

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On November 2, 2009, Maine voters repealed the bill that allowed same-sex couples the right to marry.

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# What do you think I fought for at Omaha Beach?

Text taken from testimony before Maine State Congress  
by Philip Spooner

Melissa Dunphy

Adagio ♩=60

Soprano *p* Good morn - ing, com-mit - tee

Alto *p* My name is Phil-lip Spoon - er, and I

Tenor *p* My name is Phil-lip Spoon - er, and I

Bass

4 S. Good morn - ing com-mit-tee

A. live at 5 Gra-ham Street in Bid-de-ford. I am eight-y - six years old.

T. live at 5 Gra-ham Street in Bid-de-ford. I am eight-y - six years old.

B. *p* Good morn - ing com-mit-tee

7 S. I am eight-y - six years old and an

A. My name is Phil - lip Spoon - er,

T. and a life - time Re - pub - li - can, and an

B. I am a life - time Re - pub - li - can I am a life - time Re -

10

S. *mf*  
act-ive V - F - dou-ble-U Chap-lain. I was

A. *mf*  
and I live at 5 Gra-ham Street in Bid-de-ford. I was

T. *mf*  
act-ive V - F - dou-ble-U Chap-lain.

B. *mf*  
pub - li - can, and I live at 5 Gra-ham Street.

13 **A**

S. *p* *mf*  
born on a po-ta-to farm, where I was raised to be-lieve

A. *p* *mf*  
born on a po-ta-to farm, where I was raised to be-lieve

T. *p* *mf*  
north of Car-i - bou and Per-ham where I was raised to be-lieve

B. *p* *mf*  
north of Car-i - bou and Per-ham where I was raised to be-lieve

17

S. *p* *f* *ff*  
that all men are cre-at-ed e-qual, all men are cre - at-ed e-qual,

A. *p* *f* *ff*  
that all men are cre-at-ed e-qual, all men are cre-at-ed e-qual,

T. *mf* *f* *ff*  
that all men are cre-at-ed e - qual, are cre-at-ed e-qual,

B. *mf* *f* *ff*  
that all men are cre-at-ed e-qual, all men are cre-at-ed e-qual,

22

S. *mp*  
e - qual, e - qual. and I've nev - er, I've ne - ver for-got - ten that..

A. *mp*  
e - qual, e - qual. and I've nev - er, I've ne - ver for-got - ten that..

T. *mp* *p*  
e - qual, e - qual. and I've nev-er

B. *mp* *p*  
e - qual, e - qual. and I've nev-er

26 **B** *Piu Mosso* ♩=70

S. *mf* *jauntily*  
I served in the U. S. Ar - my.

A. *mf* *jauntily*  
I served in the U. S. Ar - my, Nine - teen for - ty - two to

T. *mf* *jauntily*  
I served in the U. S. Ar - my, Nine - teen for - ty - two to

B. *mf* *jauntily*  
I served in the U. S. Ar - my, Nine - teen for - ty - two to

29 *pp* *sotto voce* or 2 solo voices

S. I have seen much,

A. I worked with e - v'ry out-fit o - ver there, I worked with e - v'ry out-fit o - ver

T. nine - teen for - ty-five I served in the U. S. Ar-my, I saw

B. nine - teen for - ty-five I served in the U. S. Ar - my, I saw

32

S. so much blood and guts,

A. there, in-cluding Pat-ton's Third Ar-my, Pat-ton's Third Ar-my. I was in the

T. act-ion in all five ma-jor bat-tles in Eu-rope I served in the U. S. Ar-my, I served in the U. S.

B. act-ion in all five ma-jor bat-tles in Eu-rope I served in the U. S. Ar-my,

35

S. *p tutti* so much\_ suf-fer-ing, suf-fer-ing, *mf* much sad-ness, much sac-ri-fice,

A. *p tutti* so much\_ suf-fer-ing, suf-fer-ing, *mf* much sad-ness, much sac-ri-fice,

A. *f* li-ber-a-tion of Pa-ris, of Pa-ris, Pa-ris.

T. *f* Ar-my, I worked with e-v'ry out-fit o-ver there.

B. *f* Nine-teen for-ty-two to nine-teen for-ty-five.



**molto rit.** **Tempo I**

39 *p* *pp* *pp*

S. I have seen much, \_\_\_\_\_ much. \_\_\_\_\_ I am

I have seen much. \_\_\_\_\_ I am here, \_\_\_\_\_ I am

A. I am here, \_\_\_\_\_ I am here, \_\_\_\_\_

I am here, \_\_\_\_\_ I am here, \_\_\_\_\_ I am

T. I am here, \_\_\_\_\_

B. I am here \_\_\_\_\_

**Piu Mosso** ♩=70

48 *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

S. here to - day be - cause of a con-ver - sa - tion, be -

here to - day be - cause of a con-ver - sa - tion, be -

A. here be-cause of a con-ver - sa - tion, be - cause\_ of a con-ver -

T. I am here\_ be-cause of a con-ver - sa - tion, be - cause\_ of a con-ver -

B. be-cause of a con-ver - sa - tion, be - cause\_ of a con-ver -



52

S. *f*  
 cause of a con-ver - sa - tion I had last June when I was vot-ing. A wo - man asked me:

A. *mf* *f*  
 sa - tion I had last June when I was vot-ing. A wo - man asked me:

T. *mf* *f*  
 sa - tion I had last June. A wo - man asked me:

B. *mf* *f*  
 sa - tion I had last June. A wo - man asked me:

**D** solo *a piacere*

56

S. *f*  
 Do you be - lieve in e - qual - it - y for gay and les - bi - an peo - ple?

59

S. *f* *f tutti*  
 I was pret - ty sur - prised to be asked a ques - tion like that. It made no

A. *f*  
 I was pret - ty sur - prised to be asked a ques - tion like that. It

T. *f*  
 I was pret - ty sur - prised to be asked a ques - tion like that.

B. *f*  
 I was pret - ty sur - prised, pret - ty sur - prised.

62

S. *rit.* *pp*  
sense to me. It made no sense to me, no sense

A. *3*  
made no sense to me. It made no sense to me. It made no sense to me,

T. *3*  
It made no sense to me. It made no sense to me. It made no sense to me.

B. *8*  
It made no sense, it made no sense to me.

**F**

65 *Tempo I* *semplice p* *3*

S. \_\_\_\_\_ to me. What \_\_\_\_\_ do you think I fought for at O - ma-ha Beach? \_\_\_\_\_

A. *pp*  
I asked her,

T. *8*

B. *mf* *pp*  
Fin-al-ly I asked her, \_\_\_\_\_ I asked her, \_\_\_\_\_

72

*p* *mp* *mp*

S. What\_ do you think I fought for at O - ma-ha Beach? What do you think\_\_\_\_\_ I

A. \_\_\_\_\_ O - - ma-ha Beach? O - ma -

A. I asked her\_\_\_\_\_ What do you think I fought for?\_\_\_

T. *pp* *mp* *mp*

T. I asked her\_\_\_ what do you think I fought for at

B. \_\_\_\_\_ I asked her,\_\_\_\_\_ What\_\_\_\_\_ do you think I

77

**G** *mf* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

S. fought for at O - ma-ha Beach?\_\_\_\_\_ I asked\_\_\_\_\_ her: What do you

A. ha, O - ma - ha Beach? What do you think I fought for, what do you

A. I asked her:\_\_\_\_\_ What do you think I fought for at O-ma-ha Beach, for\_

T. O - ma-ha Beach? What do you think I fought,\_\_\_ I fought for\_

B. fought for at O - ma-ha, what do you think\_\_\_\_\_

81

S. think I fought for at O-ma-ha Beach? What do you think I fought for at O - ma-ha

A. think I fought for at O-ma-ha Beach? What do you think I fought for at O - ma-ha

T. at O - ma-ha Beach? What do you think I fought for at O - ma-ha

B. I fought for? What do you think I fought for at O - ma-ha

**H**

86

S. Beach? For free - dom, free - dom, free - dom,

A. Beach? For free - dom, free - dom, free - dom, free - dom, free -

T. Beach? For free - dom, free - dom, free - dom, for

B. Beach? For free - dom, for free - dom, free - dom,

90

S. *p* *mf* *mf* 3 3  
 free - dom and e - qual - it - y. These are the va-lues that make A - mer - i - ca

A. *p* *mf* *mf* 3 3  
 - dom and e - qual - it - y. These are the va-lues that make A - mer - i - ca A -

T. *p* *mf* *mf* 3 3  
 free - dom and e - qual - i - ty. These are the va-lues that make A - mer - i - ca

B. *p* *mf* *mf* 3 3  
 free - dom and e - qual - i - ty. These are the va-lues that make A - mer - i - ca

94

S. *f* *p*  
 A - mer - i - ca a great na - tion, a great na - tion. My wife and I did not

A. *f* *p*  
 mer - i - ca a great na - tion, a great na - tion. My wife and I did not

T. *f* *p*  
 A - mer - i - ca a great na - tion, a great na - tion, one worth dy - ing for.

B. *f* *p*  
 A - mer - i - ca a great na - tion, a great na - tion, one worth dy - ing for.

I

99

S. raise\_ four sons\_\_\_\_\_ with the i - dea that our gay son would be left out.

A. raise\_ four sons\_\_\_\_\_ with the i - dea that our gay son would be left out.

T. *p* Raise four sons\_\_\_\_\_ that our gay son, *p* We raised them

B. *p* Raise four sons\_\_\_\_\_ that our gay son,

104

S. *p* all to be hard - work-ing, proud and loy - al A - mer - i-cans. They *mf*

A. *p* all to be hard - work-ing and loy-al A-mer-i-cans, A - mer - i-cans. They *mf*

T. *mf* all to be hard - work-ing, proud and loy-al A-mer-i-cans, and they all *mf*

B. *p* all to be proud and loy-al A-mer-i-cans. They *mf*

rit. . . . .

108

S. all did good. They all did good. *p*

A. all, they all did good. They all did good. *p*

T. did good. They all did good. *p*

B. all did good. They all did good. *p*