



DISSENTER OF DE UNIVERSE

Five Opinions and a Comment

from

**THE
LONG
VIEW**

A Portrait of
Ruth Bader Ginsburg
in Nine Songs

SATB Ensemble
and Piano

Text by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

PATRICE MICHAELS

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Dissenter of de Universe:

Five Opinions and a Comment
Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg 2002-2014

*for SATB Quartet or Chorus,
Speaker with gavel, and Piano*

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Performance Options

This piece as a solo song appears as the eighth movement of THE LONG VIEW: A Portrait of Ruth Bader Ginsburg in Nine Songs. It has been adapted here for quartet or larger ensemble. The speaker and gaveler may be independent performers, or come from within the singing ensemble.

Performance Permissions

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Dissenter of de Universe: Five Opinions and a Comment

- I. [Spoken] June 2003, Gratz versus Bollinger: Is the University of Michigan's affirmative action program constitutionally sound? [Sung] "Actions designed to burden groups long denied full citizenship stature are not sensibly ranked with measures taken to hasten the day when entrenched discrimination and its after effects have been extirpated...The stain of racial oppression is still visible in our society and the determination to hasten its removal remains vital."
- II. [Spoken] June 2007, Ledbetter versus Goodyear: Is the individual statutorily entitled to sue for reparations for pay discrimination? [Sung] "...the court does not comprehend or is indifferent to the insidious way in which women can be victims of pay discrimination... Title Seven was meant to govern real world employment practices and that world is what the court ignores today..."
- III. [Spoken] June 2013, Shelby County versus Holder: Regarding the constitutionality of two provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. [Sung] "Voting discrimination still exists; no one doubts that. Throwing out preclearance when it has worked and is continuing to work... is like throwing away your umbrella in a rainstorm because you are not getting wet...Hubris is a fit word for today's demolition of the VRA."
- IV. [Spoken] June 2013, Fisher versus University of Texas: Is the University's affirmative action program constitutionally sound? [Sung] "I have said before and reiterate here that only an ostrich could regard the supposedly neutral alternatives as race unconscious."
- V. [Spoken] June 2014, Burwell versus Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc: Can privately held corporations deny birth control insurance coverage to employees if the owners object on religious grounds? [Sung] "The exemption sought by Hobby Lobby and Conestoga would...deny legions of women who do not hold their employers' beliefs access to contraceptive coverage...The Court, I fear, has ventured into a minefield."

"I will continue to give voice to my dissent if, in my judgment, the Court veers in the wrong direction when important matters are at stake."*

- *Opinions of Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg
from the public record of the Supreme Court of the United States*

* *The Washington Post, October 22, 2007. "The Nation In Brief: No Turning The Clock Back on Abortion, Justice Ginsburg Says"*

With thanks to Irin Carmon and Shana Knizhnik,
authors of "Notorious RBG"

Dissenter of de Universe

Five Opinions and a Comment

for Joe & Carol, Centered Ones

Arrangement for SATB quartet or chorus,
speaker with gavel, and piano

Patrice Michaels

♩ = 118 Alla Marcia

Piano

mp *mf* *f*

Ped. *

Sp.

I. gavel:

[announce] June, Two Thousand and Three, Gratz versus Bollinger: Is the University of Michigan's affirmative action program constitutionally sound?

Pno.

S

A

T

B

mf always direct, metered, but not rigid

"Ac - tions de - signed to bur - den groups long de - nied full

mf always direct, metered

"Ac - tions de - signed to bur - den groups long de - nied full

Pno.

pp sotto voce

♩ = 106

S
A

cit-i-zen-ship sta-ture are not sen-si-bly rank'd with mea-sures ta-ken to ha-sten the day when

T
B

cit-i-zen-ship sta-ture are not sen-si-bly rank'd with mea-sures ta-ken to ha-sten the day when

Pno.

S
A

unis.
en - trench'd dis-crim-i-na-tion and its af-ter ef-fects have been ex - tir - pa - ted..."

T
B

unis.
en - trench'd dis-crim-i-na-tion and its af-ter ef-fects have been ex - tir - pa - ted..."

Pno.

Pno. *mf*

S. *sfz* <
The stain of ra-cial op-pres-sion is still vis-i-ble in our so-ci-e-ty

A. *sfz* <
The stain of ra-cial op-pres-sion is still vis-i-ble in our so-ci-e-ty

T. *unis.* *sfz* <
The stain of ra-cial op-pres-sion is still vis-i-ble in our so-ci-e-ty

B. *sfz* <

Pno. *f*

S. *unis.* *p sotto voce poco a poco cresc.*
and the de-ter-mi-na-tion to ha-sten its re-mo-val re-mains

A. *mp sotto voce poco a poco cresc.*
(T) to ha-sten its re-mo-val re-mains

T. *p sotto voce poco a poco cresc.*
(B) re-mains

B. *p sotto voce poco a poco cresc.*
(B) re-mains

Pno. *p sotto voce*

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14 ♩ = 106

S
A

p *mf* *p*

T
B

p *mf* *p*

“The court does not com-pre-hend or is in-dif-f’rent to the in-

♩ = 106

Pno.

f *p*

S
A

mf

T
B

mf

sid - i - ous way in which wo-men can be vic-tims of pay dis - cri - mi - na - tion.

Pno.

15

Pno.

p *poco a poco cresc.*

unis. ff

S
A
Ti - tle Sev-en was meant to gov-ern real world

ff *unis.*

T
B
(B) Ti - tle Sev-en was meant to gov-ern real world

Pno.

unis.

S
A
em - ploy - ment prac - ti - ces

unis.

T
B
em - ploy - ment prac - ti - ces

Pno.

f *p*

gavel:

Sp. 

S. *p* and that world *ff* is what the court ig - nores to - day."

A. *mp* is what the court *ff* ig - nores to - day."

T. *mf* court *ff* ig - nores to - day."

B. *f* *ff* to - day."

Pno. 

Tempo I

17 *ff* *f* *mf* *mp*

Pno. 

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*subito
sotto voce*

S. is like

A. and is con - tin-u-ing to work...

T. *subito
sotto voce*
Throw-ing outpre-clear-ance when it has worked and is con - tin-u-ing to work... is like

B.

Pno. *p*

S. *f*
throw-ing a-way your um - brel - la in a rain - storm be-cause you are not get-ting wet...

A. *f*
be-cause you are not get-ting wet...

T. *f*
throw-ing a-way your um - brel - la in a rain - storm be-cause you are not get-ting wet...

B. *f*
be-cause you are not get-ting wet...

Pno. *pp*

23

Pno. *f*

S. *pp poco a poco cresc.* *ff*
Hu-bris dem-o-li-tion of the V. R. A.

A. *pp poco a poco cresc.* *ff*
Hu - bris of the V. R. A.

T. *pp poco a poco cresc.* *ff*
Hu-bris is a fit word for to-day's dem-o-li-tion of the V. R. A.

B. *pp poco a poco cresc.* *ff*
Hu-bris dem-o-li-tion of the V. R. A.

Pno. *pp sub.*

Tempo I

25 *gavel:* *IV. gavel:*

Sp.

Pno. *pp* *mp*

Sp.

[announce] June, Two Thousand Thirteen, Fisher versus University of Texas: Is the University's affirmative action program constitutionally sound?

Pno.

S
A

30 $\text{♩} = 100$ Poco Meno Mosso

pp sotto voce

"I have said be-fore and re - it - er - ate here that on - ly an

T
B

pp sotto voce

"I have said be-fore and re - it - er - ate here that on - ly an

Pno.

$\text{♩} = 100$ Poco Meno Mosso

pp sotto voce

Sp.

gavel:

S
A

poco a poco cresc.

ff

os-trich could re-gard the sup-pos-ed - ly neu-tral al-ter-natives as race un-con- scious."

T
B

poco a poco cresc.

ff

os-trich could re-gard the sup-pos-ed - ly neu-tral al-ter-natives as race un-con- scious."

Pno.

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S
A

sto-ga would de - ny le-gions of wo-men who do not hold their em-ploy-er's be - liefs ac-

T
B

sto-ga would de - ny le-gions of wo-men who do not hold their em-ploy-er's be - liefs ac-

Pno.

S
A

cess to con-tra-cep-tive cov-er-age. *unis. ff* The Court, I fear, has ven-tured

T
B

cess to con-tra-cep-tive cov-er-age. *unis. ff* The Court, I fear, has ven-tured

Pno.

f

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Più Maestoso

gavel:

Sp.

S
A *unis.*
in-to a mine-field."

T
B *unis.*
in-to a mine-field."

Più Maestoso

Pno.

Maestoso

40

S. *p sempre al fine*
I will con - tin - ue to give voice to my dis-sent

A. *p sempre al fine*
I will con - tin - ue voice to my dis-sent

T. *p sempre al fine*
I will con - tin - ue to my dis-sent

B. *p sempre al fine*
I will voice my dis-sent

Maestoso

rit.

Pno. *p sempre al fine*

44 (S) if, *unis.* *mp* *poco a poco rall.*

S
A in my judge ment, the Court veers in the wrong dir-

T
B the Court veers in the wrong dir-

Pno. *poco a poco rall.*



47 (*unis.*)

S
A ec - tion when im - por - tant mat - ters are at stake.

T
B ec - tion when im - por - tant mat - ters are at stake.

Pno. *al niente*