What do you think I fought for at Omaha Beach?

For SATB choir 7 min

Melissa Dunphy 2010 *What do you think I fought for at Omaha Beach?* was the winner of the inaugural Simon Carrington Chamber Singers Composition Competition and was premiered by the group, conducted by Simon Carrington, in Kansas City, MO, and Lawrence, KS, on May 29, 2010.

Good morning, committee. My name is Phillip Spooner and I live at 5 Graham Street in Biddeford. I am 86 years old and a lifetime Republican and an active VFW chaplain ... I was born on a potato farm north of Caribou and Perham, where I was raised to believe that all men are created equal and I've never forgotten that.

I served in the U.S. Army, 1942-1945 ... I worked with every outfit over there, including Patton's Third Army. I saw action in all five major battles in Europe ... I was in the liberation of Paris.

(I have seen much, so much blood and guts, so much suffering, much sadness, much sacrifice.)

I am here today because of a conversation I had last June when I was voting. A woman ... asked me, "Do you believe in equality for gay and lesbian people?" I was pretty surprised to be asked a question like that. It made no sense to me. Finally I asked her, "What do you think I fought for at Omaha Beach?"

For freedom and equality. These are the values that make America a great nation, one worth dying for.

My wife and I did not raise four sons with the idea that our gay son would be left out. We raised them all to be hard-working, proud, and loyal Americans and they all did good.

-- Public testimony given before the Maine Senate by Phillip Spooner in a hearing to discuss the Marriage Equality Bill on April 22, 2009. Nearly 4,000 people attended the hearing, with marriage equality supporters out-numbering the opposition 4 to 1.

On November 2, 2009, Maine voters repealed the bill that allowed same-sex couples the right to marry.

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Melissa Dunphy

Adagio -60 **5** 4 Soprano 0 Good morn - ing, com-mit - tee р Alto My is Phil-lip Spoon-er, and Ι name р Tenor My is Phil-lip Spoon - er, and I name 24 Bass 3 S. 0 Good morn - ing com-mit-tee A. Gra-ham Street in Bid-de-ford. live at 5 I eight-y - six years old. am T. Gra-ham Street in Bid-de-ford. live at 5 Ι am eight-y - six years old Β. Good ing com-mit-tee morn -7 ρ S. I eight-y - six old and an am years Ż ₽ A _ is Phil - lip My Spoon- er name P T. and a life time Re - pub-li - can, and an Β. Ι a life - time Re - pub - li-can a life - time am I am Re-

Text taken from testimony before Maine State Congress by Philip Spooner





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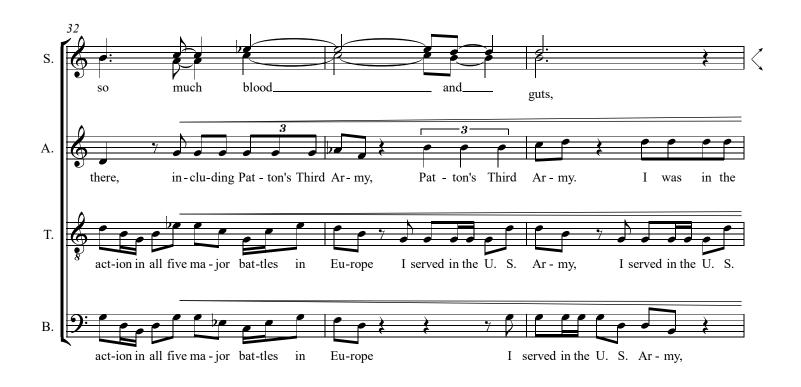
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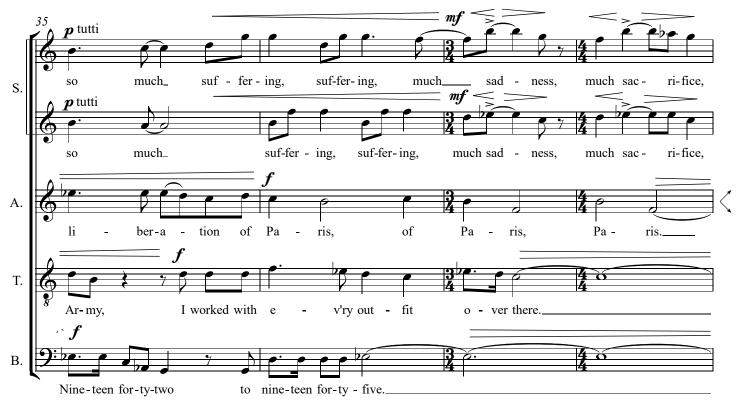
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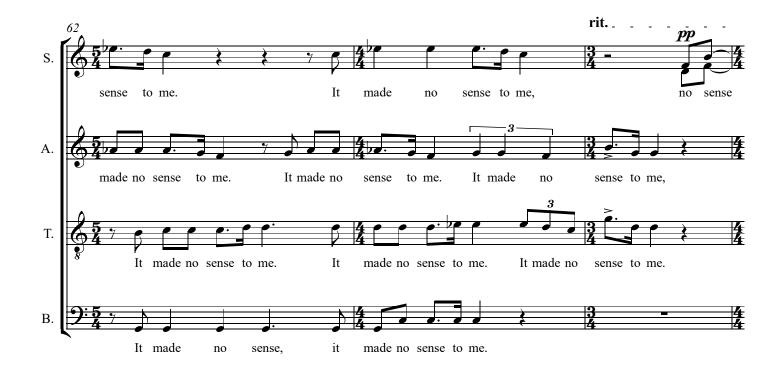


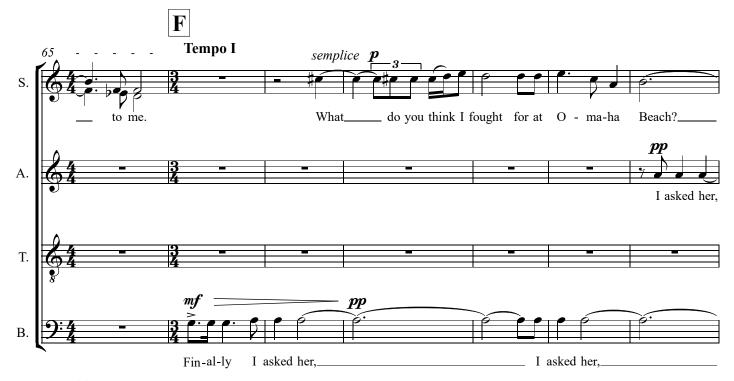






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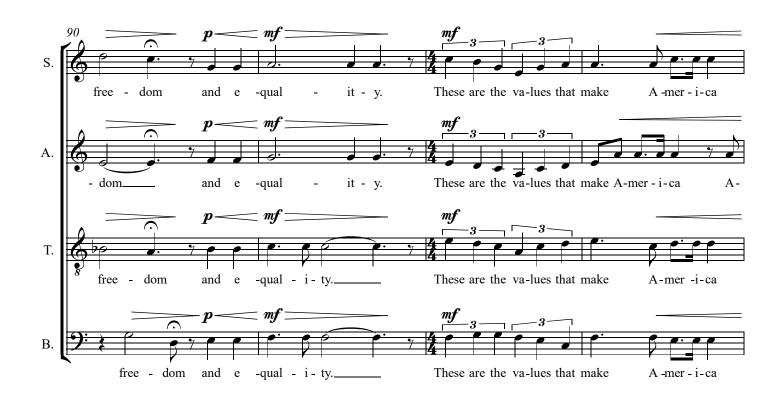


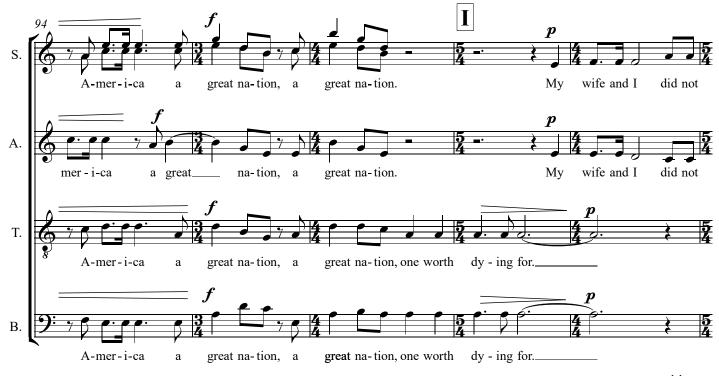


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