



SCORE SAMPLE

Jason V. Barabba

W:

the bush administration in song
for Mezzo-Soprano and Piano

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Duration Approximately 12 minutes

1. On The Latest Republican Debate
2. George W. Bush's Education Plan
3. George W. Bush Speaks out on Gay Marriage
4. On The Bush Administration Rescinding Limits of Arsenic in Drinking Water
5. Department of Earth Security

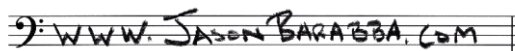
Performance Notes:

Duration is approximately 12 minutes.

W: The Bush Administration in Song was commissioned by Anna Kirsten Larsen.

Special Thanks to Calvin Trillin for allowing me to use his poems for this work.

w: the bush administration in song is registered with ASCAP
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A musical staff with a bass clef on the left and a double bar line on the right. The text "WWW.JASONBARABBA.COM" is written across the staff in a handwritten, cursive style.

Texts

from *Obliviously On He Sails*. Published by Random House. Copyright © 2004 by Calvin Trillin. Originally appeared in *The Nation*. All rights reserved.

1. On The Latest Republican Debate

I watched these presidential hopefuls join
Together for debating in Des Moines
And many times I hear allegiance sworn
To Jesus and to babies not quite born.
At times, this thought occurred to me: I hope
They don't think what they're running for is pope.

2. George W. Bush's Education Plan

A public school whose students don't test well
Would lose its funds unless its score improves
If cutting funds won't help the kids advance,
We could prohibit lunch, or take their shoes.

3. George W. Bush Speaks out on Gay Marriage

He backs an amendment defining the vow
Of marriage as being a guy and his *frau*
Lest civilization sink into a slough –
Which he says could happen. It isn't clear how.

Though he can't explain it, he needn't expand
We saw this with Poppy. We know what's at hand:
The Jesus battalions demanded this stand.
The yelp of the lapdog is heard in the land.

4. On The Bush Administration Rescinding Limits of Arsenic in Drinking Water

Though arsenic's in what we drink,
It's not as nasty as you think.
Yes, hidden in the stroganoff.
It's used for knocking people off.
But in your water it's okay –
That's what the mining interests say.
Apparently, in Bush's view
It mixes well with CO₂

5. Department of Earth Security

The EPA cites chapter, and some verse,
To show this warming's making matters worse.
It's getting worse no matter how you score it,
So here's the plan; They think we should ignore it.

W is dedicated to Anna Kirsten Larsen, who always approaches music with intelligence and enthusiasm, whose voice I have always loved hearing.

Written in 2006, this piece was archived because I felt it was somehow “dated” a few years later. I realized in 2019 that we’re still facing most of these challenges, and that sadly this piece is likely to be “timely” for longer than I would have liked.

1. On the Latest Republican Debate

Jason V. Barabba
revised 9/2019

A little irritated (Approx. ♩=138)

The musical score is divided into four systems. The first system (measures 1-6) features a Piano part with a treble clef and a bass clef. The treble clef part starts with a *mf* dynamic and includes a triplet of eighth notes. The bass clef part has a *f* dynamic. The second system (measures 7-11) continues the Piano part with *mf* and *f* dynamics and triplet markings. The third system (measures 12-18) introduces a M.S. (Mezzo-Soprano) part with lyrics: "I watched I". The Piano accompaniment (Pno.) has *mp* and *mf* dynamics. The fourth system (measures 19-24) continues the M.S. part with lyrics: "watched these pre - si - den - tial hope - fuls join to -". The Piano accompaniment features triplet markings and *mf* dynamics.

23

M.S. *mf*
ge-ther in Des Moines I watched and ma-ny times

Pno. *f* *mp*

28

M.S. *mf*
I heard a - lle-giance sworn

Pno. *mf* *f*

34

M.S. *f*
sworn to Je - sus

Pno. *f*

39

M.S. *p*
I watched a - lle-giance sworn to Je - sus and to bab - ies

Pno. *p*

68

Pno.

Lento - a piacere
A little resigned

71

M.S.

p *mf* *p*

I _____ watched.

Pno.

2. George W. Bush's Education Plan

Allegro (Approx. ♩=152/♩=304)
With Innocence

80

Piano

mf

mp

8va

81

M.S.

mf

A pub - lic school _____ whose stu - dents _____ don't _____

Pno.

mp *mf* *mp*

Loco *8va*

87

M-S. test well Would

Pno. *f* *mp*

93

M-S. lose its funds un - less their scores im - prove

Pno. *mf* *mp*

99

M-S.

Pno. *f* *mp*

105

M-S. *f* If cut - ting funds won't help the kids ad - vance

Pno. *mf*

137 senza vib. (childlike)
mp

M.S. La la

Pno. *mp*

senza ped. *mf*

143 normal vib.

M.S. la la la la

Pno. *mp*

Ped.

3. George W. Bush Speaks Out on Gay Marriage

Maestoso (Approx $\text{♩}=72$)

Mezzo-soprano *mf*

Piano *f* *mp*

He backs an a - mend ment de - fi - ning the vow of mar riage as be ing a

154 *f* *mf* *3* *mp* *p*

M.S. guy and his frau lest ci - vi - li - za - tion fall in to a slough

Pno. *mf* *f* *mp* *mf*

188 *cresc.* ----- *ff* **Maestoso (Approx ♩=72)**

M.S. ions de - man - ded_ this stand_____

Pno. *ff* *mf*

no pedal _____

195 *mp* *3*

M.S. the yelp of the lap-dog is heard in_____ the

Pno. *Freely* ----- *p* *mp*

201

M.S. land.

Pno.

4. On the Bush Administration Rescinding Limits of Arsenic in Drinking Water

Presto (Approx ♩=160)

Piano *f*

213

Pno.

218

M.S.

f *Freely*
3
If _____ ("f") Ar - se-nic's in what you drink _____

Pno.

mf

223

M.S.

it's not as nas - ty as you think _____

Pno.

f *mf* *f* *mf*

228

M.S.

mp *f*
yes hid-den in the stro-ga-noff it's used for kno-cking peo-ple off but in your

Pno.

mf *f*

5. Department of Earth Security

266 **Maestoso** $\text{♩} = 58$ *mf*

M.S. The E P A cites

Pno. *f* *mp*

272

M.S. chap ter_ and_ some verse

Pno. *mf* *f* *mf*

278 *mf* *f*

M.S. To show this warm-ing's mak ing_ mat ters_ worse._ It's get ting

Pno. *mp* *mf* *f*

284

M.S. worse_ no mat ter how you score it_

Pno.