

Freedom Ride

Commissioned by Chicago Opera Theater

“Today’s scripture is from Nehemiah”

At a rally at his church, the Rev. Jerome Mitchell delivers a sermon to inspire the Freedom Riders.

Music and Libretto
by Dan Shore
(2020)

Andante religioso ♩=72

Piano *f*

Pno.

9 **JEROME:** “Today’s scripture is from Nehemiah, Cupbearer to the king.

Pno. *mp*

13 “He traveled forth to Jerusalem To rebuild the walls of the city.

Pno.

But there were enemies who opposed Nehemiah: Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem.

17

Pno.

They sent word to meet him on the plain,

Where they thought to take his life.”

21

Pno.

25

25 *f*

Jer.

“Be ye not a - fraid of them! Be ye not a - fraid! Re -

25 *f*

Pno.

29

29 *mf*

Jer.

mem - ber the Lord our God: For He_ is great_ and ter-ri- ble.”_ And

Pno.

34 **Poco rit.** **38** *p*

Jer. 8 what did Ne-he-mi - ah say? What did Ne-he-mi - ah say? "I am en-gaged in a

Pno. **Poco rit.** **38** *p*

39

Jer. 8 great work, And I can-not come down. Why should the great work cease While


Pno.

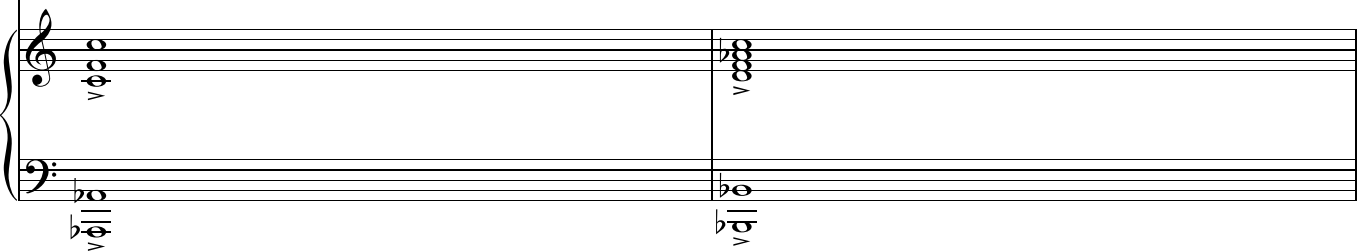
44 **Allarg.** *f*

Jer. 8 I come down to you?" We are all en-gaged in the work of the


Pno. **Allarg.** *f*

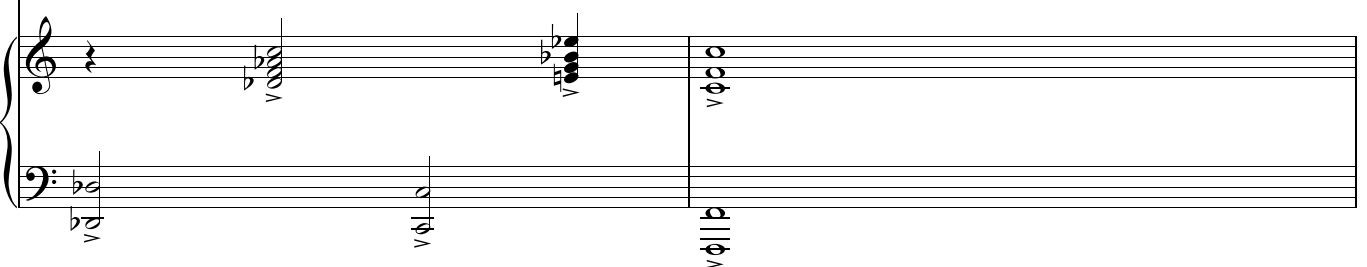
47

Jer.  Lord, We are all re - build - ing the walls of Je - ru - sa - lem, We are all re - pair - ing the

Pno. 

49

Jer.  king - dom of Hea - ven here on earth. I know you all have been plagued by

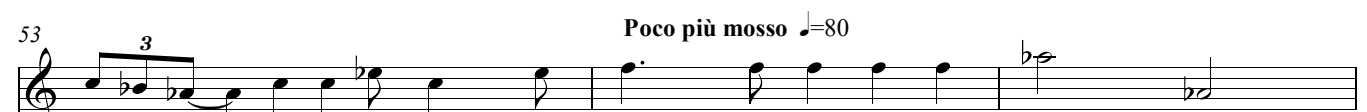
Pno. 


51

Jer.  doubt, I know you all have been racked with fear, I know you all have been strug - gl - ing

Pno. 

53

Jer.  might - i - ly with your con - science, But when your e - ne - mies call you

Pno. 

Poco più mosso ♩=80

56 **Poco rit.**

Jer. *mf* $\text{♩} = 72$

And ask you to meet them on the plain, Just say to them,

Pno. *mf*

59 **A tempo** $\text{♩} = 72$

Jer. *mf*

"I am en-gaged in a great work, And I can - not come

Pno. *mf*

62

Jer. *mf* $\text{♩} = 72$

down. Why should the great work cease While I come down to

Pno. *mf*

66 **Allarg.** *f*

Jer. 8
you?" God strength-en my arm, God strength-en my heart, God strength-en my

Pno. **Allarg.** *f*

70 *ff*

Jer. 8
soul, God strength-en us all! God strength-en us

Pno. *ff*

73

Jer. 8
all!

Pno. *ff*