

**AN AMERICAN TE DEUM** is a seven-movement work for treble chorus, percussion, piano and solo violin and cello. Treble choirs are continually becoming more professional and prominent, and the need for a larger cadre of extended works for that medium is increasing. Economy of instrumentation is also essential to many ensembles that frequently tour and whose concert seasons are multi-faceted.

I decided on the *Te Deum* text, written some sixteen centuries ago, as the centerpiece for the work. Of course, literally hundreds of musical settings of *Te Deum* have been written, but the vast majority of them are for mixed chorus and not for treble voices. I also wanted to vary from the traditional text in places and find writings from American poets that I could infuse into the mix.

Lastly, I wanted to explore some musical style changes in various movements of *An American Te Deum* that would reflect a bit of the "melting pot" of styles that one finds in American society. For example, the first movement is percussive and rather angular in nature, while the second movement reflects a hint of jazz and "Gershwin-style" harmony. "Vouchsafe, O Lord" (movement VI) is written as a straight-forward motet, while other movements capture yet a different style. In summary, the nature of *An American Te Deum* is not unlike a "musical quilt," constructed with treble voices, a traditional text in English and Latin, American texts in English, various musical styles laced into the middle, and the whole of it framed in a rhythmically and harmonically colorful accompaniment of percussion, piano and two solo strings.

ZRS

I. We Praise Thee (Laudamus Te).....	3
II. The Angels' Song.....	11
(Tibi Cherubim et Seraphim)	
III. Sanctus.....	15
(The Glorious Chorus of Apostles Praise Thee)	
IV. To God Our Strength.....	25
(Tu Rex Gloriae)	
V. Like a Feathered Dove.....	36
VI. Vouchsafe, O Lord.....	42
VII. In Thee Have I Trusted.....	48
(Reprise and Chorale)	

Z. RANDALL STROOPE is widely known as a conductor, lecturer and composer. Choral groups under his direction have taken nearly 60 national and international tours, including Japan, England, South Africa, China, Sweden, Russia, Finland, the Baltics, eastern Europe, Canada, and beyond. He is the Artistic Director of a summer festival in England and is the Director of Choral Studies at Rowan University in Glassboro, New Jersey. His choral works are recorded on *Passages, vol. I, II, and III: The Choral Works of Z. Randall Stroope*. (See [www.zrstroope.com](http://www.zrstroope.com) for more information.)

Commissioned by the Kalamazoo Children's Chorus in celebration of their  
25th anniversary, Fred Sang, Artistic Director

# An American Te Deum

SSA/piano/violin/cello/percussion

## I. We Praise Thee (Laudamus Te)

Text: Traditional

Z. Randall Stroope

**Molto ritmico** ♩ = 138

The score is for a piece in 2/4 time, marked 'Molto ritmico' with a tempo of 138 beats per minute. It features five systems of staves. The first system includes Violin, Cello, Percussion (Snare), and Piano. The second system includes Violin, Cello, Percussion (Glockenspiel), and three vocal parts (Soprano, Soprano, Alto). The third system includes Piano. The lyrics are: 'We praise thee, O God! We praise thee, O God, we ac - know - ledge thee to be the Lord'. The score includes various dynamics such as *f*, *mf*, and *f molto ritmico*, and performance instructions like '(rim)', 'Glock.', and '(to Snare)'. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Copyright © 2007 JEHMS, Inc.

A Division of Alliance Music Publications, Inc.

P.O. Box 131977, Houston, Texas, 77219-1977

International Copyright Secured All Rights Reserved

AMP - 5019

10 Vln. *V* *V* *V* *V* *V*

10 Vc. *pizz.* *arco* *V* *pizz.* *arco* *V*

10 Perc. **Snare** (rim) (rim) (rim)

10 S Lau - da - mus! Lau - da - mus! Lau - da - mus Te, lau - da - mus! Lau - da - mus! Lau - da - mus!

10 S Lau - da - mus! Lau - da - mus! Lau - da, lau - da - mus! Lau - da - mus! Lau - da - mus!

10 A Lau - da - mus! Lau - da - mus! Lau - - - da - mus! Lau - da - mus! Lau - da - mus!

10 Pno.

13 Vln. *V* *V* *V* *V* *V*

13 Vc. *V* *V* *V* *V* *V*

13 Perc. (rim) **Vibraslap** (to Glock)

13 S Lau - da - mus Te, lau - da - mus! Lau - da - mus Te, lau - da - mus! Lau - da - mus Te, lau - da - mus!

13 S Lau - da, lau - da - mus! Lau - da - mus Te, lau - da - mus! Lau - da - mus Te, lau -

13 A Lau - - - da - mus! Lau - da - mus Te, lau - da - mus! Lau - da - mus

13 Pno.

## II. The Angels' Song (Tibi Cherubim et Seraphim)

Text: "The Angels' Song"  
by Robert Lowry (1826-1899)  
and traditional Latin

62  $\text{♩} = 60$

Vln. *mp* *molto espr.*

Vc. *mp molto espr.*

Perc.

Pno. *mp*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 62 through 65. The Violin part begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a tempo marking of quarter note = 60. It features a melodic line with accents and dynamic markings of *mp* and *molto espr.* The Viola part is in the bass clef with a similar melodic line. The Percussion part is a simple drum line. The Piano part is in a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) with a *mp* dynamic marking.

66

Vln.

Vc.

Perc.

S *mp*  
Roll - ing down from hea - ven, Comes glo - rious burst of song; A cho - rus full of sweet - ness The

S *mp*  
Roll - ing down from hea - ven, Comes glo - rious burst of song; A cho - rus full of sweet - ness The

A *p*  
Hum

Pno. *mp*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 66 through 69. The vocal parts (Soprano and Alto) enter at measure 66 with the lyrics: "Roll - ing down from hea - ven, Comes glo - rious burst of song; A cho - rus full of sweet - ness The". The Soprano and Alto parts are marked *mp*. The Alto part has a *p* dynamic marking for the word "Hum". The Piano accompaniment continues with a *mp* dynamic marking. The Violin and Viola parts are silent in this system.

69

Vln. *mf*

Vc.

Perc. *p* *mf* **Sus. Cymbal**

S *mf*  
sing - ers an - gel's thron - g. Ti - bi om - nes an - ge - li, Ti - bi Che - ru - bim et Se - ra - phim.

S *mf*  
sing - ers an - gel's thron - g. Ti - bi om - nes an - ge - li, Ti - bi Che - ru - bim et Se - ra - phim.

A *mf*  
(hum) Ti - bi om - nes an - ge - li, Ti - bi Che - ru - bim et Se - ra - phim.

Pno. *mf*

73

Vln. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

Perc. *p* *mf*

S *mp*  
- da - mus, lau - da - mus, De - - - um.

S *mp*  
- da - mus, lau - da - mus, De - - - um.

A *mp*  
Lau - da - mus De - - - um.

Pno. *mp*

### III. Sanctus (The Glorious Chorus of Apostles Praise Thee)

Text: Traditional

95  $\text{♩} = 168$   $(\text{♩} = \text{♩})^*$

Vln.

Vc.

Perc.

S *f bold and confident*  $(\text{♩} = \text{♩})^*$  *mf*  
San - ctus, san - ctus, san - ctus, san - ctus!

S *f bold and confident*  
San - ctus, san - ctus, san - tus, san - ctus!

A *f bold and confident*  
San - ctus, san - ctus, san - ctus, san - ctus!

Pno. *f crisp!*

\* The eighth note remains constant throughout this movement. Meter changes should be smooth.

99

Vln.

Vc.

Perc.

S *f bold and confident*  $(\text{♩} = \text{♩})^*$  *mf*  
San - ctus, san - ctus, san - ctus, san - ctus!

S *f bold and confident*  
San - ctus, san - ctus, san - ctus, san - ctus!

A *f bold and confident*  
San - ctus, san - ctus, san - ctus, san - ctus!

Pno. *f crisp!*

## IV. "To God Our Strength" (Tu Rex Gloriam)

Text: Traditional  
and "To God Our Strength"  
Pilgrim Hymn

$\text{♩} = 148$

183

Vln. *f*

Vc. *f*

Perc.

Pno. *f*

190

Vln.

Vc.

Perc.

190

S *f*

Tu Rex glo - ri - ae, Chris - te! King of glo - ry, Fa - ther and Son e - ter - nal

S *f*

Tu Rex glo - ri - ae, Chris - te! King of glo - ry, Fa - ther and Son e - ter - nal

A *f*

190 Tu Rex glo - ri - ae Chris - te! King of glo - ry, Fa - ther and Son e - ter - nal

Pno.

## V. Like a Feathered Dove

Text: Isaac Watts (1719)  
adapted from Psalm 55

284  $\text{♩} = 60$

Vln. *mp* *molto espr.* *mf* *mp*

Vc.

[Percussion Tacet]

Pno. *mp* *mf*

291

Vln.

Vc.

S *mp* *dolcissimo* *mf*

S *mp* *dolcissimo* *mf*

A *mp* *dolcissimo* *mf*

Pno. *mp*

O, were I like a feath-ered dove, And in - no - cence had wings, I'd

O, were I like a feath-ered dove, And in - no - cence had wings, I'd

O, were I like a feath-ered dove, And in - no - cence had wings, I'd

Vln.

Vc.

S fly and make a long re - move, From rest - less things. O, to

S fly and make a long re - move, From rest - less things. O, to

A fly and make a long re - move, From rest - less things. O, to

Pno.

Vln.

Vc.

S some wild des - ert go, And to find a peace - ful home, Where

S some wild des - ert go, And to find a peace - ful home, Where

A some wild des - ert go, And to find a peace - ful home, Where

Pno.

## VI. Vouchsafe, O Lord

Text: Traditional

342  $\text{♩} = 80$

Vln.

Vc.

Perc.

S *mp*  
Vouch-safe, O Lord, Vouch-safe, O Lord to keep us— this day with - out

S *mp*  
Vouch-safe, O Lord, Vouch - safe, O Lord— to keep us this day— with - out

A *mp*  
Vouch-safe, O Lord, Vouch-safe, O Lord to keep us— this day with - out

Pno.

349

Vln.

Vc. *mp*

Perc.

S  
sin. San - ctus, san - - - ctus.

S  
sin. San - ctus, san - - - ctus.

A  
sin. San - ctus, san - - - ctus

Pno.