

About the Work

"Freedom Tower" was commissioned by and dedicated to the USAF Heartland of America Band in celebration of their 70th anniversary, 1 Lt. Rafael F. Toro-Quinones, Commander/Conductor. This work was commissioned in the fall of 2012. It seemed very appropriate to write a piece also dedicated to the completion of the Freedom Tower in New York which occurs in 2013. We as Americans owe so much to the men and women in our military who protect us, and the new Freedom Tower in New York City is a symbol of what our military defends, a society that believes in Liberty and Justice for all.

For me this work represents many emotions. As we celebrate the completion of the Freedom Tower, it is impossible to forget the tragedy that led to the creation of this new building. The destruction of the Twin Towers and the date, 9/11, are forever burned into our national psyche. Our society, which is based on freedom, was assaulted by terrorists from outside our borders. This work has been written to celebrate the American spirit that will, in the words of President Kennedy, "pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and success of liberty." While you will hear references of the threats that our society has faced in this piece its main theme is one of celebration for the resilience of the people of the United States and our way of life. The work opens in a hymn-like chorale where one can hear the chanting of the word "freedom" similar to Tchaikovsky's decision to use a Russian Orthodox Troparion chanting "God save our people" to begin his 1812 Overture. As Tchaikovsky's work celebrated the Russian's victory over Napoleon, this work is meant to celebrate America's victory over outside terrorists.