

The Congress

for Soprano, Violin,
Cello, and Piano



Lyrics by Jonathan Odell
Music by Bill Robinson

The Congress

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March 7—22, 2026
Duration: 4' 16" for Eric Pritchard

In early March, 2026, my long-time collaborator Eric Pritchard asked me to arrange some Revolutionary War songs by Francis Hopkinson for soprano and piano trio. This was to be performed at Duke University at the end of May at a concert celebrating the 250th birthday of the US of A. While these are patriotic songs, I thought I would get a start by setting pro-Tory lyrics by Jonathan Odell (1737-1818) to his song “The Congress” from 1776. Odell had a lot of fun publishing poems against the Revolution and in support of the Crown, and for his efforts had to flee to Nova Scotia and then to New Brunswick, as so many others did in those days. The original song used the tune “Nancy Dawson”, which I didn’t use at all in this work.

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billrobinsonmusic.com

Cover art: *The Ballance of Power*, 1781, published in London

THE CONGRESS (1776) Lyrics

Ye, Tories all rejoice and sing, success to George our gracious King.
The faithful subjects tribute bring, and execrate the Congress.
These hardy knaves and stupid fools,
 some apish and pragmatic mules,
Some servile acquiescing tools,
These compose the Congress.
Then Jove resolve to send a curse, and all the woes of life rehearse
Not plague, not famine, but much worse,
He cursed us with a Congress.
Then peace forsook this hopeless shore,
Then cannons blazed with horrid roar,
We hear of blood, death, wounds, and gore,
The offspring of the Congress.
Prepare, prepare, my friends prepare,
For scenes of blood, the field of war
To royal standard we'll repair,
And curse the haughty Congress.
Huzza! Huzza! And thrice Huzza! Return peace, harmony, and law!
Restore such times as once we saw,
And bid adieu to Congress.

Jonathan Odel

The Congress

[4:16]

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Tory story

(♩.=110)

Violin *pizz.* *mf* *f* *ff* *arco*

Cello *pizz.* *mf* *f* *ff* *arco*

Soprano

Tory story (♩.=110)

Ye To - ries all re-joice and sing,

Piano *mf* *f* *ff*

4

4

suc - cess to George our gra - cious King.

4

8

8

The faith-ful sub-jects trib-ute bring,

8

Musical score for measures 12-15. The top staff is a vocal line with lyrics. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The piano part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes.

and ex - e-crate the Con-gress.

Piano accompaniment for measures 12-15. The piano part continues with a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some chords in the right hand.

Musical score for measures 17-20. The top staff is a vocal line with lyrics. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment. Dynamics include *p*, *cresc. p. a p.*, and *(mp)*.

These har - dy knaves and stu - pid fools,

Piano accompaniment for measures 17-20. The piano part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some chords in the right hand. Dynamics include *p*, *cresc. p. a p.*, and *(mp)*.

Musical score for measures 22-25. The top staff is a vocal line with lyrics. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment. Dynamics include *(mf)* and *f*.

some ap - ish and prag-mat - ic mules,

Some

Piano accompaniment for measures 22-25. The piano part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some chords in the right hand. Dynamics include *(mf)* and *f*.

The Congress

4 25

f *ff*

ser - vile ac - qui - esc - ing tools, These com - pose the

28

Con - gress. Then Jove re - solve to send a curse, and all the woes of

32

dim. *(mf)* *mp* *p*

life re - hearse Not plague, not fam - ine, but

38

much much worse, He cursed us with a

38

45

Con - gress.

45

51

51

The Congress

6 55

55 *mf* Then peace for-sook this hope - less shore, *f*

55 *cresc.*

58

58 *f* Then can - nons blazed with *ff*

58 *f* *ff*

61

61 *ff dim. p. a p.* hor - rid roar, We hear of blood, death, wounds, and gore, *ff dim. p. a p.*

61 *ff dim. p. a p.*

66

(*mf*)

(*mp*)

mp *dim.*

The off - spring of the

(*mf*)

(*mp*)

69

rit.

p *pp* *p cresc.* (*mf*)

p *pp* *p cresc.* (*mf*)

p *pp* *p cresc.* (*mf*)

Con - gress.

rit.

p *pp* *p cresc.* (*mf*)

73

f *ff* *f* *ff*

f *ff* *f* *ff*

Pre-pare, pre - pare, my friends pre - pare, For scenes of blood, the

f *ff*

The Congress

89

Musical notation for measures 89-94, top system. It consists of a single staff with a treble clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 9/16. The music features a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests.

89

Musical notation for measures 89-94, second system. It consists of a single staff with a treble clef, which is mostly empty with some rests.

89

Musical notation for measures 89-94, piano accompaniment. It consists of two staves (treble and bass clefs). The music features a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth and sixteenth notes, and chords.

95

Musical notation for measures 95-99, top system. It consists of a single staff with a treble clef. The music features a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. Dynamics include *ff* and *dim. p. a p.*

95

Musical notation for measures 95-99, second system. It consists of a single staff with a treble clef. The music features a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. Dynamics include *ff*. The lyrics "Huz - za! Huz-za! And thrice Huz-za!" are written below the staff.

95

Musical notation for measures 95-99, piano accompaniment. It consists of two staves (treble and bass clefs). The music features a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth and sixteenth notes, and chords. Dynamics include *ff* and *dim. p. a p.*. The marking *8va* is present above the treble staff. The marking *Ped.* is present below the bass staff.

100

Musical notation for measures 100-104, top system. It consists of a single staff with a treble clef. The music features a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. Dynamics include *f*, *(mf)*, and *(mp)*.

100

Musical notation for measures 100-104, second system. It consists of a single staff with a treble clef, which is mostly empty with some rests.

100

Musical notation for measures 100-104, piano accompaniment. It consists of two staves (treble and bass clefs). The music features a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth and sixteenth notes, and chords. Dynamics include *f*, *(mf)*, and *(mp)*. The marking *8va* is present above the treble staff. The marking *Ped.* is present below the bass staff.

p

103 *p*
Re - turn peace, har - mo-ny, and

p
Leo. Leo. Leo. Leo. Leo. Leo.

106
law!

p cresc. p. a p. (mp)
Leo. Leo. *

109 *mf cresc. p. a p.*

109 *mf cresc.*
Re - store such times as once we saw, And

(mf) f

The Congress

112 *ff* *rit.*

112 *ff* *ff* *dim. p. a p.*

bid a-dieu bid a - dieu to Con - gress.

112 *ff* *dim. p. a p.* *rit.*

116 (♩.=100) (♩.=90) Coda (♩.=80)

116 *mf* *mp* *dim.*

And bid a - dieu to

116 (♩.=100) (♩.=90) Coda (♩.=80)

119 *p* *pp*

119 *p* *pp*

Con - gress.

119 *p* *pp*