

Clear the Track

For SATB Chorus and Piano

Music by John M. Tarrh

Words by Jesse Hutchinson, Jr.



Meriam Hill Music

**www.tarrh.com
(ASCAP)**

Instrumentation

SATB Chorus
Piano

Performance Notes

Performance time: approximately 6 minutes 15 seconds

Program Notes

Clear the Track (2017) was written for the 35th anniversary of the founding of the Lexington Pops Chorus and the 70th birthday of its current and founding music director, Robert A. Lague.

In the 1840s the Hutchinson family of New Hampshire formed a traveling singing group that became very popular with both audiences and critics. Calling themselves the Hutchinson Family Singers, their music emphasized themes of women's rights and abolitionism among others. Jesse, one of the brothers, left the group so that he could write more songs on these themes, which were frequently sung to existing tunes. *Clear the Track* (also known as *Get Off the Track!*), written by Jesse in 1844, became one of their most successful. It was sung to the tune of Dan Emmett's popular *Old Dan Tucker*. Versions of this can be heard on YouTube.

The text consists of a number of stanzas with an accompanying chorus (or refrain). I felt that the piece would be more interesting if each stanza were set differently to add more variety and excitement, rather than using the same music for each stanza and chorus. My setting uses a syncopated propulsive rhythm in the bass that unifies the work while mimicking the relentless forward motion of the train.

John M. Tarrh

Composed for the 35th anniversary of the founding of the Lexington Pops Chorus
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Jesse Hutchinson, Jr.

Clear the Track

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Rev. 1/23/17

Moderato, marcato (♩ = 120)

Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Bass
Piano

f
f
f
f
mf

Roll it a-long! Roll it a-long!
Roll it a-long! Roll it a-long!

7
S.
A.
T.
B.
Pno.

f
f
f
f
f

Roll it a-long! Through the na-tion Free-dom's car, E-man-ci-pa-tion!____
Roll it a-long! Through the na-tion Free-dom's car, E-man-ci-pa-tion!____
Roll it a-long! Through the na-tion Free-dom's car, Free-dom's car, E-man-ci-pa-tion!____
Roll it a-long! Through the na-tion Free-dom's car, Free-dom's car, E-man-ci-pa-tion!____

12

S. Ho! the car, E-man-ci-pa-tion, rides ma-jes-tic through our na-tion

A. Ho! the car, E-man-ci-pa-tion, rides ma-jes-tic through our na-tion

T. Ho! the car, E-man-ci-pa-tion, rides ma-jes-tic through our na-tion

B. Ho! the car, E-man-ci-pa-tion, rides ma-jes-tic through our na-tion

Pno. *mf*

18

S. bear-ing on its train, the sto-ry Lib-er-ty! a na-tion's glo-ry.

A. bear-ing on its train, the sto-ry Lib-er-ty! a na-tion's glo-ry.

T. bear-ing on its train, the sto-ry Lib-er-ty! a na-tion's glo-ry.

B. bear-ing on its train, the sto-ry Lib-er-ty! a na-tion's glo-ry.

Pno. *f*

24

S. Roll it a - long! Through the na-tion Free-dom's car, E-man-ci-

A. Roll it a - long! Through the na-tion Free-dom's car, E-man-ci-

T. Roll it a-long! Roll it a-long! Roll it a-long! Through the na-tion Free-dom's car, Free-dom's car, E-man-ci-

B. Roll it a-long! Roll it a-long! Roll it a-long! Through the na-tion Free-dom's car, Free-dom's car, E-man-ci-

Pno. *mf*

30

S. pa - tion! First of all the train, and

A. pa - tion! First of all the train, and

T. pa - tion! First of all the train, and

B. pa - tion! First of all the train, and

Pno. *f* *p*

35

S. grea-ter, speeds the daunt-less Lib - er - a - tor

A. grea-ter, speeds the daunt-less Lib - er - a - tor

T. grea-ter, speeds the daunt-less Lib - er - a - tor

B. grea-ter, speeds the daunt-less Lib - er - a - tor

Pno.

39

S. on-ward cheered a - mid ho - san-nas, and the wav-ing of free

A. on ward cheered a - mid ho - san-nas, and the wav-ing of free

T. on ward cheered a - mid ho - san-nas, and the wav-ing of free

B. on ward cheered a - mid ho - san-nas, and the wav-ing of free

Pno.

43

S. ban - ners. _____ *f* Roll it a - long! Roll it a - long! Roll it a - long!

A. ban - ners. _____ *f* Roll it a - long! Roll it a - long! Roll it a - long!

T. ban - ners. _____ *f* Roll it a - long!

B. ban - ners. _____ *f* Roll it a - long!

Pno.

49

S. spread your ban - ners while the peo - ple _____ shout _____ ho - san - nas. _____ *p* *f*

A. spread your ban - ners while the peo - ple _____ shout _____ ho - san - nas. _____ *p* *f*

T. spread your ban - ners while the peo - ple _____ shout _____ ho - san - nas. _____ *p* *f*

B. spread your ban - ners while the peo - ple _____ shout _____ ho - san - nas. _____ *p* *f*

Pno.

54

S. 

A. 

T. 
Men of var-ious pre - di - lec-tions, Fright-ened, run in all di - rec-tions;

B. 
Men of var-ious pre - di - lec-tions, Fright-ened, run in all di - rec-tions;

Pno. 

59

S. 
Mer-chants, ed - i - tors, phy - si - cians, Law-yers, priests and pol - i - ti - cians.

A. 
Mer-chants, ed - i - tors, phy - si - cians, Law-yers, priests and pol - i - ti - cians.

T. 
Get out of the way! Get

B. 
Get out of the way! Get

Pno. 

63

S. Ev - ery sta - tion, clear the track _____ for

A. Ev - ery sta - tion, clear the track _____ for

T. out of the way! Get out of the way! Get out of the way! Get out of the way! Get out of the way! Get out of the way! Get out of the,

B. out of the way! Get out of the way! Get out of the way! Get out of the way! Get out of the way! Get out of the way! Get out of the,

Pno.

67

S. e - man - ci - pa - tion. _____ Pol - i - ti - cians gazed, a - stoun - ded,

A. e - man - ci - pa - tion. _____ Pol - i - ti - cians gazed, a - stoun - ded,

T. get out of the way!

B. get out of the way!

Pno.

73

S.  When, at first our bell re-sound-ded:


A.  When, at first our bell re-sound-ded:


T.  Freight trains are com-ing, tell these fox-es, With our votes and bal-lot


B.  Freight trains are com-ing, tell these fox-es, With our votes and bal-lot

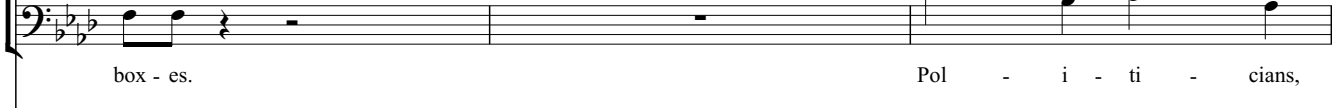
Pno. 


78

S.  Jump for your lives! Jump for your lives! Jump for your lives! Jump for your lives! Jump for your lives!

A.  Jump for your lives! Jump for your lives! Jump for your lives! Jump for your lives! Jump for your lives!

T.  box-es. Pol-i-ti-cians,

B.  box-es. Pol-i-ti-cians,

Pno. 

81

S. *mp*
 Jump for your lives! Jump for your lives! Jump for your lives! Jump_ for your lives!

A. *mp*
 Jump for your lives! Jump for your lives! Jump for your lives! Jump_ for your lives!

T. *mp*
 from your dan - ger - ous false_ po - si - tions._____

B. *mp*
 from your dan - ger - ous false_ po - si - tions._____

Pno. *mp*
 from your dan - ger - ous false_ po - si - tions._____ *p*

88

S. *mp*
 All true friends of e - man - ci - pa - tion, Haste to free - dom's rail - road sta - tion;

A. *mp*
 All true friends of e - man - ci - pa - tion, Haste to free - dom's rail - road_ sta - tion;

T. *mp*
 All_ true_ friends of e - man - ci - pa - tion, Haste_ to_ free - dom's_ rail - road sta - tion;

B. *mp*
 All true friends of e - man - ci - pa - tion, Haste to_ free - dom's rail - road_ sta - tion;

Pno. *mp*

96

S. Quick in - to the cars get sea - ted, All is rea - dy and com - ple - ted.

A. Quick in - to the cars get sea - ted, All is rea - dy and com - ple - ted.

T. Quick in - to the cars get sea - ted, All is rea - dy and com - ple - ted.

B. Quick in - to the cars get sea - ted, All is rea - dy and com - ple - ted.

Pno.

104

S. Put on the steam! Put on the steam! All are cry - ing, —

A. Put on the steam! Put on the steam! Put on the steam! Put on the steam! All are cry - ing, —

T. Put on the steam! Put on the steam! Put on the steam! Put on the steam! Put on the steam! Put on the steam! All are cry - ing, —

B. Put on the steam! Put on the steam! Put on the steam! Put on the steam! Put on the steam! Put on the steam! All are cry - ing, —

Pno. *mf*

108

S. and the lib - er - ty flags are fly - ing. —

A. and the lib - er - ty flags are fly - ing. —

T. and the lib - er - ty flags are fly - ing. —

B. and the lib - er - ty flags are fly - ing. —

Pno. *f*

114

S. Now, a-gain the bell is tol-ling, Hin-der not their des-ti-na-tion,

A. Now, a-gain the bell is tol-ling, Hin-der not their des-ti-na-tion,

T. Soon you'll see the car wheels rol-ling;

B. Soon you'll see the car wheels rol-ling;

Pno.

119

S. Wood up the fire! Wood up the fire! Wood up the fire! Wood up the fire!

A. Wood up the fire! Wood up the fire!

T. Char-tered for e-man-ci-pa-tion. Wood up the fire! Wood up the fire! Wood up the fire! Wood up the fire!

B. Char-tered for e-man-ci-pa-tion. Wood up the fire! Wood up the fire!

Pno.

124

S. Keep it flash-ing, While the train goes on-ward dash-ing.

A. Keep it flash-ing, While the train goes on-ward dash-ing.

T. Keep it flash-ing, While the train goes on-ward dash-ing.

B. Keep it flash-ing, While the train goes on-ward dash-ing.

Pno.

129

S. Hear the migh-ty car wheels hum-ming! Now look out! The en-gine's com-ing! Church and states-men! Hear the thun-der!

A. Hear the migh-ty car wheels hum-ming! Now look out! The en-gine's com-ing! Church and states-men! Hear the thun-der!

T. Hear the migh-ty car wheels hum-ming! Now look out! The en-gine's com-ing! Church and states-men! Hear the thun-der!

B. Hear the migh-ty car wheels hum-ming! Now look out! The en-gine's com-ing! Church and states-men! Hear the thun-der!

Pno.

132

S. Clear the track! Or you'll fall un - der. All are sing - ing,

A. Clear the track! Or you'll fall un - der. All are sing - ing,

T. Clear the track! Or you'll fall un - der. Get off the track! Get off the track! Get off the track! Get off the track!

B. Clear the track! Or you'll fall un - der. Get off the track! Get off the track! Get off the track! Get off the track!

Pno.

135

S. while the li - ber - ty bell the bell is ring - ing. _____

A. while the li - ber - ty bell the bell is ring - ing. _____

T. *8* Get off the track! Get off the track! Get off the track! Get ___ off the track!

B. *8* Get off the track! Get off the track! Get off the track! Get ___ off the track!

Pno.

141

S. On tri - um - phant, see them bear - ing,

A. On tri - um - phant, see them bear - ing,

T. *8* On tri - um - phant, see them bear - ing, Through sec - tar - ian rub -

B. On tri - um - phant, see them bear - ing, Through sec - tar - ian

Pno.

145

S. Through sec-tar-ian rub - bish tear-ing; The bell and whis-tle and the

A. Through sec-tar-ian rub - bish tear-ing; The bell and whis-tle and the

T. - - bish tear-ing; The bell and whis-tle and the

B. rub - - bish tear-ing; The bell and whis-tle and the

Pno.

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 145 through 148. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Through sec-tar-ian rub - bish tear-ing; The bell and whis-tle and the". The piano part provides harmonic support with chords and melodic lines.

149

S. steam-ing, Star-tles thou-sands from their dream-ing... Look out for the cars! Look out for the cars! Look

A. steam-ing, Star-tles thou-sands from their dream-ing... Look out for the cars! Look out for the cars! Look

T. steam-ing, Star-tles thou-sands from their dream-ing...

B. seam-ing, Star-tles thou-sands from their dream-ing...

Pno.

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 149 through 152. It features four vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "steam-ing, Star-tles thou-sands from their dream-ing... Look out for the cars! Look out for the cars! Look". The piano part includes triplets in the vocal lines and accompaniment. The lyrics for the Soprano and Alto parts are identical, while the Tenor and Bass parts have slightly different phrasing.

153

S. out for the cars! Look out for the cars! Look out for the cars! Look out for the cars! Look out for the, look out for the

A. out for the cars! Look out for the cars! Look out for the cars! Look out for the cars! Look out for the, look out for the

T. While the bell rings, Ere the sound your fu - neral your fu - neral

B. While the bell rings, Ere the sound your fu - neral your fu - neral

Pno.

157

S. cars! See the peo - ple run to meet us; At the de - pots thou - sands

A. cars! See the peo - ple run to meet us; At the de - pots thou - sands

T. knell rings. See the peo - ple run to meet us; At the de - pots thou - sands

B. knell rings. See the peo - ple run to meet us; At the de - pots thou - sands

Pno.

166

S.
 A.
 T.
 B.
 Pno.

176

S.
 A.
 T.
 B.
 Pno.

182

S. *f* E - man - ci - pa - tion Soon will bless our hap - py na - tion._____

A. *f* E - man - ci - pa - tion Soon will bless our hap - py na - tion._____

T. *f* E - man - ci - pa - tion Soon will bless our hap - py na - tion._____

B. *f* E - man - ci - pa - tion Soon will bless our hap - py na - tion._____

Pno. *f*

187

S. *ff* Huz - za! *ff* Huz - za!! *fff* Huz - za!!!

A. *ff* Huz - za! *ff* Huz - za!! *fff* Huz - za!!!

T. *ff* Huz - za! *ff* Huz - za!! *fff* Huz - za!!!

B. *ff* Huz - za! *ff* Huz - za!! *fff* Huz - za!!!

Pno. *ff*