

GREG BARTHOLOMEW

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# The Promise of Liberty

An adaptation of “The New Colossus” by Emma Lazarus

for unison or two-part chorus  
with optional descant  
and optional piano or guitar accompaniment

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# The Promise of Liberty

Greg Bartholomew

**Moderate** ♩ = 66

**Piano** *mf*

D C#m Bm D E7 A

The piano introduction consists of four measures in 6/8 time. The first measure has a quarter rest in the right hand and a quarter note in the left hand. The second measure has a quarter note in the right hand and a quarter note in the left hand. The third measure has a quarter note in the right hand and a quarter note in the left hand. The fourth measure has a quarter note in the right hand and a quarter note in the left hand. The right hand has a melodic line, and the left hand has a bass line. The chords are D, C#m, Bm, D, E7, and A.

**Verse 1:** *mf*

**Unison**

Winds blow fierce and foul storms rage. Safe shel - ter seems a hope - less dream.

**Piano**

A F#m E D C#m C#m/E

Verse 1 consists of four measures. The unison part has a melodic line with lyrics: "Winds blow fierce and foul storms rage. Safe shel - ter seems a hope - less dream." The piano accompaniment has a bass line and chords. The chords are A, F#m, E, D, C#m, and C#m/E.

**Uni.**

But in the dark\_ a pro mise beams, a bea con to a gol - den age.

*poco rit.*

D E9 F#m E D C#m E A

The final part consists of four measures. The unison part has a melodic line with lyrics: "But in the dark\_ a pro mise beams, a bea con to a gol - den age." The piano accompaniment has a bass line and chords. The chords are D, E9, F#m, E, D, C#m, E, and A. The tempo marking is *poco rit.*

**Chorus 1:**  
a tempo



3

Uni.   
 Give me your tired, your poor, your hud dled mass - es yearn-ing to be free. Give me the



18 Uni.   
 wretch - ed from your teem-ing shore. Send these, the home - less, tem-pest tossed to me. I lift my



23 Uni.   
 lamp be-side the gol-den door. I lift my lamp be-side the gol - den door.



**Verse 2:**

29

Uni.   
 So cries the strong he - ro - ic wo - man, rais-ing her arm to light the way.

poco rit.

4

33

Uni.

Her words ring out from day to day, to greet each wave of im - mi - grants.

D E<sup>9</sup> F<sup>#</sup>m E D C<sup>#</sup>m E A

Chorus 2 & 3:

2. *mp* a tempo  
3. *p*

Part 1

Optional Part 2

Piano

Give me your tired, your poor, your hud dled mass - es yearn-ing to be free. Give me the

F<sup>#</sup>m A D E<sup>7</sup> A Dmaj<sup>7</sup>

42

Pt.1

Pt.2

wretch - ed from your teem-ing shore. Send these, the home - less, tem-pest tossed to me. I lift my

F<sup>#</sup>m C<sup>#</sup>m E D C<sup>#</sup>m F<sup>#</sup>m D C<sup>#</sup>m D Bm

47

A Bm E C#m D C#m Bm D E7 A

Pt.1  
lamp be-side the gol-den door. I lift my lamp be-side the gol - den door.\_\_\_\_

Pt.2  
lamp be-side the gol-den door. I lift my lamp be-side the gol - den door.\_\_\_\_

1.

A F#m E D C#m C#m/E

Verse 3:  
53 *mf*

Uni.  
Some crossed the sea in a temp - est squall. More came by land up the hem - i sphere.

Back to page 4  
Chorus 3

57

D E9 F#m E D C#m E A

Uni.  
Still there's room for ev - ry-one here. The pro mise of li - ber-ty wel - comes all.  
*poco rit.*

2.  
 A F#m E D C#m C#m/E

Verse 4:

77 *mf*

Uni. Winds still blow and storms still threat-en the shel-ter we build in this new land.

*poco rit.*

D E9 F#m E D C#m E A

81

Uni. But here we weave a fa-brid grand, made strong from man - y co - lored threads.

Chorus 4:

Conductor may invite audience to join in the 4th chorus

*a tempo*

A D E7 A Dmaj7

Optional Descant

*f* Give me your tired, your poor, your hud dled mass - es yearn-ing to be free. Give me the

Part 1

*f* Give me your tired, your poor, your hud dled mass - es yearn-ing to be free. Give me the

Optional Part 2

*f* Give me your tired, your poor, your hud dled mass - es yearn-ing to be free. Give me the

Piano

*f*

90

F#m C#m E D C#m F#m D C#m D Bm

Desc. wretch - ed from your teem-ing shore. Send them to me.

Pt.1 wretch - ed from your teem-ing shore. Send these, the home - less, tem-pest tossed to me. I lift my

Pt.2 wretch - ed from your teem-ing shore. Send these, the home - less, tem-pest tossed to me. I lift my

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A Bm E C#m D C#m Bm C#m D E7 A

rit. mp f

Desc. I lift my lamp be - side the gol-den door, be-side the gol - den door.

Pt.1 lamp be-side the gold-en door. I lift my lamp be side the gold - en door.

Pt.2 lamp be-side the gold-en door. I lift my lamp be side the gold - en door.

# The Promise of Liberty

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Winds blow fierce and foul storms rage.  
Safe shelter seems a hopeless dream.  
But in the dark a promise beams,  
a beacon to a golden age.

[Chorus] "Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.  
Give me the wretched from your teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me,  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door."

So cries the strong heroic woman,  
raising her arm to light the way.  
Her words ring out from day to day  
to greet each wave of immigrants. [Repeat chorus]

Some crossed the sea in a tempest squall.  
More came by land up the hemisphere.  
Still there's room for everyone here.  
The promise of liberty welcomes all. [Repeat chorus]

Winds still blow and storms still threaten  
the shelter we build in this new land.  
But here we weave a fabric grand  
Made strong from many colored threads. [Repeat chorus]

Duration: 3 minutes

The text is by the composer. The chorus is adapted from the sonnet, "The New Colossus," by Emma Lazarus (1883), written to raise money for the construction of the Statue of Liberty's pedestal. Since 1945, her poem has graced the entrance to the Statue of Liberty in New York harbor.

The piece is designed for maximum flexibility and may be sung unaccompanied or with piano or guitar accompaniment. The verses are all to be sung in unison. Repeats of the chorus may be sung in unison or in 2-part harmony. There is an optional descant for the final time through the chorus. The conductor may also invite the audience to join in the final chorus.

For information about composer Greg Bartholomew, visit [www.gregbartholomew.com](http://www.gregbartholomew.com).

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