit.* **First tempo** ♩ = 80 *mf espress.*

truth That out of man-y, we are one; That while we breathe, we

truth That out of man-y, we are one; That while we breathe, we

mf

34 *f*

hope; And where we are met with doubt, — We will res - pond with that

hope; And where we are met with doubt, — We will res-pond with that

f

39 *broadening*

time - less creed — That sums up the spir-it of a peop - le: —

time - less creed — That sums up the spir-it of a peop - le: —

broadening

Majestically, a bit broader ♩ = 72

ff

Yes, we can, — yes we can, — yes we can. —

ff

Yes, we can, — yes we can, — yes we can. —

Majestically, a bit broader ♩ = 72

ff

2008
San Francisco
c. 2'00"

The musical score is for a piece titled 'An Exhortation' by David Conte. It is written for voice and piano. The score is in common time (C) and begins at measure 44. The tempo/mood is 'Majestically, a bit broader' with a quarter note equal to 72 beats per minute. The dynamic is 'ff' (fortissimo). The vocal parts (Soprano and Alto) have the lyrics: 'Yes, we can, — yes we can, — yes we can. —'. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a more complex rhythmic pattern in the left hand, including some triplets and sixteenth notes. The score ends with a double bar line and a fermata over the final chord.

Program Notes

An Exhortation was composed for the San Francisco Girls Chorus, Susan McMane, conductor, and the San Francisco Boys Chorus, Ian Robertson, conductor. It received its premiere performance at the Presidential Inauguration of Barack Obama on January 20, 2009.

An “exhortation” is an address or communication emphatically urging someone to do something.

—David Conte

An Exhortation

America, we have come so far.
We have seen so much.
But there is so much more to do.

Let us ask ourselves:
If our children should live to see
The next century
What progress will we have made?

This is our chance to answer that call.
This is our time
To reaffirm that fundamental truth
That out of many, we are one;

That while we breathe, we hope;
And where we are met with doubt,
We will respond with that timeless creed
That sums up the spirit of a people:

Yes we can.

—Barack Obama
from his *Victory Speech*
November 4, 2008

Publisher's Notes

This work is available in four versions.
SSA and piano (Catalog No. 7390)
SATB (Catalog No. 7391)
SSAA (Catalog No. 7392)
TTBB (Catalog No. 7393)
The piano part for the version for SSA and piano cannot be used with any of the other versions.

Commissioning Information

The SATB version was commissioned by the Central Bucks High School-West Chamber Choir, Dr. Joseph Ohrt, conductor.

The TTBB version was commissioned by the Turtle Creek Chorale, Jonathan Palant, conductor.

David Conte (b. 1955)

For biographical information about the composer, please visit his Web site. <www.davidconte.net>

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COMPOSER'S CRAFT

