

Free At Last

SATB arrangement with soprano solo
by Paul von Hippel
1996

The spiritual “Free At Last” was invoked by Martin Luther King, Jr., at the 1963 March on Washington supporting the bill that became the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The opening words of “Free At Last” are inscribed on King’s tombstone in Atlanta.

The three verses set in this arrangement explore the three types of freedom were most important in King’s life: emancipation (freedom from bondage), redemption (freedom from sin), and death (freedom from this world).

Free At Last

arranged by Paul von Hippel

Allegro vigoroso ♩ = 124

Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Bass

Free at last! Free at last! I thank God I'm free at last!

Free at last! Free at last! I thank God I'm free at last!

Free at last! Free at last! I thank God I'm free at last!

Free at last! Free at last! I thank God I'm free at last!

Keyboard reduction (for rehearsal only)

Free at last! Free at last! I thank God I'm free at last!

5

Free at last! Free at last! I thank God I'm free at last!

Free at last! Free at last! I thank God I'm free at last!

Free at last! Free at last! I thank God I'm free at last! *mp* I re -

Free at last! Free at last! I'm free at last! I re -

5

9

mf Thank God I'm free at last! My
 mp Re-mem-ber well. mf God I'm free at last! ff

8 mem-ber the day, O I re-mem-ber it well. Thank God I'm free at last! My
 mf

9 mem-ber the day, I re-mem-ber it well. Thank God I'm free at last!

13

ff dun-geon shook, and my chain fell off! Thank God I'm free at last!

My dun-geon shook, and my chain fell off! My chain fell off! I'm free at last!

8 dun-geon shook, and my chain fell off! Thank God I'm free at last!

13 My dun-geon shook, and my chain fell off! I'm free at last!

17 *p*

Free at last, free at last, I thank God I'm free at last.

Free at last, free at last, I thank God I'm free at last.

Free at last, free at last, I thank God I'm free at last.

Free at last, free at last, I thank God I'm free at last.

Thank God I'm free at last.

21 *p*

Free at last, free at last. I thank God I'm free at last.

Free at last, free at last. I thank God I'm free at last. On

Free at last, free at last I thank God I'm free at last.

Free at last, free at last I'm

25 *mp* On my knees when the light passed by. *mf* Thank God I'm free at last I *mp*

mp on my knees when the light passed. *mf* Thank God I'm free at last

8 *mp* on my knees when the light when the light passed. *mf* On my knees when the light passed by.

25 *mp* knees when the light passed. Thank God I'm free at *mp*

29 thought my soul would rise and fly. I'm free at last,

mp I thought my soul would rise and fly. I'm free at last,

8 *p* I thought my soul would

29 last, free at last I thought my soul would fly.

33

free at last. I thank God I'm free at last! Free at last!

free at last. I thank God I'm free at last! Free at last!

rise and fly. Thank God I'm free at last! Free at last!

Thank God I'm free at last! Free at last!

33

Solo

37 *rit.* *mp* *senza vibrato* *Moderato* ♩-104

One of these mornings, bright

Free at last! I thank God I'm free at

Free at last! I thank God I'm free at

Free at last! I thank God I'm free at

at last! I thank God I'm free at

37 *rit.* *pp* *Moderato* ♩-104

41 *rit. al fine*

— and fair, gon - na meet my King up in the air.

last.

last

last.

last,

rit. al fine

45

mp I thank God I'm free at last.

mp I thank God I'm free, I'm free at last.

Free at last. Thank God I'm free, I'm free at last.

Free at last. Thank God I'm free free at last. free free at last.

mp

rit. molto

- 66