

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Wind Ensemble with Narration

David Lovrien

Wind Ensemble Instrumentation

1 - Piccolo	3 - Trumpet in B \flat 1
2 - Flute 1	3 - Trumpet in B \flat 2
2 - Flute 2	3 - Trumpet in B \flat 3
1 - Oboe 1	2 - Trombone 1
1 - Oboe 2	2 - Trombone 2
1 - Bassoon 1	1 - Bass Trombone
1 - Bassoon 2	2 - Euphonium
3 - Clarinet 1 in B \flat	2 - Tuba
3 - Clarinet 2 in B \flat	2 - String Bass/Contrabassoon
3 - Clarinet 3 in B \flat	1 - Harp (optional)
1 - Bass Clarinet in B \flat	1 - Piano
1 - Contrabass Clarinet in B \flat	4 - Percussion
1 - Alto Saxophone 1	Chimes, Crash Cymbals,
1 - Alto Saxophone 2	Suspended Cymbal,
1 - Tenor Saxophone	Snare Drum, Field Drum,
1 - Baritone Saxophone	Bass Drum
2 - Horn in F 1	
1 - Horn in F 2	
1 - Horn in F 3	
1 - Horn in F 4	



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Program Notes

The Declaration of Independence is an amazing document, filled with powerful words and ideals that resonate and inspire us still today. In this document, the Continental Congress declares the colonies to be free and independent states, then lists over 2 dozen grievances against King George III, knowing that these words and actions commit the United States to a bloody revolution.

But it is far from a perfect document. The authors, and the society in which they lived, could not begin to comprehend the diversity that would flourish in our country nearly 250 years later. It famously states "that all men are created equal" - even though women, enslaved people and Indigenous Americans were certainly not held equal. And for all its noble intentions, it makes multiple references to the institutional racism of that time, including an outright racial slur against Native Americans, whom it calls "merciless Indian Savages."

So, acknowledging that context, we present this reading of the first founding document of the United States of America - the Declaration of Independence, set to a stirring original score by David Lovrien.

Performance Notes

This piece was premiered by the Dallas Winds on July 4, 2023 – narrated by 11 members of the theater department at Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. It may be performed by any number of narrators, and the text divided any way you prefer.

Performance time is approximately 10 minutes. The music is designed to “flex” to sync with the performance of the narrators, with the primary goal of avoiding loud sections drowning out the narrator(s). Important narrator cues are given in the score; a separate conductor script sheet is also included. I have used ritardando, fermatas, vamps, and chime cues to make it relatively easy for the conductor to pace the performance and stay in sync. Please note that the middle section (bar 11 to 91) does not have to stay in perfect sync with the narration cues. It can ebb and flow without disturbing the mood. Just keep an eye loosely on the cues and adjust slightly to avoid having to repeat the vamp at 91 too many times.

There are six places where the narrator(s) must wait for a chime cue before continuing – bars 3, 7, 11, 24, 43, and 93. These are listed in the conductor script also. The audible cues help the narrator(s) so they don't have to turn away from the audience to watch the conductor.

Harp is optional; piano is required.

– David Lovrien

About the Composer

David Lovrien (b. 1963) has been a member of the Dallas Winds since 1991, serving as staff arranger, webmaster and alto saxophonist. He is an active performer of classical, jazz, and folk music. His compositions and arrangements have been performed throughout the world and his website celebrating the life and work of John Philip Sousa is recognized as the foremost Sousa authority on the Internet.

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Dramatically ♩=76

Piccolo
Flute 1
Flute 2
Oboe 1
Oboe 2
Bassoon 1
Bassoon 2
Bb Clarinet 1
Bb Clarinet 2
Bb Clarinet 3
Bb Bass Clarinet
Contrabass Clarinet in Bb
Alto Sax 1
Alto Sax 2
Tenor Sax
Baritone Sax
Narrator(s)

Dramatically ♩=76

In Congress,
July 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the
thirteen united States of America,

Bb Trumpet 1
Bb Trumpet 2
Bb Trumpet 3
F Horn 1
F Horn 2
F Horn 3
F Horn 4
Trombone 1
Trombone 2
Bass Trombone
Euphonium
Tuba

Dramatically ♩=76

Harp
Piano
Double Bass
Contrabassoon
Timpani
Chimes
Crash Cymbals
Suspended Cymbal
Snare Drum
Field Drum
Bass Drum

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12

rit. . . 19 Faster, flowing ♩=84

rit.

Picc. 4

Fl. 1 4

Fl. 2 4

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Cl. 3

B. Cl.

Cb. Cl. *pp*

A. Sax 1

A. Sax 2

T. Sax

B. Sax

W hen in the course of hum an events,

W e hold these truths to be self-evident,

12

rit. . . 19 Faster, flowing ♩=84

rit.

Tpt. 1 4

Tpt. 2 4

Tpt. 3 4

Hn. 1 4

Hn. 2

Hn. 3

Hn. 4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tuba

12

rit. . . 19 Faster, flowing ♩=84

rit.

Hp. *pp*

Pno. *pp*, *pizz.*, *solo*, *mp*

Db. *pp*

Timp. *pp*

Chim. *pp*

Cym.

Perc.

25 Slower ♩=60

33

Picc. Fl. 1 Fl. 2 Ob. 1 Ob. 2 Bsn. 1 Bsn. 2 Cl. 1 Cl. 2 Cl. 3 B. Cl. Cb. Cl. A. Sax 1 A. Sax 2 T. Sax B. Sax

That to secure these rights, Governm ents are instituted ...

Pndence, indeed, w ill dicatate that Governm ents bng established ...

25 Slower ♩=60

33

Tpt. 1 Tpt. 2 Tpt. 3 Hn. 1 Hn. 2 Hn. 3 Hn. 4 Tbn. 1 Tbn. 2 B. Tbn. Euph. Tuba

25 Slower ♩=60

33

Hp. Pno. Db. Timp. Chim. Cym. Perc.

56 64

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Cl. 3

B. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

A. Sax 1

A. Sax 2

T. Sax

B. Sax

1 player
p

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice ...

For protecting them, by a mock Trial,
for punishment of any m urders...

56 64

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tpt. 3

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Hn. 3

Hn. 4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tuba

p

p

p

p

p

p

p

56 64

Hp.

Pno.

Db.

(damped)

Timp.

Chim.

Cym.

Perc.

Field Drum
(muted)

p

2

2

2