

Requiem for the First Amendment

for eight voices

Stephen F. Lilly

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Requiem for the First Amendment

for 8 voices

All eight performers should be dressed in black judges' robes (à la Supreme Court). Alternatively, the requiem can be sung by a larger choir, evenly divided between the High Justices and the Low Justices. If a large choir is performing the work, the 8 speaking soloists should be lined up in front of the choir in black judges' robes.

The range of four of the voices should be high (à la soprano), and the remaining four should be low (à la bass).

All singing should be done without vibrato at a quiet dynamic level throughout.

When singing syllables that end with an [n] or [m], the majority of the assigned duration should be given to that sound (i.e. the singers should move quickly through the vowel to the nasal).

For the singing that underscores the asides, the sustained phoneme is indicated by IPA in brackets, and unless otherwise indicated, should elide with the previous syllable.

Asides, written on the single-line staff above the grand staff, should be spoken clearly and loudly directly to the audience.

Requiem for the First Amendment

First Justice
Spoken | "Except for mine—after all, 'In God We Trust,' right?" | *mf*

chant-like
♩ = 100

4 High Justices
4 Low Justices

p

Con - gress shall make no law re - spect - ing an es - tab - lish - ment of re - li - gion, [n]

Remaining Seven Justices

Second Justice | "Unless, we register your faith as a threat." | *mf*

Third Justice | "Keep in mind, my closely held beliefs can impinge upon yours." | *mf*

9 *Tutti*

H
L

sempre p

or pro - hib - it - ing the free ex - er - cise there - of; [v]

Remaining Seven Justices *Remaining Six Justices*

Fourth Justice | "Excepting, of course, speech I deem rude or insulting." | *mf*

Fifth Justice | "Also, remember, money is really just paper speech." | *mf*

16 *Tutti*

H
L

or a bridg - ing the free - dom of speech, [m] [m] or of the press;

Remaining Seven Justices *Remaining Seven Justices* *Tutti*

Sixth Justice

"Not if you quote me unfairly or insist on publishing
that unflattering picture of my turkey wattle."

mf

Remaining Seven Justices

Tutti

24

[m] or the right of the peo-ple peace-a-bly to as-sem-ble, and to pe-

Seventh Justice

"Unless the grievance is a corporation,
'cause they're people, too."

mf

Eighth Justice

"Or if you're upset by the
unpopular election of a despot...
...crybabies."

mf

Remaining Seven Justices

Remaining Six Justices

31

ti-tion the gov-ern-ment for a re-dress of griev-an-ces. [s]