

Conductor's Score

# BIRMINGHAM

*for Orchestra and Narrator*



**TEXT BY DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
MUSIC BY CARL SCHROEDER**

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## **instrumentation**

2 Flutes  
2 Oboes  
2 Clarinets in A  
2 Bassoons  
4 F Horns  
3 C Trumpets  
3 Trombones  
Tuba

Timpani  
Cymbals (Crash, Susp.)  
Chimes  
Narrator (Amplified)  
Violin I  
Violin II  
Viola  
Cello  
Bass

## **about the composition**

BIRMINGHAM, for orchestra and narrator, is dedicated to the work and memory of Civil Rights Movement leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The work incorporates text from Dr. King's letter from Birmingham Jail, which was written during his April 1963 civil disobedience campaign in Birmingham, Alabama.

Dr. King, one of thousands jailed during the campaign, wrote the letter in response to a published statement by eight Alabama clergymen who called his demonstrations "unwise and untimely" and "extremist." It was hastily scrawled in the margins of a newspaper and other sheets of paper provided to Dr. King while he was confined in a Birmingham city jail cell.

The approximate performance time is six and a half minutes.

## **about the composer**

CARL SCHROEDER (b. 1982) of Minneapolis, Minnesota, a 2005 graduate of St. Olaf College, writes music for concert band, orchestra, choir and chamber ensembles that often draws inspiration from American history and current events.

His works have been performed at venues in twelve states, including Minnesota's Orchestra Hall, the historic French Quarter of New Orleans and the Massachusetts State House. He has studied composition with Timothy Mahr, Peter Hamlin, Mark Camphouse, Donald Grantham and Dana Wilson. His website is at [www.carlschroeder.com](http://www.carlschroeder.com).

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# BIRMINGHAM

Text by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Music by Carl Schroeder

**Deliberately** (♩ = 48)      1. Solo      **Slightly faster, with rubato** (♩ = 52)

2 Flutes  
2 Oboes  
2 Clarinets in A  
2 Bassoons  
I, II F Horns  
III, IV Horn II  
I C Trumpets  
II, III C Trumpets  
I Trombones  
II, III Trombones  
Tuba  
Timpani  
Cymbals  
Chimes  
Speaker

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for woodwinds and brass instruments. It features 14 staves. The woodwinds (Flutes, Oboes, Clarinets, Bassoons) and Horns (I, II, III, IV) have melodic lines with dynamics ranging from mp to mf. The brass instruments (Trumpets I & II, Trombones I & II, and Tuba) provide harmonic support with sustained notes. The percussion section (Timpani, Cymbals, Chimes, and Speaker) has a rhythmic accompaniment with dynamic markings like mp and p.

**Deliberately** (♩ = 48)      **Slightly faster, with rubato** (♩ = 52)

I Violins  
II Violins  
Viola  
Cello  
Bass

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for string instruments. It features 5 staves. The Violins (I and II) play melodic lines with dynamics from mf to p. The Viola, Cello, and Bass provide harmonic support with sustained notes and dynamics from f to p. The score includes markings for 'divisi' and 'unison'.

9 With confidence (♩ = 62)

2 Fls. *a 2*  
*mf* *mp* *f*

2 Obs.  
*mf* *mp* *f* *mp*

2 Clars. in A *a 2*  
*mf* *mp* *f* *a 2*

2 Bsns.  
*mf* *f*

I, II *1. Solo*  
*mf*

F Hns.

III, IV

I

C Tpts.

II, III

I

Tbns.

II, III

Tuba

Timp.

Cyms.

Chms.

Spkr.

9 With confidence (♩ = 62)

I *mp* *mf* *f*

Vlns. II *mp* *mf* *f* *unison*

Vla. *mp* *mf* *f*

Cello *mp* *mf* *f*

Bass *mf* *f*

**19** Boldly (♩ = 68)

2 Fls. *mp* *poco rit.*

2 Obs. *f* 1. Solo *f* *poco rit.* *mp* (Solo) *mf* *f*

2 Clars. in A *mp* *poco rit.*

2 Bsns. *mp* *poco rit.*

I, II *poco rit.*

F Hns. *poco rit.*

III, IV *poco rit.*

I *poco rit.*

C Tpts. *poco rit.*

II, III *poco rit.*

I *poco rit.*

Tbns. *poco rit.*

II, III *poco rit.*

Tuba *poco rit.*

Timp. *poco rit.* *p* *pp*

Cyms. *poco rit.*

Chms. *poco rit.*

Spkr. *poco rit.* (amplified)

*MY DEAR FELLOW CLERGYMEN, I think I should indicate why I am here in Birmingham. I am in Birmingham because injustice is here.*

**19** Boldly (♩ = 68)

I *mp* *poco rit.* *mf* *f* *div.* *unis*

Vlns. *mp* *poco rit.* *mf* *f* *div.*

II *mp* *poco rit.* *mf* *f* *div.*

Vla. *mp* *poco rit.* *mf* *f*

Cello *mp* *poco rit.* *mf* *f* *cresc.*

Bass *mp* *poco rit.* *mf* *f*

26 With determination (♩ = 72)

2 Fls. *mp* *a 2* *p*

2 Obs. *mp* *p*

2 Clars. in A *mp* *a 2* *p*

2 Bsns. *mf* *f* *a 2*

I, II *mf* *f* *a 2* *mf*

F Hns. *mf* *f* *a 2* *mf*

III, IV *mf* *f* *a 2* *mf*

I *mf* *f* *a 2* *mf*

C Tpts. *mf* *f* *a 2* *mf*

II, III *mf* *f* *a 2* *mf*

I *mf* *f* *a 2* *mf*

Tbns. *mf* *f* *a 2* *mf* (Solo)

II, III *mf* *f* *a 2* *mf*

Tuba *f*

Timp. *mf* (let vibrate)

Cyms. *p* *mf* Suspended Cym.

Chms.

*I cannot sit idly by in Atlanta and not be concerned about what happens in Birmingham. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.*  
 (let speaker finish before continuing)

26 With determination (♩ = 72)

I *mp* *div.* *unis* *div.* *p*

Vlns. *mp* *unis* *div.* *unis* *p*

II *mp* *unis* *div.* *unis* *p*

Vla.

Cello *mf* *f* *unis*

Bass *mf* *f* *unis*

