

# ELLA'S SONG

For SATB a cappella\*

Duration: ca. 3:40

Words and Music by  
BERNICE JOHNSON REAGON

With conviction and purpose (♩ = 112)

CALL

We who be-lieve in free-dom can-not rest,

Piano  
(only for rehearsal)

We who be-lieve in free-dom can-not rest un-til it comes.

5

CALL 9

Sop. We who be-lieve in free-dom can-not rest,

Alto We who be-lieve in free-dom can-not rest,

Tenor We who be-lieve in free-dom can-not rest,

Bass We who be-lieve in free-dom can-not rest,

9

9

\*Performance notes found on page 19.

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DO NOT  
PHOTOCOPY



We who be-lieve in free-dom can-not rest un-til it comes. — \*Un-til —

We who be-lieve in free-dom can - not rest.

We who be-lieve in free-dom can - not rest.

We who be-lieve in free-dom can - not rest.

We who be-lieve in free-dom can-not rest. —

13

17 the kill - ing of black men, black moth-er's sons, -

Doo doo doo doo doo doo

Doo doo doo doo doo doo

Doo doo doo doo doo doo

Doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo

17

17

\* Cued notes are provided as a harmony part.  
 ELLA'S SONG - SATB

[illegible][illegible]

— is that I had — a chance — to work with peo — ple —

doo doo doo doo doo doo — doo doo doo doo doo doo —

doo doo doo doo doo doo — doo doo doo doo doo doo —

doo doo doo doo doo doo — doo doo doo doo doo doo —

doo doo doo doo doo doo — doo doo doo doo doo doo —

doo doo doo doo doo doo — doo doo doo doo doo doo —

26

Pass - ing on — to oth - ers — that which was passed on — to me. —

doo — doo doo — doo doo doo — doo doo doo doo doo —

doo — doo doo — doo doo doo — doo doo doo doo doo —

doo — doo doo — doo doo doo — doo doo doo doo doo —

doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo —

29

33

We who be-lieve in free-dom can-not rest,

We who be-lieve in free-dom can-not

We who be-lieve in free-dom can-not

We who be-lieve in free-dom can-not

We who be-lieve in free-dom can-not

32

33

We who be-lieve in free-dom can-not rest un-til it comes.

rest, We who be-lieve in free-dom can-not

rest, We who be-lieve in free-dom can-not

rest, We who be-lieve in free-dom can-not

rest, We who be-lieve in free-dom can-not rest.

36

To me — young peo-ple come first, they have the

rest. Doo — doo doo doo doo doo doo —

rest. Doo — doo doo doo doo doo doo —

rest. Doo — doo doo doo doo doo doo —

Doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo —

40

cour - age where we failed — And if I — can but shed some light —

doo doo doo doo doo doo — doo —

doo doo doo doo doo doo — doo —

doo doo doo doo doo doo — doo —

doo doo doo doo doo doo — doo doo doo

43



as — they — car - ry us through - the gale. The old -

— doo doo — doo doo doo — doo doo doo doo doo doo. —

— doo doo — doo doo doo — doo doo doo doo doo doo. —

— doo doo — doo doo doo — doo doo doo doo doo doo. —

doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo. —

46

er I get, the bet - ter I know - that the se - cret of my — go - ing on -

Doo doo doo doo doo doo doo

Doo doo doo doo doo doo doo

Doo doo doo doo doo doo doo

Doo doo

49

Is when the reins are in the hands of the young who dare — to —

doo doo doo doo doo doo — doo — doo doo — doo doo doo —

doo doo doo doo doo doo — doo — doo doo — doo doo doo —

doo doo doo doo doo doo — doo — doo doo — doo doo doo —

doo doo doo doo doo doo — doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo

52

run — a — gainst — the storm. — We who — be — lieve in — free — dom — can — not

doo doo doo doo doo doo. — We who — be — lieve in

doo doo doo doo doo doo. — We who — be — lieve in

doo doo doo doo doo doo. — We who — be — lieve in

doo doo doo doo doo doo doo. — We who — be — lieve in —

57

55



rest, We who be-lieve in free-dom can-not

free-dom can-not rest, We who be-lieve in

free-dom can-not rest, We who be-lieve in

free-dom can-not rest, We who be-lieve in

free-dom can-not rest, We who be-lieve in

free-dom can-not rest, We who be-lieve in

59

rest un-til it comes. Not need-ing to clutch-for pow-

free-dom can-not rest. Doo

free-dom can-not rest. Doo

free-dom can-not rest. Doo

free-dom can-not rest. Doo doo doo doo

63

65

[illegible][illegible]

73

Strug-gling my-self don't mean a whole lot, I've

Doo doo doo doo doo doo—

Doo doo doo doo doo doo—

Doo doo doo doo doo doo—

Doo doo doo doo doo doo—

73

72

come to re-al-ize That teach-ing oth-ers to

doo doo doo doo doo doo— doo—

doo doo doo doo doo doo— doo—

doo doo doo doo doo doo— doo—

— doo doo doo doo doo doo doo doo— doo doo doo

75

81

The musical score is written for five voices: Soprano, Alto, Tenor 1, Tenor 2, and Bass. It consists of two systems of staves. The first system has four staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor 1, Tenor 2) and a Bass staff. The second system has a Soprano staff and a Bass staff. The lyrics are: 'We who - be-lieve in - free - dom - can - not rest,'. The music is in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and repetitive, with the lyrics repeated across the staves. The Soprano part starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The Bass part starts with a bass clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are written below the staves, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.

We who - be-lieve in - free - dom - can - not rest,

We who - be-lieve in free - dom - can - not rest,

We who - be-lieve in free - dom - can - not rest,

We who be-lieve in free-dom can - not rest,

We who be - lieve - in - free-dom can - not - rest,

81

We who be-lieve in free-dom can-not rest un-til it comes.— I'm a

We who be-lieve in free-dom can-not rest.

We who be-lieve in free-dom can-not rest.

We who be-lieve in free-dom can-not rest.

We who be-lieve in free-dom can-not rest.

We who be-lieve in free-dom can-not rest.—

85

89

wo-man who speaks in a voice, — and I must be heard;

Doo — doo doo doo doo doo doo

Doo — doo doo doo doo doo doo

Doo — doo doo doo doo doo doo

Doo doo doo doo doo doo doo — doo doo doo

89

89

[illegible]

bow to — no man's word, — uh. — We who — be-lieve in —

— doo doo doo doo doo doo. —

— doo doo doo doo doo doo. —

— doo doo doo doo doo doo. —

doo doo doo doo doo doo doo. —

95



free - dom can - not rest,

We who be - lieve in free - dom can - not rest,

We who be - lieve in free - dom can - not rest,

We who be - lieve in free - dom can - not rest,

We who be - lieve in free - dom can - not rest,

98

*freely, molto rit.*

We who be - lieve in free - dom can - not rest un - til it comes.

*freely, molto rit.*

We who be - lieve in free - dom can - not rest.

*freely, molto rit.*

We who be - lieve in free - dom can - not rest.

*freely, molto rit.*

We who be - lieve in free - dom can - not rest.

*freely, molto rit.*

We who be - lieve in free - dom can - not rest.

*freely, molto rit.*

We who be - lieve in free - dom can - not rest.

101