

6 Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness

from *The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley*

Music and Lyrics by
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STANLEY: (*offering his hand*) I'm Stanley.

INDIE: (*startled*) Agghhh!

STANLEY: Who are you?

DUSTY: Who is *he*?

Homespun $\text{♩} = 112$

swing 8ths

INDIE:

Who am I? Who am I? Oh, yeah! I'm the

7

Dec-lar-a-tion of In-de-pen-dence, Guess you heard— o' me, boy? The

11

Dec-lar-a-tion of In-de-pen-dence: Tom my Jef-fer-son's pride and joy. Now,

17

you can talk — a - bout the Bill of Rights, — and the Con - sti - tu - tions a ball, but with -

21

out me, kid, the U - ni - ted States

INDIE: When it comes to historical manifestos, you could say I was revolutionary. Heh-heh.

DUSTY: When it comes to comedians, I could say you're no Ben Franklin.

25

would-n't be u - ni - ted at all! —

INDIE: Yeah, but I'm much better looking.

DUSTY:

29

That's the De - cla - ration of You Know What, the or - i - gi - nal D. O. I. —

35

INDIE:

Written in sev en teen - sev en-ty-six and signed on the Fourth of Ju-ly.

INDIE: Well, actually, I was ratified on the 4th; I wasn't signed until August 2nd.

DUSTY: But who wants to celebrate the "2nd of August?"

40

INDIE:

The Con - gress passed me

44

DUSTY:

Then put it to a vote. They signed down there, rang the
back and forth They signed down there, rang the

48

Lib er-ty Bell, _____ Ding! Dong! "When in the course _

Lib er-ty Bell, _____ And that was all _ she wrote. "When in the course

DUSTY,
INDIE:

53

of hu - man e - vents." _____ It's the

"Shot heard 'round the world" _____ plus a lit - tle "Com - mon Sense." _____ And that's the source, _

57

of hu - man e - vents." _____ It's the

"Shot heard 'round the world" _____ plus a lit - tle "Com - mon Sense." _____ And that's the source, _

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 48 through 57. It features two vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Lib er-ty Bell, _____ Ding! Dong! "When in the course _", "Lib er-ty Bell, _____ And that was all _ she wrote. "When in the course", "of hu - man e - vents." _____ It's the", and "Shot heard 'round the world" _____ plus a lit - tle "Com - mon Sense." _____ And that's the source, _". The piano part includes various musical notations such as chords, arpeggios, and dynamics like 'DUSTY, INDIE:'. Measure numbers 48, 53, and 57 are indicated at the start of their respective systems.

61

ev - er since it went to press _____

STANLEY: of the

Yes!

Detailed description: This system contains measures 61 through 65. It features a vocal line with lyrics, a piano accompaniment, and a guitar line. The vocal line begins with a rest, followed by the lyrics 'ev - er since it went to press' with a long underline. A character named Stanley enters with the lyrics 'of the' and 'Yes!'. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both hands. The guitar line has a few notes and rests.

66

right to life, and lib - er - ty and the pur - suit _____

The right to life! And lib - er - ty! The pur -

Detailed description: This system contains measures 66 through 71. The vocal line continues with 'right to life, and lib - er - ty and the pur - suit' followed by a long underline. The lyrics 'The right to life! And lib - er - ty! The pur -' are written below the guitar line. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and moving lines. The guitar line has several chords and some melodic fragments.

72

of hap - pi - ness! _____

suit of hap - pi - ness! _____

Detailed description: This system contains measures 72 through 76. The vocal line has 'of hap - pi - ness!' with a long underline. The lyrics 'suit of hap - pi - ness!' are written below the guitar line. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and moving lines. The guitar line has several chords and some melodic fragments.

INDIE: (*pointing to itself*) It's all right there, Stanley, the immortal language of the American Revolution, writ large.

STANLEY: You mean like: "Give me liberty or give me death"?

INDIE: No, not that one.

76

DUSTY: How about: "Don't fire till you see the whites of their eyes?"

STANLEY: Good one.

DUSTY: I like it.

INDIE: Not that one either.

STANLEY: "These are the times that try men's souls?"

DUSTY: "I have not yet begun to fight?"

83

STANLEY, DUSTY: "We the people, in order to form a perfect union..."

90

INDIE: Stop!

Now you're just
messin' with me...

a tempo

**DUSTY,
STANLEY:**

You're the

94

Dec - cla - ra - tion of

In - de - pen - dence

we

could - n't

have done

— it with - out.

You're A -

98

INDIE:
(with Cowardly Lion humility)

STANLEY:

mer - i - ca's Mag - na - Car - ta! I don't know what you're talk - in' a - bout! From

102

DUSTY:

**DUSTY,
STANLEY:**

Lex - ing - ton to Con - cord to dump - ing Bos - ton tea, you

106

INDIE:

**DUSTY,
STANLEY:**

sum it all up in just one page: The Dec - la - ra - tion! That's me! "When in the course

110

8vb - - - - -

of hu - man e - vents: Just

INDIE:

When in the course! Of hu - man e - vents! Just

114

sev - en lit - tle words, but what com - mo - tion they com mence. We've got these rights!

sev - en lit - tle words, but what com - mo - tion they com mence.

118

And you on - ly get one guess. They're the

We've got these rights! You have to guess? They're the

123

right to life, and lib - er - ty and the pur - suit of hap - pi... From the

right to life, and lib - er - ty and the pur - suit of hap - pi... From the

ALL THREE:

127 (Jimmy Durante)

Stars and Stripes and Bet - sy Ross to the Del - a - ware Washing - ton had to cross to

131

DUSTY,
INDIE:

Yan - kee Doo - dle and Paul Re - vere, — it's here! Hear, — hear! "When in the course —

135

STANLEY:
(pointing) Who's
John Hancock

DUSTY,
INDIE:

INDIE: Big
signature; little...

ALL THREE:

of hu - man e - vents:" a

139

friend - ly lit - tle class — in civ - il dis - o - be - di - ence. A mer - i - ca spoke —

144

INDIE: *at pitch*

and ex - pec - ted noth ing less than the right to life, and
The right to life!

149

lib - er - ty, and the pur - suit of hap - pi -
And lib - er - ty! And the pur - suit

155

*falsetto,
or power belt*

ness!
That's life and lib - er - ty, yeah, life - and lib - er - ty,

159

Yeah!

life and lib - er - ty and hap - pi - ness! Yeah!

sva *p* *ff* *svb*

Detailed description: This musical score is for the hymn 'Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness'. It consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line with a long melisma 'Yeah!' at the end. The middle staff is a vocal line with lyrics: 'life and lib - er - ty and hap - pi - ness! Yeah!'. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is common time. The piano part features a steady bass line in the left hand and more complex chords and textures in the right hand. Dynamics include *p* (piano) and *ff* (fortissimo). Performance markings include *sva* (sustained vocal) and *svb* (sustained bass).