

“The People Will Be Free”

Chorus: **Thinking, voting, and deciding,
Citizens together rising;
Thinking, voting, and deciding,
The people will be free**

tune: "The Battle Hymn of the Republic"

When the people see their freedoms and their unity undone,
Then it's time to come together, for the good of everyone;
All our bullies and our bigots and our billionaires must heed:
The people will be free.

Chorus

We're so different, we're amazed at all the works of others' hands,
And our fairness to each other is the rule by which we stand,
When there's suffering for one, that means the rest are hurting too;
We're all in one canoe!

Chorus

Oh, the victory of truth is sweet, but always has a price,
Since the common good sometimes requires desires be sacrificed;
So, we use our Constitution's glue to let us act as one;
E Plur-i-bus U-num!

Chorus

It's rule by laws that brings us all the freedoms that we share,
and the people can improve it when the times demand repair.
Our hope is in our teamwork! Let the bells of freedom ring!
Let all of us now sing:

Chorus

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Performer's Notes: This song is a civics lesson, not a "battle" hymn. I perform the song in 12/8 instead of 4/4, so where the traditional Battle Hymn has a martial-sounding dotted 8th followed by a 16th, I use a quarter followed by an 8th. I sing it calmly but with increasing emphasis in each repetition of the chorus, because thinking, voting, and deciding is how the people create and exercise freedom.

I use the following chords for each verse and chorus:

||: (G) G G G G | G G G G | C C C C | G G D D | G G G G | B7 B7 Em Em | Am Am G D | G G G G :||
Bass: C A D D