

The title 'Set Me Free' is written in a thick, expressive red lipstick font. The letters are formed by multiple overlapping brushstrokes, giving them a textured, three-dimensional appearance. Two gold and black lipstick tubes are positioned around the text: one is lying horizontally to the left of the word 'Set', and the other is lying diagonally to the right of the word 'Free', with its tip pointing towards the end of the word. The background is plain white.

Set Me Free

for SSAA choir

Melissa Dunphy
Text by Jacqueline Goldfinger

4 min

2020

Commissioned by Amuse Singers
Artistic Director Phillip Cheah

Commissioned by Amuse Singers, Artistic Director Phillip Cheah

Set Myself Free

for SSAA choir

Suck-in stomach.
Wet plump lips.
Paint myself,
Until I can't see myself.
Pleasing you.
I'm tired of my
Face Waist Thighs.
So tired of being the...
UnMe? Not Me?
The Never Good Enough To Be Really Seen.
I scrub the shame out of my eyes.
What to do,
with this paint left behind?
Make
Signs
Slogans
Screaming
Your rights and mine.
Laws
Re-painted
To better align
With the dreams
Our foremothers bought
on back and bent knee.
They knew the price of liberty.
They paid day after day
So I could re-paint the Constitution,
And set myself free.

— Jacqueline Goldfinger, 2020

Cover art by Claris Park



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Set Myself Free

for SSAA choir

Lyrics by Jacqueline Goldfinger

Melissa Dunphy

Moderato ♩ = 100

Soprano 1

Soprano 2

Alto 1

Alto 2

Piano reduction

p heavy on the consonants

p heavy on the consonants

p heavy on the consonants

p heavy on the consonants

p

Suck in sto mach.(k) Wet (t) plump (p) lips. (ps) Suck in sto mach.(k) Wet (t) plump (p) lips. (ps)

Suck in sto mach.(k) Wet (t) plump (p) lips. (ps) Suck in sto mach.(k) Wet (t) plump (p) lips. (ps)

Suck in sto mach.(k) Wet (t) plump (p) lips. (ps) Suck in sto mach.(k) Wet (t) plump (p) lips. (ps)

P

Moderato ♩ = 100

5

S2

A1

A2

Pno.

Suck in sto-mach. (k) Wet (t) plump (p) lips. (ps) Suck in sto-mach. (k) Wet (t) plump (p) lips. (ps)

Suck in sto-mach. (k) Wet (t) plump (p) lips. (ps) Suck in sto-mach. (k) Wet (t) plump (p) lips. (ps)

Suck in sto-mach. (k) Wet (t) plump (p) lips. (ps) Suck in sto-mach. (k) Wet (t) plump (p) lips. (ps)

9

mp *mf*

S1
Paint my - self _____ un-til I can't see my-self. _____ Paint my - self _____ un-til I can't

S2
Paint my-self un - til I can't see my-self, see my - self. Paint my-self un - til I can't

A1
Paint my-self un - til I can't see my-self, see my - self. Paint my-self un - til I can't

A2
Paint my-self un - til I can't see my-self, see my - self. Paint my-self un - til I can't

Pno.

15

f *p*

S1
see my - self. _____ Pleas-ing you, _____ pleas-ing you. _____

S2
see my - self, see my - self. Pleas-ing you, you, _____ pleas ing you. _____

A1
see my - self, see my - self. Pleas-ing you, you, you, _____ pleas ing. Suck in sto-mach. (k)

A2
see my - self, see my - self. Pleas-ing you, you, you, you, pleas ing you. _____

Pno.

20

S1 *pp* Suck in sto-mach. (k) Wet (t) plump (p). *f* I'm_____ tired_

S2 *pp* Suck in sto-mach. (k) Wet (t) plump (p). *f* I'm_____ tired_

A1 *pp* Wet (t) plump (p) lips. (ps) Suck in sto-mach. (k) Wet (t) plump (p). *f* I'm_____ tired (d)

A2 *pp* Suck in sto-mach. (k) Wet (t) plump (p). *f* I'm_____ tired (d)

Pno. *pp* *f*

24

S1 *p* of my Face Waist (t) Thighs (s) *f* So_____ tired_

S2 *p* of my Face Waist (t) Thighs (s) *f* So_____ tired_

A1 *p* Wet (t) plump (p) lips. (ps) Suck in sto-mach. (k) Face Waist (t) Thighs (s) *f* So_____ tired (d)

A2 *p* Wet (t) plump (p) lips. (ps) Suck in sto-mach. (k) Face Waist (t) Thighs (s) *f* So_____ tired (d)

Pno. *p* *f*

28

S1 — of being the Un Me? Un Me? Not me?The *f*

S2 — of being the Un Me? Un Me? Not me?The *f*

A1 Wet (t) plump (p) lips. (ps) Suck in sto-mach. (k) Wet (t) plump (p) lips. (ps) The *f*

A2 Wet (t) plump (p) lips. (ps) Suck in sto-mach. (k) Wet (t) plump (p) lips. (ps) The *f*

Pno. Wet (t) plump (p) lips. (ps) Suck in sto-mach. (k) Wet (t) plump (p) lips. (ps) The *f*

31

S1 Nev-er Good En-ough, Nev-er Good En-ough, Nev-er Good En ough To Be

S2 Nev-er Good En-ough, Nev-er Good En-ough, Nev-er Good En ough To Be

A1 Nev-er Good En-ough, Nev-er Good En-ough, Nev-er Good En ough To Be

A2 Nev-er Good En-ough, Nev-er Good En-ough, Nev-er Good En ough, Nev-er Good En-ough To Be

Pno. Nev-er Good En-ough, Nev-er Good En-ough, Nev-er Good En ough, Nev-er Good En-ough To Be

35 *p*

S1 Real ly Seen. I scrub the shame,

S2 Real ly Seen. I scrub the shame,

A1 Real ly, Nev-er Good En-ough, Nev-er Good En-ough To Be Seen. I scrub the shame, the

A2 Real ly Seen, Real - ly Seen. I scrub the shame, the

Pno.

41 *mf* *p* *p*

S1 out of my eyes. What to do with this paint left be - hind? Make

S2 out of my eyes. What to do with this paint left be - hind? Make

A1 shame out of my eyes. What to do with this paint left be - hind, left be - hind?

A2 shame out of my eyes. What to do with this paint left be - hind? Make

Pno.

48

S1 *mf*
 signs, slo - gans, scream - ing your rights and mine, signs scream - ing

S2 *mf*
 signs, slo - gans scream - ing your rights, and mine, signs, slo - gans_ scream - ing your

A1 *p* *mf*
 Make signs scream - ing your rights and mine, signs scream - ing

A2 *mf*
 signs, make signs scream - ing your rights and mine, signs scream - ing

Pno. *mf*

55

S1 *f*
 your rights, laws re - paint - ed to bet - ter a - lign with the

S2 *f*
 rights and mine, laws re - paint - ed to bet - ter a - lign, with the

A1 *f*
 your rights and mine, laws re - paint - ed to bet - ter a - lign with the

A2 *f*
 your rights and mine, laws re - paint - ed to bet - ter a - lign

Pno. *f*

61 *ff* **Slower** ♩=68 *p*

S1 dreams, the dreams, with the dreams our moth-ers bought on

S2 dreams, the dreams, with the our moth-ers bought on

A1 dreams, the dreams, with the dreams our fore - moth-ers_ bought on back and bent

A2 with the dreams, the dreams our fore - moth-ers_ bought on back and bent

Pno. *ff* , *p* **Slower** ♩=68

67 *p espressivo*

S1 back and bent knee. They knew the price of lib - er-ty. They paid day af - ter

S2 back and bent knee. They knew the price of lib - er-ty. They paid day af - ter

A1 knee. They knew the price of lib - er-ty. They paid, they

A2 knee. They knew the price of lib - er-ty, of lib - er-ty. They paid

Pno. *p espressivo*

Freely

73

S1 day, they paid day af - ter day so I could re-paint the Con-sti - tut - ion, — and

S2 day, they paid day af - ter day so I could re-paint the Con-sti - tut - ion, — and

A1 paid day af - ter day af - ter day so I could re-paint the Con-sti - tut - ion, — and

A2 day af - ter day af - ter day so I could re-paint the Con-sti - tut - ion, — and

Pno. **Freely**

In tempo

79

S1 *mp* set my - self — free, set my - self free, free, — set my - self

S2 *mp* set my - self — free, — free, — set my - self free, — free, — set my - self

A1 *mp* set my - self — free, — free, — set my - self free, — free, set my - self

A2 *mp* set my - self — free, free, set my - self free, free, set my - self

Pno. **In tempo** *mp*

84

rit. *p*

S1
free, — set my - self free, — set my - self free.

S2
free, — free, — set my - self free, — free, — set my - self free.

A1
free, — free, set my - self free, — free, set my - self free.

A2
free, free, set my - self free, free, set my - self free.

Pno.