

# The Knights & Gil Shaham, violin soloist

## June 15, 2021

**Lyrics for *America, Come***

### **ALL MY FRIENDS**

All my friends, all my friends will meet the end someday

So I sing this song for them to guide them on their way

Through the violet highs and the ochre lows

My load feels heavy most days

All my friends

I always knew and so did you that we were going to war

Years have passed I'm trying to remember who it's for

If we reach thirty six, or if the door gets slammed

at least I know we've tried

for all my friends...

Marching on, the Tennessee dawn is lifting o'er the fields

Steady on, America, you know it's time to heal

If you open your arms you'll feel us,

warm and ready for the change

all my friends...

### **CRISIS**

Gather round, girls,

lemme tell you about the crisis that is here

And at the end I almost see

I see our final victory

I know that we don't all believe that it'll be what it'll be

But a crisis 'tis indeed, like a boulder gath'ring speed

And if we fail to act upon it

It might mean the chance has been lost

and we will have to wait to win

It's 1916, we're talking war and battle cries

Oh women dry your eyes- gotta rise up and fight

You may be troubled and bewildered and stricken with grief

But you can solve it! Fix these knotty problems! Try to breathe.

'Cause if we fail to act upon it

It might mean the chance has been lost

and we will have to wait to win

oh America look up at that north star- one day it'll come down

the time has come to shout aloud

in every city and village and town

the woman's hour has struck

the woman's hour is now

there was a man in west virginia

and someone asked him what he thought

he said "we've been keeping women down so long it would feel so queer to not"

if someone asked his wife the same question and here is what she'd say "we've been down so long we gotta stay this way"

therein lies the movement of those who say NAY

Oh America look up the star is getting nearer

It's time to shout aloud to everybody who can hear us

The woman's hour has struck the woman's hour is now

The woman's hour is here

### **WAR MEASURE (Woodrow Wilson)**

Carrie- I got your missive and I'm with you girl

I welcome the opportunity to say that I agree:

The time is nigh for your admission to the suffrage

The services of women during this crisis

Must be repaid- lead ya to paradise it's

Over there

Carrie- as for this country I only hope

That the senate will give an answer,

Unmistakably making you able to use your voice

and cast a ballot

If they pass this amendment to our constitution

We are gonna be talking about revolution

It's over there...

We need you in our vision of affairs-

your skills are beyond all compare  
You got sympathy and insight-  
your shoulders bear the weight of the world

The women of our country fair have beating hearts  
and dirt in their hair

We gotta show them that we trust them  
as much as we need them now

Do it now!

Carrie- I see you standing on the precipice  
I begging of you, keep fighting for true justice  
and you'll find the the laws of the land  
will soon be in your favor

I am telling you this is a war measure  
We can't win the Great War without this treasure

womenkind! womenfolk!  
we're not wheels without spokes  
let them vote, let them vote  
Let them vote!

## **DAUGHTERS**

Here in the dark  
Everything that once was becomes a tiny spark  
Looking back from the next century

What will they see?

The names of the girls who laid the stones

Names long forgotten- never scribbled in tomes

They were strong and indestructible

Their hearts were full

Now the edifice of women's liberty

It is almost complete

But protected and serene the rich women are still

Honing their malevolent skills

Growing bolder in their treachery

Selling for free

There are those who are willing to vilify

Their sisters 'cross the land- they declare them too quick to cry

Saying don't trust them with the privilege

Don't even try

Will we ever be ready for a victory?

Or sit and watch the country as it bleeds?

The enemies of our cause they try to stop us

But before the vote is won,

we can't leave the fight to the daughters of our daughters

So we go into the fray, shoulders bare, feel the fire and liberate

Women in schools and counting houses, in shops and on the farm they're all around us

They got babies crying at their breasts, sun sinks in the west

The veins of these women are not filled with milk and water

These are mothers of bold American daughters

They are not afraid. They're lying in wait

Listening for the bugle call to send them in

Suffrage is the only way to end.

The enemies of our cause they try to stop us

But before the vote is won, we can't leave the fighting to the daughters of our daughters

So we go into the fray, shoulders bare, take the punches to our faces

Feel the fire In our bones, and liberate

When will we be ready for this victory?

Will we ever be ready for this victory?

## **AMERICA, COME**

What is the democracy for which the world is battling

And for which we offer up our man power, woman power,

money power, our all?

The world does not wait for such as these

nor does liberty pause to heed the complaints of

man or woman.

She does not wait for those

who have a special interest to serve,

nor a selfish reason for depriving other people of freedom.

Holding her torch high

Lady Liberty points onward and upward says "America, come."

(Holding her torch high... America!)

Suffrage is coming -- you know it

Some of you are old i know

Are you willing that those who take your place might blame you for not keeping pace?

Is there any gain for you, or gain for the nation to delay?

Don't drive us away, don't wait...

What is the democracy for which the world is battling

and for which we offer up our man power, woman power,

money power, our all?