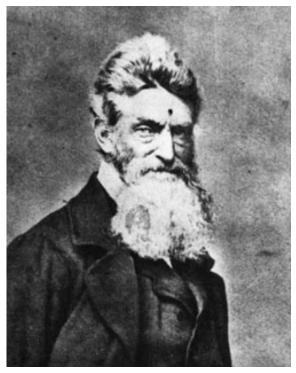
## Dave Soldier

for narrator, 4 singers (soprano, mezzo, tenor, baritone),
solo violin, strings, basso continuo (harpsichord or other instrument)
one percussionist (snare, bass drum, castanets)

# The Apotheosis of John Brown



with text by Frederick Douglass

Opus 8, 1990 December 16, 2012 version

about 40 minutes

Dave Soldier davesoldier.com <u>ds43@columbia.edu</u> At least one singer should be able to improvise, can be gospel or pop style

Percussion includes snare drum, bass drum, castanets: tympani optional (but nice to have): some improvisation required

String orchestra requires a minimum of 2 per part, with the exception of a solo bass: Solo violin and solo bass should improvise

Harpsichord (or could be organ, therebo, etc.) uses figured bass

One extra bass drum to lie flat on the floor with four soft end sticks, in Pow-wow manner

#### Part I My first meeting with Captain Brown (1847)

- 1A. Forlane (orchestra)
- 1B. About the time I began...
- 1C. Ev'ry member of the family
- 1D. My first meal
- 1E. Every member (reprise)
- 1F. He said he had long had a plan
- **1G.** How would he support these men?
- 1H. He knew their proud hearts

#### Part II War in Kansas (1856)

- 2A. Concerto (orchestra)
- 2B. The men who went to Kansas
- 2C. The horrors wrought
- 2D. With only eight men

#### Part III His capture and execution (1859)

- 3A. Holler (orchestra)
- 3B. Disarmed the watchman
- 3C. Phrase
- 3D. Execution

#### Part IV The beginning of the end (1847-1859)

- 4A. My escape from United States Marshalls (orchestra)
- 4B. Though in Canada
- 4C. The work lingered
- 4D. Shields Green
- 4E. Singers around a bass drum on the floor
- 4F. Come with me Douglass
- 4G. Shields Green reprise

#### 5. John Brown a fisherman (1860)

- **5A.** Pastorale (orchestra)
- 5B. Neither principalities nor powers

#### THE APOTHEOSIS OF JOHN BROWN

text from *The Life & Times of Frederic Douglass* (1881 edition)
adapted by Dave Soldier, 1990
scored for narrator, solo violin 4 singers: soprano, mezzo, tenor, baritone, continuo and one percussionist

"A full century has passed since John Brown started in America the Civil War which abolished legal slavery in the United States and began the emancipation of the Negro race from the domination of white Europe and North America. John Brown in Kansas met murder with murder and tried in Virginia to arm slaves so that they might resist and escape slavery. Ever since his violent murder of the border ruffians who were trying to force slavery on Kansas and his attempt to seize the armory at Harper's Ferry so as to arm the slaves, there had been bitter debate as to how far force and violence can bring peace and good will."

-W.E.B. Du Bois, from a revised preface of his 1909 book, *John Brown*.

#### In five parts:

- 1. My first meeting with Capt. Brown (1847) Courante
- 2. War in Kansas (1856) Concerto
- 3. His capture and execution (1859) Holler
- **4. The beginning of the end** (1847-1859) *My escape to England from United States Marshals*
- 5. John Brown a fisherman (1860) Pastorale

#### Libretto

#### 1. My first meeting with Capt. Brown (1847)

Instrumental prelude- fourlane with violin soloist violinist is wearing flashy evening dress

The singers and narrator enter. They are also wearing elegant and somewhat flashy evening dress.

Narrator: throughout, narrator speaks in the manner of a country preacher, cf. Reverend C. L. Franklin

About the time I began my enterprise in Rochester I chanced to spend a night and a day under the roof of a man whose character and conversation, and whose objects and aims in life made a very deep inpression upon my mind and heart. His...

(music begins) name had been mentioned to me by several prominent colored men, among whom were the Rev. Henry Higland Garnet and J.W. Loguen. In speaking of him, their voices would drop to a whisper, and what they said made me very eager to see and know him.

Tenor: Every member of the family, young and old, seemed glad to see me, and I was much at home. It was a small wooden building, on a back street: respectable enough, but not quite the place where one would look... (to baritone) Plain as was the outside of this man's house, the inside was plainer. It would take longer to tell what was not in this house, than what was in it.

*Baritone*: My first meal passed under the misnomer of tea, through there was nothing about it resembling the usual significance of that term. It consisted of (*all four singers*) beef soup, cabbage, and potatoes: a meal such as a man might relish after following the plow all day, or performing a forced march of a dozen miles over a rough road in frosty weather. Innocent of paint, veneering, varnish, or table-cloth, the table announced itself unmistakably of the plainest workmanship. It is said that a house reflects the character of its occupants; this on certainly did. In it there were no disguises, no illusions no make believes. (*address mezzo & tenor*) Certainly I never felt myself in the presence of a stronger religious influence than while in this man's house.

Narrator: (singers mutter to each other) Captain Brown cautiously approached the subject; for he seemed to apprehend opposition to his views. He denounced slavery in look and language fierce and bitter, thought that slaveholders had forfeited their right to live, that the slaves had the right to gain their liberty in any way they could, did not believe that moral suasion could ever liberate the slave, or that political action would abolish the system.

*Soprano*: He said he had long had a plan and he invited me to lay that plan before me. He called my attention to a map of the United States and pointed out the far-

reaching (*tenor cue*) Alleghenies, which stretch away from the borders of New York to the Southern States.

Tenor touches mezzo's should and they move to the far side of the stage

Tenor, addressing mezzo, cued in at <u>Alleghenies</u>:

These mountains, God has given he strength of the hills to freedom., they were placed here for the emancipation of the Negro race;

they are full of natural forts, where one man for defense will be equal to a hundred for attack;

they are full of places where large numbers of brave men could be concealed, and elude pursuit for a long time. I know these mountains well and could take a body of men and keep them there despite all the efforts of Viriginia to dislodge them.

The object to be sought is to destroy the money value of slave property; that can only be done by rendering such property insecure. My plan is to take twenty-five picked men, and begin on a small scale; supply them ammunition, post them in fives on a line of twenty-five miles; the most persuasive shall go down to the fields as opportunity offers, and induce the slaves to join them.

#### Soprano:

He thought he could gather a force

of one hundred hardy men

who would lead the adventurous life to which he proposed to train them.

They would run off the slaves

retain the brave and strong in the mountains

and send the weak and the timid

to the north by the underground railroad: his operations would be enlarged with increasing numbers.

Chorus (speaking in unision, as in prayer call and response): How would he support these men?

*Narrator (emphatically):* I would subsist them upon the enemy: slavery is a state of war, and the slave had a right to anything necessary to his freedom.

Chorus: Suppose you succeed in running off a few slaves, and impress Virginia with a sense of insecurity, the effect will be only to make them sell their slaves further south.

*Narrator:* Then I would follow them up. If we could drive slavery out of one county, it would be a great gain; it would weaken the system throughout the state.

*Chorus:* But they would employ bloodhounds to hunt you out of the mountains.

*Narrator:* That they might attempt, but the chances are, we should whip them, and when we have whipt one squad, they would be careful how they pursued.

*Chorus:* But you might be surrounded and cut off from your provisions of means of subsistence.

*Narrator:* That could not be done so we could not cut our way out, but even if the worst came, I could but be killed, and I have no better use for my life than to lay it down in the cause of the slave.

When I suggested that we might convert the slaveholders he said that could never be (first time with singers: after, singers alone repeat several times) he knew their proud hearts and that they would never give up their slaves until they felt a big stick about their heads

Narrator: From this night spent with John Brown in Springfield, Massachusetts, 1847, while I continued to write and speak against slavery, I became all the same less hopeful of its peaceful abolition. My utterances became more and more tinged by the color of this man's strong impressions. I expressed this apprehension that slavery could only be destroyed by bloodshed, when I was suddenly and sharply interrupted by my good old friend Sojourner Truth with the question,

music stops

"Frederick, is God dead?"

"No" I answered, "and because God is not dead, slavery can only end in blood."

#### 2. War in Kansas

violin concerto

Narrator: The men who went to Kansas with the purpose of making it a free state were heroes and martyrs. One of the leaders this holy crusade for was John Brown. This brave old man and his sons were amongst the first to hear and heed the rupet of freedom calling them to battle. The border ruffians from (music begins) Missouri had openly declared their purpose not only to make Kansas a slave state, but that they would make it impossible for free state men to liver there. Captain John Brown felt that now, after long years of waiting, his hour had come, and never did man meet the perilous requirements of any occasion more cheerfully, courageously, and disinterestedly than he.

*Baritone:* The horrors wrought by Captain Brown's iron hand cannot be contemplated without a shudder, but it is the shudder one feels at the execution of a murderer. Until the lives of tyrants shall become more precious in the sight of men than justice, John Brown will need no defender.

With only eight men he met, fought, whipped, and captured Henry Clay Pate with twenty-five well armed and well mounted men.

With just thirty men he vanquished four hundred Missourians under the command of General Read. These men had come into the territory under an oath never to return to Missouri til they had stamped out the last vestige of free-state spirit in Kansas. But a brush with old Brown took this conceit out of them, and they were glad to get home upon any terms.

Before leaving Kansas he went into Missouri and liberated a dozen slaves in a single night, and despite laws and marshals, brought these people through a half dozen States and landed them safe in Canada.

(song for soprano, mezzo, and tenor, with rhythmic clapping, cued on "Before leaving")

Any terms, any terms, A brush with old Brown They were glad to get home.

#### 3. John Brown captured and executed (1859)

Violin plays Holler

*Narrator*: On the night of the sixteenth of October, 1859, there appeared near the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers a party of nineteen men – fourteen white and five colored. These men invaded the town of Harper's Ferry,

*music begins:* 

singers hold note until others have finished: only the melody line moves:

*Soprano:* disarmed the watchman

*Mezzo:* took possession of the arsenal, rifle

Baritone: factory armory, and government property at that place, arrested and made prisoners of nearly all the prominent

citizens in the neighborhood

*Soprano:* collected about fifty slaves

*Mezzo:* put bayonets in the hands of such as were able and willing to fight for their

liberty

Baritone: killed eight men

*Tenor:* proclaimed general emancipation

*Soprano:* held the ground more than thirty hours

*Mezzo:* were subsequently overpowered and nearly all killed, wounded or

captured by

*Baritone:* a body of United States troops under command of Colonel Robert E.

Lee.

*Tenor:* Three out of the nineteen invaders were captured while

fighting

*Narrator:* and one of them was Captain John Brown – the man who originated, planned, and commanded the expedition.

(singers talk quietly with each other)

At the time of capture Captain Brown was supposed to be mortally wounded, as he had several ugly gashes and bayonet wounds on his head and body, and apprehending that me might speedily die, or that he might be rescued, and the opportunity to make him an example of slaveholding vengeance would be lost, his captors hurried him to Charlestown (*cue for applause sounds and soft hoots from singers, later from orchestra as well*)

placed him in prison strongly guarded by troops (*louder*) and before his wounds were healed he was brought into court, subjected to nominal trial (*louder*) convicted of high-treason and inciting slaves to insurrection, and was executed.

#### 4. The beginning of the end (1847-1859)

My escape from United States Marshals

*Narrator*: A scream for vengeance came up from all sections of the slave States and from great multitudes in the North. All who were supposed to have been any way connected with John Brown were to be hunted down and surrendered to the tender mercies of panic-stricken Virginia, and there to be tried after the fashion of John Brown, and of course to be summarily executed. My going to England was not suggested by my connection with John Brown but the fact that I was now in danger of arrest made what I had intended a pleasure a necessity.

Soprano (cued on "arrest"): Though in Canada I might be kidnapped to Virginia. I could not but feel I was going to exile perhaps for life, going to exile perhaps for life.

(spoken) What was my connection with John Brown, and what I knew of his scheme for the capture of Harper's Ferry, I many now proceed to state. From the time of my visit in 1847, our relations were confidential. He often stopped over night when we talked over his plan for destroying the value of slave property. Men do not like to buy runaway horses, nor to invest their money in a species of property likely to take legs and walk off with itself. If the plan should fail, and John Brown driven from the mountains, a new fact would be developed by which the nation would be kept awake to the existence of slavery.

The work lingered 'til aft the Kansas trouble was over, and freedom was a fact in that territory. This left him with arms and men, for the men who had been with him in Kansas believed in him, and would follow him in any humane but dangerous enterprise he might take.

Baritone: While at my house, John Brown made the acquaintance of a colored man (who) called himself "Shields Green". He was a fugitive slave who had made his

escape from South Carolina, a Sate from which a slave found it no easy matter to run away. But Shields Green was not one to shrink form dangers. He easily believed in Brown, and promised to go with him whenever he should be ready to move.

The four singers sit around and play bass drum, chanting in parts:

Soprano: About three weeks before the raid on Harper's Ferry

*All:* John Brown wrote to me.

*Soprano:* informing me a beginning would soon be made, and appointed an old stone quarry near

All: Chambersburg, Pennsylvania

Soprano: as our place of meeting.

*All:* I approached the quarry cautiously

*Soprano:* for John Brown was generally well armed, and regarded strangers with suspicion. Rewards were offered for his arrest, for offenses said to have been committed in Kansas.

Mezzo: We sat down among the rocks and talked over the enterprise. The taking of Harper's Ferry was now declared as his purpose and he wanted to know what I thought. I opposed the measure with all the arguments at my command. To me, such a measure would be fatal to all engaged. It would be an attack upon the federal government, and would array the whole country against us. Captain Brown did not object to rousing the nation; it seemed that something startling was just what the nation needed.

I told him that all of his arguments and descriptions of the place convinced me that he was going into a perfect steel-trap, and that once in he would never get out alive. He replied that if surrounded he would find means for cutting his way out; but that would not be forced on him; he should have a number of the best citizens as his prisoner at the start. I looked at him with astonishment that he could rest upon a reed so weak and broken, and told him Virginia would blow him and hostages skyhigh rather that he should hold Harper's Ferry an hour.

We spent the most of Saturday and a part of Sunday in this debate; he for striking a blow which should rouse the country, and I for unaccountably drawing off the slaves to the mountains, as first suggested by him. In parting he put his arms around me in a manner more than friendly and said:

*Mezzo:* "Come with me, Douglass, I will defend you with my life. When I strike the bees will swarm and I shall want you to help hive them."

*Narrator:* But discretion or cowardice me proof against the dear old man's eloquence – perhaps it was something of both which determined my course.

Baritone: Jeremiah Anderson, one of Brown's men, who took part in the raid but escaped by the mountains, told me that he and Shields Green were sent out o duty as soon as the capture of the arsenal was effected. Their business was to bring in the slaves from the surrounding country, and were on the outside when Brown was surrounded. I said "Why did not Shields come with you?" "Well, he said, "I told him come; but he simply said he must "go done to de ole man"."

#### 5. John Brown a fisherman (1860)

*Narrator:* Much of the excitement caused by the Harper's Ferry insurrection had subsided, and I should have now gratified a long-cherished desire to visit France, had not news reached me from home of the death of my beloved daughter Annie, the light and life of my house. I took the first outgoing steamer for Portland, Maine. Great

changes had now taken place in the public mind touching the raid. Virginia had satisfied her thirst for blood. She had executed all the raiders sho had fallen into her hands. She had not given Captain Brown the benefit of a reasonable doubt, but hurried him to the scaffold in panic-stricken haste. She had made herself ridiculous by her fright, and despisable by her fury.

Emerson's prediction that Brown's gallows would become like a cross was already becoming fulfilled. The old hero, in the trial hour, had behaved so grandly that men regarded him not as a murderer, but as a martyr. His defeat was already assuming the form and pressure of victory, and his death was giving new life and power to the principles of justice and liberty. He had spoken great words in the face of death the champions of slavery. He had quailed before neither. What he had lost by the sword, he had more than gained by the truth. To his own soul he was right, and neither principalities nor powers, life nor death, things present or things to come could shake his dauntless spirit or move him form his ground.

#### *Singers with narrator:*

neither principalities nor powers, life nor death, things present or things to come could shake his dauntless spirit or move him from his ground

*Narrator:* He did not even ask that the cup of death might pass from him. Those who looked for confession heard on the voice of rebuke and warning.

music ends with solo violin fade out

#### Finish

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# The Apotheosis of John Brown PART I

Dave Soldier















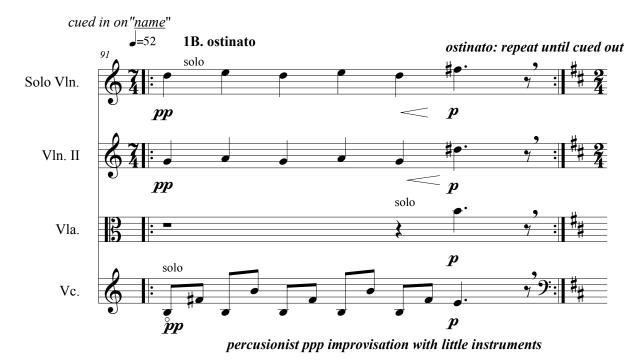


#### 1B. About the time I began...

The singers and narrtor enter. They are wearing elegant and somewhat flashy evening dress.

Narrator: throughought, narrator speaks in the manner of a country preacyher cf., Rev. C.L. Fanklin

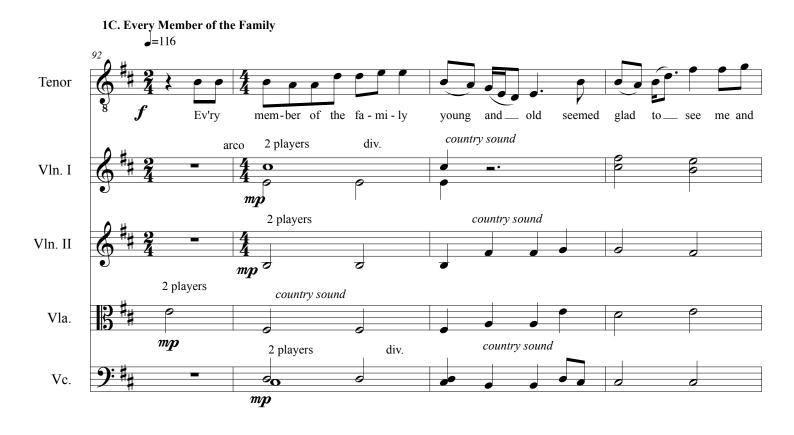
About the time I began my enterprise in Rochester I chanced to spend a night and a day under the roof of a man whose character and conversation, and whose objects and aims in life made a very deep impression upon my mind and heart. His...



#### music begins:

<u>name</u> had been mentioned to me by several prominent colored men, among whom were the Reverend Henry Higland Garnet and J.W. Loguen. In speaking of him their voices would drop to a whisper, and what they said made me very eager to see and know him.

cue music out

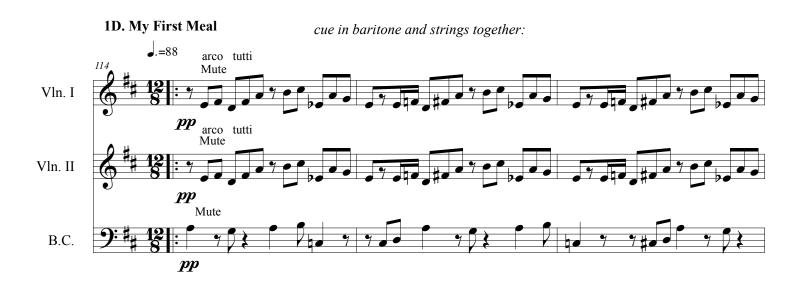








very short pause, violins & cellos attach mutes



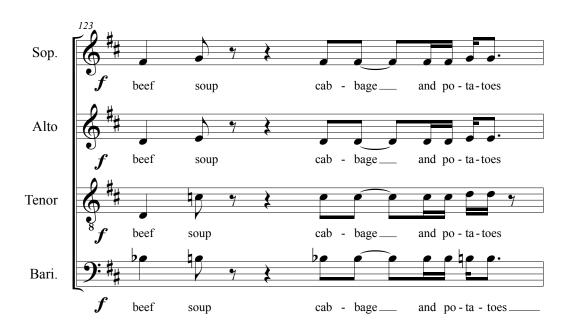


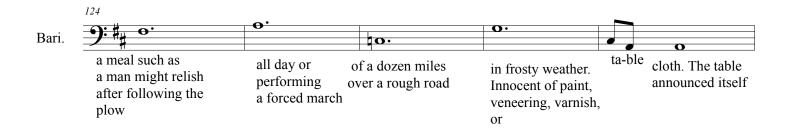
cue out on"this man's house"

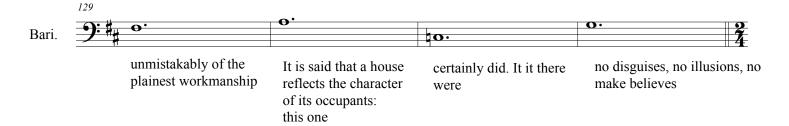
Bari.

My first meal passed under the misnomer of tea though there was nothing about it resembling the usual significance of that term. It consisted of

phrase freely: may gliss. between notes







spoken to mezzo & tenor:

Certainly I never felt myself in the presence of a stronger relgious influence than while in this man's **house**.

cue music out on "house"



#### The Apotheosis of John Brown: Part I



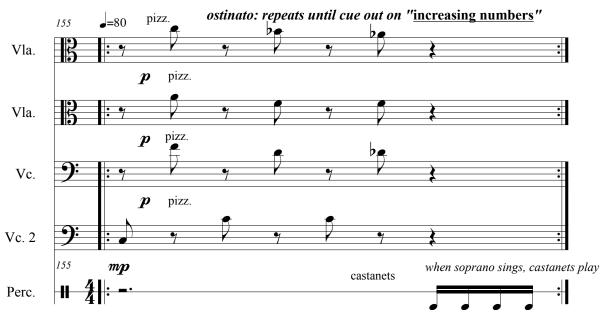
Narrator: (enters with orchestra, while singers mutter to each other)

#### Captain Brown cautiously approached the subject;

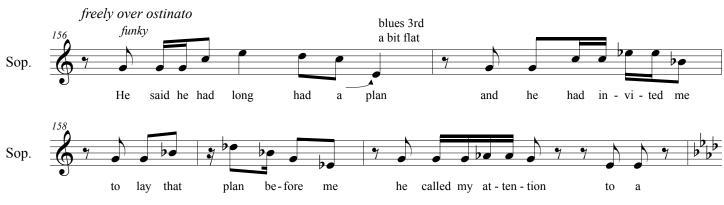
for he seemed to apprehend opposition to his views. He denounced slavery in look and language fierce and bitter, thought that slaveholders had forfeited their right to live, that the slaves had the right to gain their liberty in any way they could, did not believe that moral suasion could ever liberate the slave, or that political action would abolish the system.

Narrator ends slightly before the orchestra

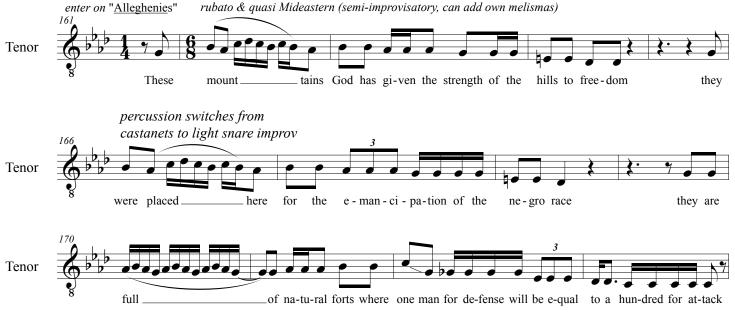
#### 1F. He Said He Had Long Had a Plan



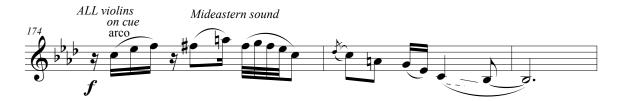
Bass plays quiet improvistation during ostinato, lots of variety and lots of silence



*Soprano continues speaking:* map of the United States and pointed out the far-reaching (<u>tenor cue</u>) <u>Alleghenies</u>, which stretch away from the borders of New York to the Southern States.



#### The Apotheosis of John Brown: Part I











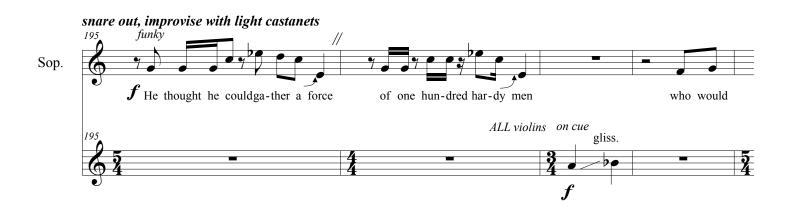


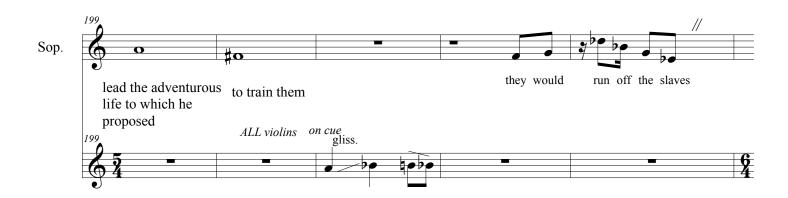
#### The Apotheosis of John Brown: Part I

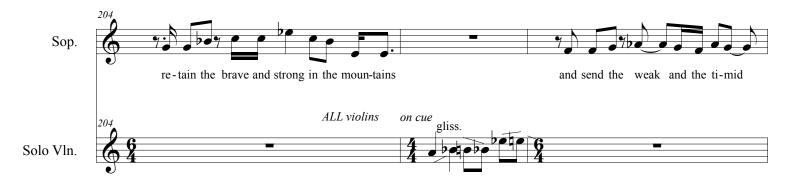


Tenor (speaks as John Brown, face the audience and Mezzo):

The object to be sought is to destroy the money value of slave property; that can only be done by rendering such property insecure. My plan is to take twenty-five picked men, and begin on a small scale; supply them ammunition, post them in fives on a line of twenty-five miles; the most persuasive shall go down to the fields as opportunity offers, and induce the slaves to join them.







*Soprano, speaking:* to the north by the underground railroad: his operations would be enlarged with increasing numbers.





cued in with ostinato

Chorus (speaking in unision, as in prayer call and response):

How would he support these men?

*Narrator (emphatically):* I would subsist them upon the enemy: slavery is a state of war, and the slave had a right to anything necessary to his freedom.

*Chorus:* Suppose you succeed in running off a few slaves, and impress Virginia with a sense of insecurity, the effect will be only to make them sell their slaves further south.

*Narrator*: Then I would follow them up. If we could drive slavery out of one county, it would be a great gain; it would weaken the system throughout the state.

Chorus: But they would employ bloodhounds to hunt you out of the mountains.

*Narrator:* That they might attempt, but the chances are, we should whip them, and when we have whipt one squad, they would be careful how they pursued.

Chorus: But you might be surrounded and cut off from your provisions of means of subsistence.

Narrator: That could not be done so we could not cut our way out, but even if the worst came, I could but be killed, and I have no better use for my life than to lay it down in the cause of the slave.

cue out ostinato

30

#### 1H. He Knew Their Proud Hearts

#### Narrator:

When I suggested that we might convert the slaveholders he said that could never be

(first time with singers: after, singers alone repeat several times)

he knew their

proud hearts

and that they would never give up their slaves until they felt a big stick about their heads Players: 1st time as written ppp, 2nd repeat louder, gradually to ff 3rd repeat bass, percussion, harpsichord and solo violin join in improvising back to ppp when Narrator reenters at "from this night" cut out at "with the question"

Vocals:" Sing four times loud: Go to ppp at "From This Night" cut out at "with the question"

### 1H. He knew their proud hearts



#### The Apotheosis of John Brown: Part I



*Narrator:* From this night spent with John Brown in Springfield, Massachusetts, 1847, while I continued to write and speak against slavery, I became all the same less hopeful of its peaceful abolition.

My utterances became more and more tinged by the color of this man's strong impressions. I expressed this apprehension that slavery could only be destroyed by bloodshed, when I was suddenly and sharply interrupted by my good old friend Sojourner Truth with the question,

cue out music sharply

#### **END PART I**

<sup>&</sup>quot;Frederick, is God dead?"

<sup>&</sup>quot;No" I answered, "and because God is not dead, slavery can only end in blood."

# The Apotheosis of John Brown PART II

Dave Soldier

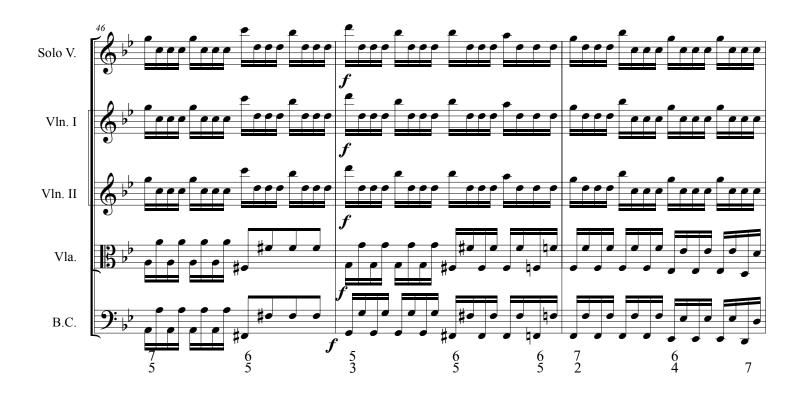


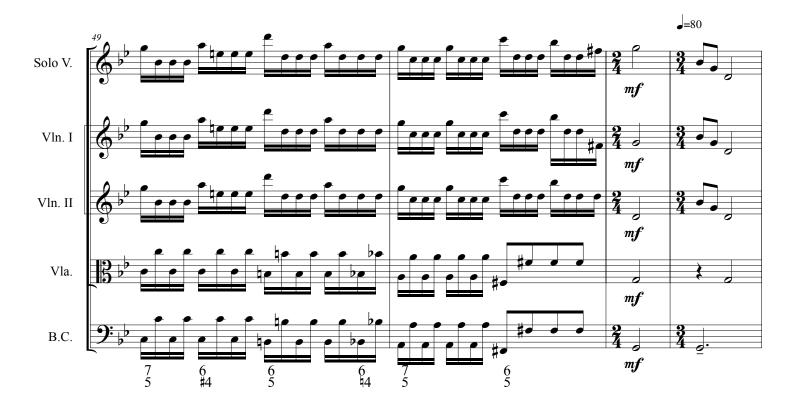










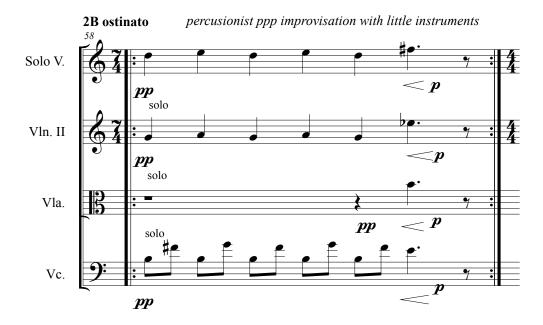




**2B** 

Narrator: The men who went to Kansas with the purpose of making it a free state were heroes and martyrs. One of the leaders this holy crusade for was John Brown. This brave old man and his sons were amongst the first to hear and heed the rupet of freedom calling them to battle. The border ruffians from Missouri music begins

cue ostinato repeats beginning on "Missouri", cue out on "than he"

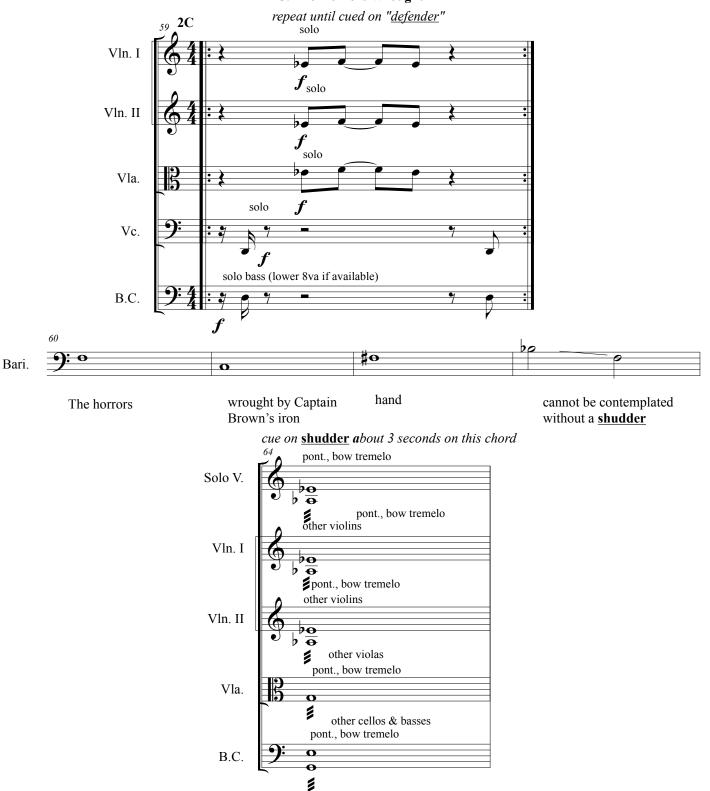


had openly declared their purpose not only to make Kansas a slave state, but that they would make it impossible for free state men to liver there. Captain John Brown felt that now, after long years of waiting, his hour had come, and never did man meet the perilous requirements of any occasion more cheerfully, courageously, and disinterestedly than he.

cue out ostinato

#### The Apotheosis of John Brown: Part II

#### 2C. The Horrors Wrought



Bari.

but it is the shudder one feels at the execution of a

65

murderer

cue out strings, no pause: Cue Harpsichord D Major flourish Until the lives of tyrants shall become more precious in the sight of men than justice, John Brown will need no defender.

choose melody notes from these three

#### The Apotheosis of John Brown: Part II

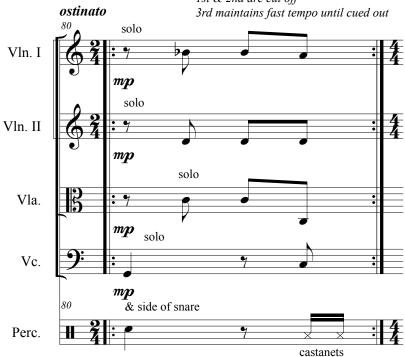
#### 2D. With Only Eight Men

after harpsichord D major flourish, cue in baritone and ostinato



on under an oath, cue in "any terms"

tempo accelerates 3X: and ritards twice following soloist 1st & 2nd are cut off



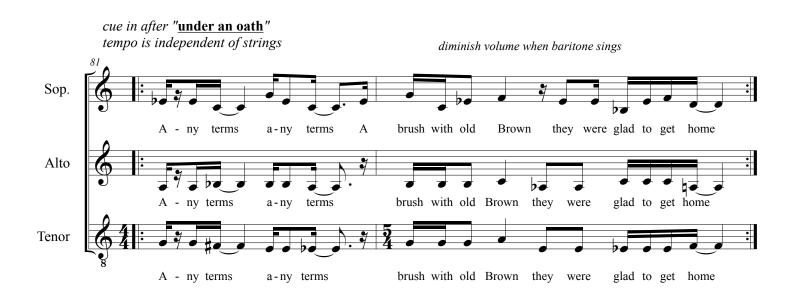
Baritone continues speaking freely:

never to return to Missouri til they had stamped out the last vestige of free-state spirit in Kansas.

But a brush with old Brown took this conceit out of them, and they were glad to get home upon <u>any terms.</u>

pause about 15 seconds while others are singing

String and percussion cued out after "any terms"



after about 15 seconds of "any terms" vocals, cue in ostinato and baritone for last time



Baritone continues speaking:

and liberated a dozen slaves in a single night, and despite laws and marshals, brought these people through a half dozen States and landed them safe in <u>Canada</u>.

at "Canada" cue out all singers and players

End Part II

Version 12.16.12

# The Apotheosis of John Brown PART III

Dave Soldier



### The Apotheosis of John Brown: Part III



#### Narrator:

Narrator: On the night of the sixteenth of October, 1859, there appeared near the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers a party of nineteen men – fourteen white and five colored.

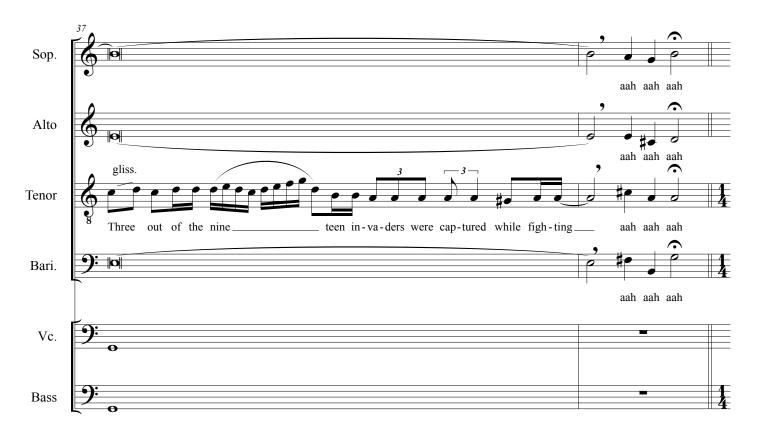
These men invaded the town of Harper's Ferry,











*Narrator:* and one of them was Captain John Brown – the man who originated, planned, and commanded the expedition.



#### 3D Execution

cue in narrator and low strings singers talk quietly with each other

#### Narrator:

At the time of capture Captain Brown was supposed to be mortally wounded, as he had several ugly gashes and bayonet wounds on his head and body, and apprehending that me might speedily die, or that he might be rescued, and the opportunity to make him an example of slaveholding vengeance would be lost, his captors hurried him to Charlestown

cue for applause sounds and soft hoots from singers, later from orchestra as well

placed him in prison strongly guarded by troops

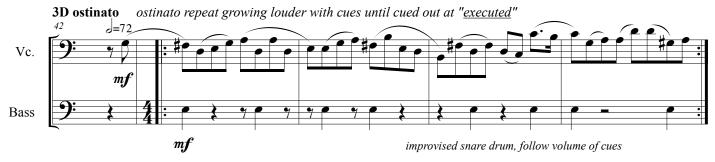
louder, including orchestra members who aren't playing

and before his wounds were healed he was brought into court, subjected to nominal trial

louder, everyone

convicted of high-treason and inciting slaves to insurrection, and was **executed.** 

Sudden cut off after executed of everyone



End Part III

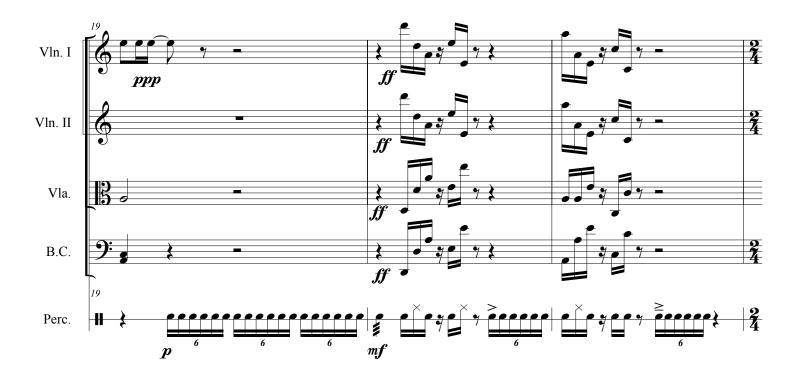
Version 12.16.12

## The Apotheosis of John Brown PART IV

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Narrator speaks after music ends

#### The Apotheosis of John Brown: Part IV

*Narrator:* A scream for vengeance came up from all sections of the slave States and from great multitudes in the North. All who were supposed to have been any way connected with John Brown were to be hunted down and surrendered to the tender mercies of panic-stricken Virginia, and there to be tried after the fashion of John Brown, and of course to be summarily executed. My going to **England** was not suggested by my connection with John Brown but the fact that I was now in danger of arrest made what I had intended a pleasure a necessity.









Soprano continues speaking as music continues:

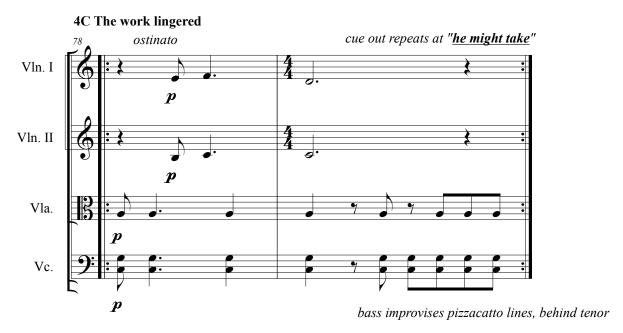
What was my connection with John Brown, and what I knew of his scheme for the capture of Harper's Ferry, I many now proceed to state. From the time of my visit in 1847, our relations were confidential. He often stopped over night when we talked over his plan for destroying the value of slave property. Men do not like to buy runaway horses, nor to invest their money in a species of property likely to take legs and walk off with itself. If the plan should fail, and John Brown driven from the mountains, a new fact would be developed by which the nation would be kept



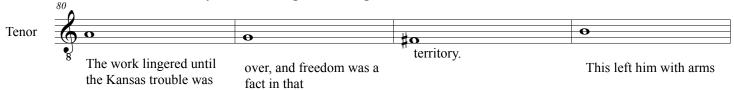


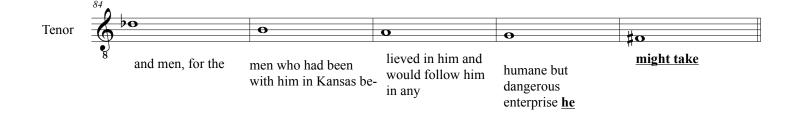


#### The Apotheosis of John Brown: Part IV



tenor enters after above string ostinato begins





short pause







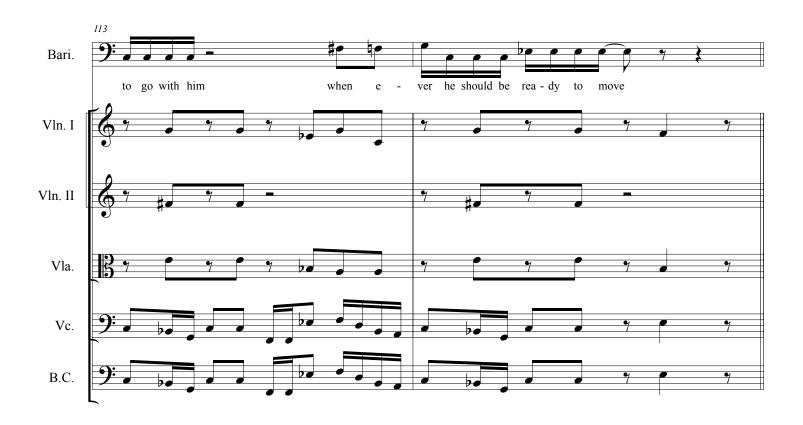






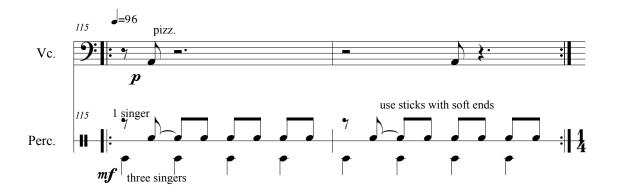


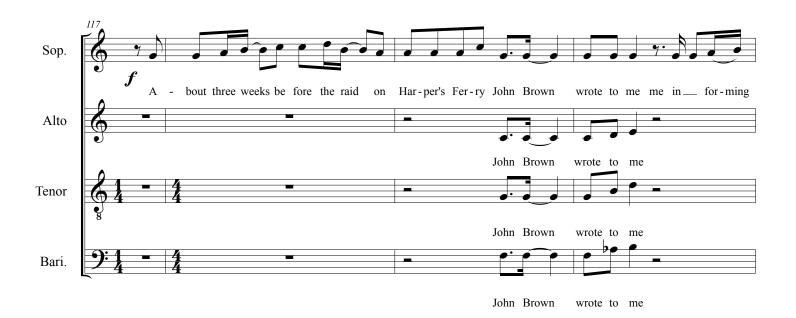




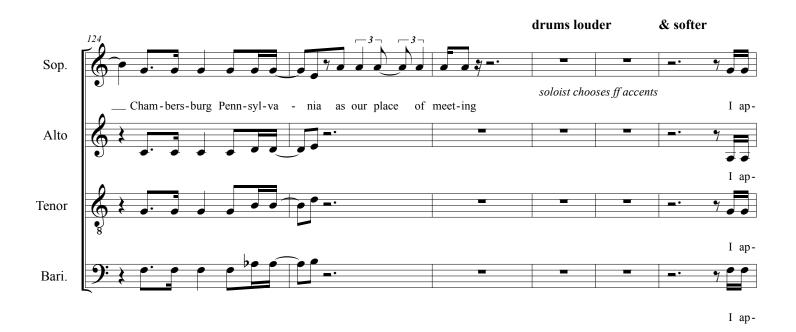
During this song, the other singers have sat in a circle around a bass drum flat on the floor. Now the baritone joins them.

#### 4E: singers around a bass drum on the floor













Soprano continues speaking: for offenses said to have been committed in Kansas.

Mezzo rises from drum and directly addresses audience. Others continue playing the drum pattern.

Mezzo (speaking):

(cue 1)

<u>We sat down among the rocks</u> and talked over the enterprise. The taking of Harper's Ferry was now declared as his purpose and he wanted to know what I thought. I opposed the measure with all the arguments at my command. To me, such a measure would be fatal to all engaged. It would be an attack upon the federal government, and would array the whole country against us. Captain Brown did not object to rousing the nation; it seemed that something startling was just what the nation needed.

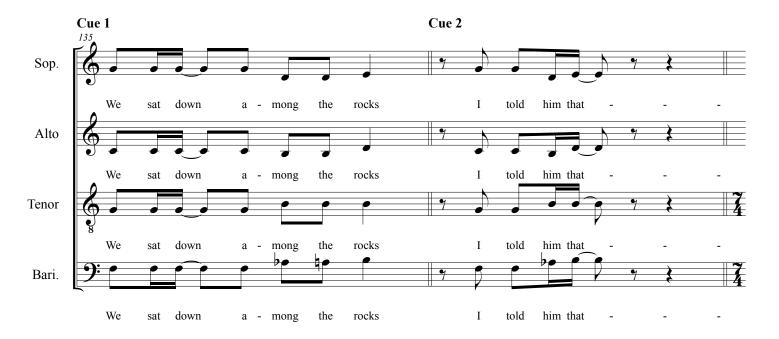
(cue 2)

<u>I told him that</u> all of his arguments and descriptions of the place convinced me that he was going into a perfect steel-trap, and that once in he would never get out alive. He replied that if surrounded he would find means for cutting his way out; but that would not be forced on him; he should have a number of the best citizens as his prisoner at the start.

sudden dut off of drum and celli

I looked at him with astonishment that he could rest upon a reed so weak and broken, and told him Virginia would blow him and hostages sky-high rather that he should hold Harper's Ferry an hour.

celli and drum resume



*Mezzo continues speaking:* We spent the most of Saturday and a part of Sunday in this debate; he for striking a blow which should rouse the country, and I for unaccountably drawing off the slaves to the mountains, as first suggested by him. In parting

cue out drums and celli

he put his arms around me

cue in orchestra

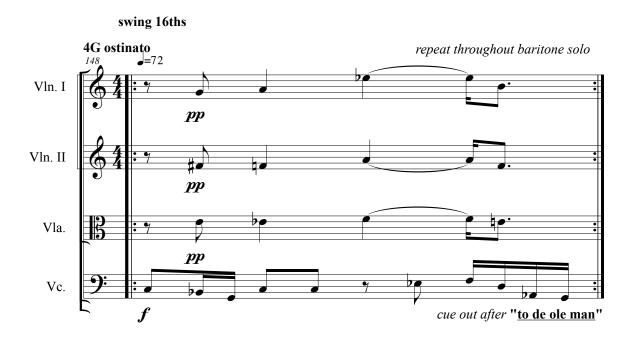
in a manner more than friendly and said:





*Narrator:* But discretion or cowardice me proof against the dear old man's eloquence – perhaps it was something of both which determined my course.

# **4G.** Cue in strings first, then baritone



# Baritone speaks:

Jeremiah Anderson, one of Brown's men, who took part in the raid but escaped by the mountains, told me that he and Shields Green were sent out o duty as soon as the capture of the arsenal was effected. Their business was to bring in the slaves from the surrounding country, and were on the outside when Brown was surrounded. I said "Why did not Shields come with you?"



cue out strings with to the ole man

End Part IV

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# The Apotheosis of John Brown PART V

Dave Soldier



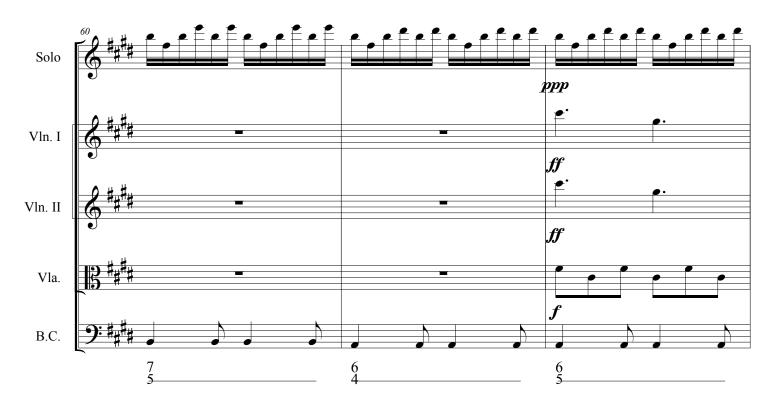








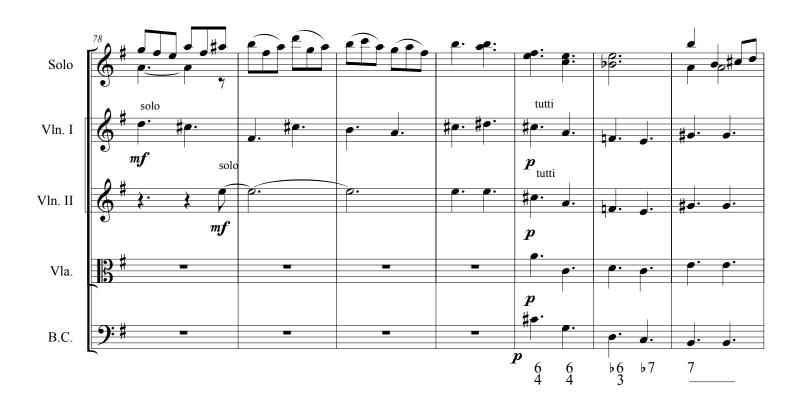




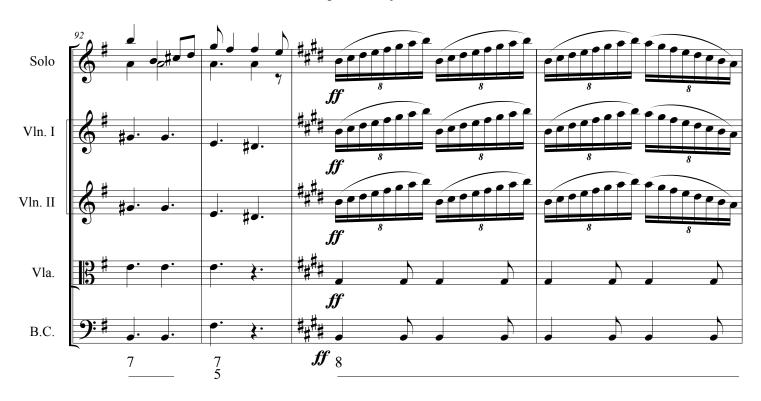






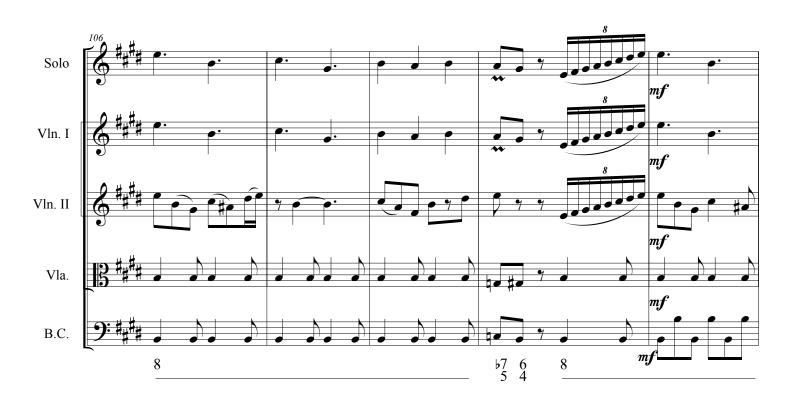




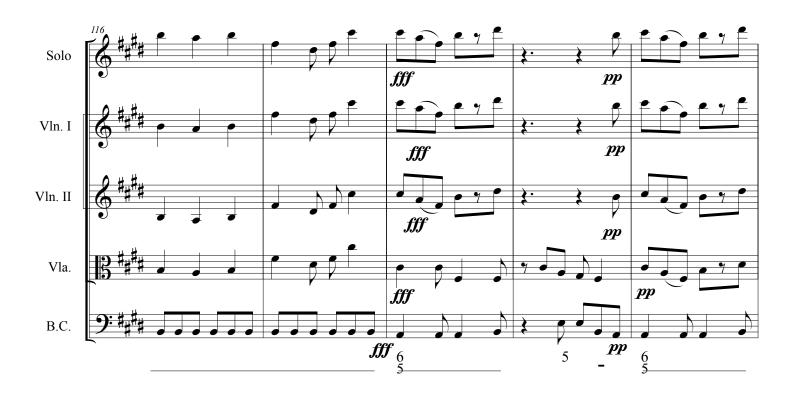












The Apotheosis of John Brown: Part V



Narrator speaks after music ends

#### The Apotheosis of John Brown: Part V

### 5B. Neither Principalities Nor Powers

Narrator:

Much of the excitement caused by the Harper's Ferry insurrection had subsided, and I should have now gratified a long-cherished desire to visit France, had not news reached me from home of the death of my beloved daughter Annie, the light and life of my house.

I took the first outgoing steamer for Portland, Maine. Great

Cue violins and snare 5B ostinato in after "Great" Narrator continues:

changes had now taken place in the public mind touching the raid. Virginia had satisfied her thirst for blood. She had executed all the raiders sho had fallen into her hands. She had not given Captain Brown the benefit of a reasonable doubt, but hurried him to the scaffold in panic-stricken haste.

She had made herself ridiculous by her fright, and despisable by her fury.

short pause while first cello pizzacato and later other strings begin to gently inprovise with melody

Emerson's prediction that Brown's gallows would become like a cross was already becoming fulfilled.

The old hero, in the trial hour, had behaved so grandly that men regarded him not as a murderer,

but as a martyr. His defeat was already assuming the form and pressure of victory,

and his death was giving new life and power to the principles of justice and liberty.

He had spoken great words in the face of death the champions of slavery. He had quailed before neither.

What he had lost by the sword, he had more than gained by the truth.

To his own soul he was right, and <u>neither principalities nor powers, life nor death</u>,

things present or things to come could shake his dauntless spirit or move him form his ground.



after several repeats, cello enters with improv pizz.

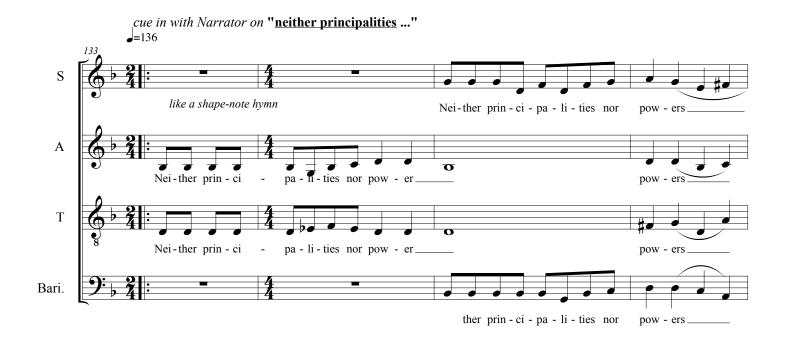


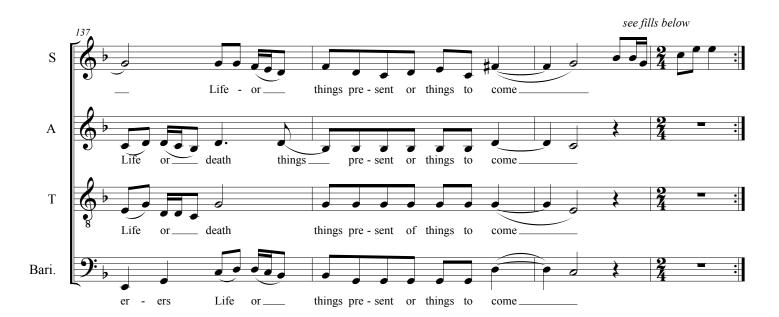
Southern fife & drum style: use phrase as basis, be free with accents



# The Apotheosis of John Brown: Part V

Singers start piano, repeat at least 6X. The singers begin to improvise (keep harmonic movement) more as they repeat more.





Soprano improvises fills using basic melody (can be taken over by any singer who is comfortable improvising)

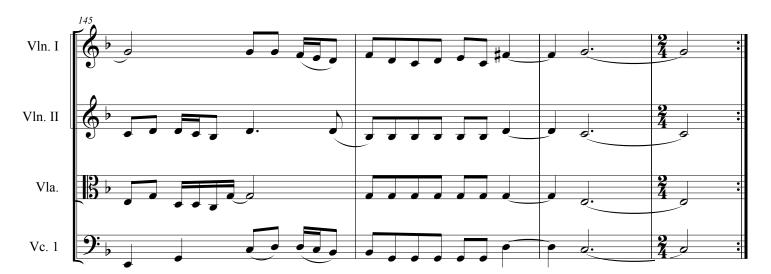
- 1. In the trial hour
- 2. to his own soul he was right
- 3. could shake his dauntless spirit or move him from his ground

As repeats proceed

- 1. strings gradually join in
- 2. cue in percussion and bass pizzicato improvisation (use tympani if available)
- 3. music gradually swells to fortissimmo

strings gradually switch from 5B ostinato, one by one, to this 2nd ostinato





After soprano fills, violin soloist improvised fills.

After several more repeats, cue all to decrescendo to pianissimo, and cue in narrator

*Narrator:* He did not even ask that the cup of death might pass from him. Those who looked for confession heard only the voice of rebuke and warning.

solo violin continues quiet improvised gospel-style solo cue out

- 1. singers
- 2. string sections
- 3. percussion
- 4. bass

solo violinist ends with slow fade to nothing (about 10 second long fade)