

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE...revised 2013
(for choral reading)
July 4, 1776

Chorus 1: We hold these truths to be self-evident: That all men are created equal.

Chorus 2:....that all men are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights;

Chorus 3: ...that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Chorus 4: ...To secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, and receive its powers from the consent of the people.

Chorus 5: Sometimes a group of people must cut themselves off from the country and government they once belonged to.

Chorus 6: ...When a government takes away people's rights, it is the duty of the people to rise up and form a new government.

Chorus 7: ...The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of violations against our rights. To prove this, let facts be submitted to the world:

New Jersey: He has imposed taxes on us without our consent.

Mass: He has taken the power away from our representatives, and he has ordered some of our lawmaking assemblies not to meet.

Chorus 1: The King is a tyrant!

New York: He has made laws cutting off our trade with the rest of the world.

Georgia: He has not allowed us our rights to trial by jury.

Chorus 2: The King is a tyrant!

Conn.: He has imposed taxes on us without our consent.

Pennsylvania: He forces us to house large bodies of troops among us.

Chorus 3: The King is a tyrant!

Virginia: He has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

Rhode Is.: He has sent us swarms of soldiers to harass us and eat all our food.

Chorus 4: The King is a tyrant!

Maryland: He has refused to pass laws for the public good.

New Hampshire: He has refused us the right to elect our own officials.

Chorus 5: The King is a tyrant!

S. Carolina: He has encouraged Indian savages to kill us.

Delaware: He has made war against us.

North Carolina: The king is a tyrant!

All: The king is a tyrant!

Chorus 6: Therefore, we the representatives of the United States of America, in the name of the Supreme Judge of the world... solemnly declare these colonies to be free and independent states.

Chorus 7: Our new country now has the right to trade with other nations and to make war and peace.

All: We pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.