

MABEL LEE, 1912

for a cappella SATB choir

3 min 15 secs



Music by Melissa Dunphy

Text by Esther Lin

Commissioned by Classical Movements' Eric Daniel Helms New Music Program
for the College of William and Mary Botetourt
Chamber Singers

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Leading the New York women's parade,
a Chinese girl named Mabel Lee.

She cries, *Unbound feet, untrammeled*
minds! Mabel Lee is sixteen.

This won't be the last thing she does.
Her mother's feet are bound; she can't

climb up or down a flight of stairs
[by herself. Mabel Lee cries,]

The women of China must be deadly!
She rides for her mother.

The women of New York must be deadly!
She rides for them, too.

Mabel Lee waits five years
before New York women can vote.

And before Chinese Americans
can vote, she waits thirty-one.

Unbound feet, untrammeled minds!
All her life, Mabel Lee says this.

—Esther Lin

Cover image: Image of Mabel Lee published in the
New York Tribune, April 13, 1912.



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Moderato espressivo ♩=c.72

Soprano *mf* Oh, *p* oh.

Alto *mf* Oh, *p* oh.

Tenor *mf* Oh, *p* oh.

Bass *mf* Oh, *p* oh.

Piano (Rehearsal only) *mf* *p*

5 *mp* *mf*

Lead-ing the New York wom- en's pa - rade, a Chi - nese girl named Ma - bel Lee. She cries,

mp *mf*

Lead-ing the New York wom- en's pa - rade, a Chi-nese girl named Ma - bel Lee. She cries,

mp

Lead-ing the New York wom- en's pa - rade, a Chi-nese girl named Ma - bel Lee.

mp

Lead-ing the New York wom- en's pa - rade, a Chi-nese girl named Ma - bel Lee.

mp *mf*

9

Un-bound feet, un - tram-meled minds! All her life Ma-bel Lee says this. The

Un-bound feet, un - tram-meled minds! All her life Ma-bel Lee says this. The

Un-bound feet, un - tram-meled minds! All her life Ma-bel Lee says this.

Un-bound feet, un - tram-meled minds! All her life she says this.

13

wom-en of Chi-na must be dead - ly! The wom - en of New York must be dead - ly!

wom-en of Chi-na must be dead - ly! The wom - en of New York, She rides for them

Ma - bel she rides for her moth - er. She rides for them

Ma - bel rides for her moth - er. She rides for them

17

Ma - bel Lee is six - teen. This won't be the last thing she does.

too. She is six - teen. This won't be the last thing she does.

too. She is six - teen. This won't be the last thing she does.

too. She is six - teen. This won't be the last thing she does.

A

21

Her moth-er's feet are bound. She rides for her moth - er. She cries,

Her moth - er's feet are bound. She rides for her moth - er.

Her moth-er's feet are bound; she can't climb up or down a flight of stairs. She cries,

25

Un-bound feet, un - tram-meled minds! All her life, she says this. The

mf

Un-bound feet, un - tram-meled minds! All her life, Ma-bel Lee says this. The

8 Un-bound feet, un - tram-meled minds! All her life Ma-bel Lee says this.

mf

Un-bound feet, un - tram-meled minds! All her life she says this.

29

wom-en of Chi-na must be dead - ly! The wom-en of New York must be dead - ly!

f

wom-en of Chi-na must be dead - ly! The wom - en of New York, she rides for them

f

8 Ma - bel, she rides for her moth - er. She rides for them

f

Ma - bel rides for her moth - er. She rides for them

33

Mab - el Lee is six - teen. This won't be the last thing she does.
 too. She is six - teen. This won't be the last thing she does.
 too. She is six - teen. This won't be the last thing she does.
 too. She is six - teen. This won't be the last thing she does.

B

37

Ma - bel Lee waits five years be-fore New York wom-en can vote.
 Oh,
 And be -

41

she waits thir - ty - one. The

she waits thir - ty - one. The

tutti
8 fore Chi - nese A - mer - i - cans can vote, she waits thir - ty - one.

pp Oh, She waits thir - ty -

45

wom-en of Chi-na must be dead - ly! The wom-en of New York must be dead - ly! She cries,

wom-en of Chi-na must be dead - ly! The wom - en of New York, she cries,

8 Ma - bel, she rides for her moth - er. She cries,

one. She rides for her moth - er. She cries,

49

f Un-bound feet, un - tram-meled minds! All her life Ma-bel Lee says this. *ff* Un-bound feet, un -

f Un-bound feet, un - tram-meled minds! All her life Ma-bel Lee says this. *ff* Un-bound feet,

f Un-bound feet, un - tram-meled minds! All her life Ma-bel Lee says this. *ff* Un-bound feet,

f Un-bound feet, un - tram-meled minds! All her life she says this. *ff* Un-bound feet,

f *ff*

54 *rit.* *p* Solemn, deliberate

tram-meled minds! All her life Ma-bel Lee says this.

un - bound feet, un - tram-meled minds! All her life Ma-bel Lee says this.

un - bound feet, un - tram-meled minds! All her life Ma-bel Lee says this.

un - bound feet, un - tram-meled minds! All her life she says this.

p