

IN SPITE of REASON ©TM

Pop Rock Opera in Two Acts
by: John Doucette and Tony Cavallo
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This concept album is a pop rock opera based on the life of President Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War. It is presented as a sung-through musical portrayal of the personal trials and tribulations of one of the most well known figures in history, highlighting - love, struggle, loss, death, conflict and hope.

Although it can be called a pop rock opera, **In Spite of Reason** can also be labeled as a pop musical drama with rock overtones and intelligent lyrics that entice the mind into thought. It has been described as listening to a cross between modern adult new age alternative, Jesus Christ Superstar, Evita and the Beatles, culminating into it's own unique sound. This is a work that will appeal to those who have embraced and enjoy the diverse pop music of the last 40 years.

The intent of **In Spite of Reason** is not to merely recapitulate the fiddles, fifes, banjos and drums of civil war songs, but instead, to weave a tapestry of modern music as a sound bed to storytelling (an art form almost completely unheard of today). This musical work does not attempt to be high brow nor rudimentary. All lyrics are sung in styles reflective of stage presentation, yet enjoyable by modern audiences. Those interested in history, as well as fans of pop musical concept albums such as Tommy or Evita, theater, story music and even modern stage enthusiasts will find **In Spite of Reason** a refreshingly new presentation of this famous story. It attempts to maintain major historical accuracy of events and even uses words and phrases actually said by the portrayed individuals.

This "Original Studio Cast", 90 minute, double CD album is accompanied with a 48 page booklet containing all the lyrics. **In Spite of Reason** is also available on digital down load worldwide.

A **performance CD** of the original studio recording soundtrack is available for live performances.

CHARACTERS:

(10 male, 2 female) plus groups and crowds

Abraham Lincoln – President of the United States (male)

Mary Todd Lincoln – The First Lady (female)

Nicolas Hay – The President's Secretary (male)

Edwin Stanton – Secretary of War (male)

George McClellan – Army General (male)

Janie – Black Southern Slave (female)

George – Black Southern Slave (male)

John Wilkes Booth – Stage Actor (male)

Old Man Slave – Old Southern Slave (male)

Narrator – Informed Politician/Supporter of Abraham (male)

Reporter – Newspaper reporter (male)

Staff Member – President's General Staff Member (male)

Cabinet Members – (4 or more males)

Church Congregation – (mixed male and female)

ARMY Soldiers – (several male)

Street Crowd - (mixed male and female)

Plantation Slaves – Group of Slaves (mixed male and female)

INDEX OF SONGS:

DISC 1 - ACT 1

1. Overture
2. How Does the World Look Through His Eyes
3. This Man Lincoln
4. Seen As A Threat
5. Lincoln's Speech
6. 25 Miles
7. Oath of Office
8. Forward to Richmond
9. Quick and Bold
10. It Takes a General
11. Family Life
12. We've No Choice
13. It's a Little Singular
14. Means Nothin' If You Ain't With Me
15. Reborn
16. Some Other Day
17. Suddenly
18. Lee and I
19. This Man's Army

DISC 2 - ACT 2

20. A Victory Reported
21. He Great!
22. Still Got A Whip
23. Damn It All
24. Loss of a Child
25. Off His Perch
26. Oust McClellan
27. As President To Be
28. What Keeps You In Favor
29. Mary
30. Long Live Abraham
31. The Soldier's March Home
32. Flex of One Finger
33. Father, Please Hurry
34. Shirt and Tie
35. Suddenly It's Peaceful
36. (Reprise) How Does the World Look Through His Eyes

TOTAL SCENES: 18

ACT I

Scene 1: A Washington Street

Days before the outbreak of the American Civil War, our Narrator, speaking (to the audience) of his admiration for Lincoln, passes a church filled with congregants praying for guidance through the upcoming ordeal. Stanton, leaving the church with several gentlemen, tells his colleagues, in mocking terms, of his dislike for Lincoln. Overhearing this, a reporter nears Hay and tells him this opinion is shared by many.

Scene 2: The White House and Street Below

From the balcony Lincoln gives a speech warning the South of the consequences of secession. Ignoring his words, the Confederacy is formed. Hostile forces are sent to encamp near Washington, defying Northern action. Lincoln sends troops to engage the Southern army. Looking down onto the street from a White House window, Lincoln can see the citizens cheering the soldiers on their departure. After a devastating loss, the Northerners look to the arrogant General McClellan to lead the army. Despite those in his Cabinet who feel the South should be allowed to break away from the Union, Lincoln is determined to prevent it.

Scene 3: Lincoln's White House Office

Lincoln, looking at a portrait of his family, reflects upon the fact that he has not spent enough time with them. This reverie is broken by a visit from Stanton, who informs him that McClellan is not adequately performing his duties. But, due to McClellan's strong military and public support, Lincoln keeps him in charge of the army. After Stanton leaves, Hay asks Lincoln why he never appears to be affected by personal attacks on him by his associates. Later that day, this prompts Lincoln to reveal his inner feelings to his wife, Mary.

Scene 4: Southern Plantation Grounds

The slave, George, has met his lover, Janie, in secret to plan their escape to the North. Realizing the true danger, she talks him out of his plan and tells him of her hopes for an end to their suffering. Other slave women join in, speaking to their boyfriends and husbands.

Scene 5: Lincoln's Office

Lincoln suggests freeing the slaves to his Cabinet. In view of the fact that Southern armies have secured most of the war's victories, the Cabinet members feel this would be seen as a desperate act. Lincoln regretfully agrees.

Scene 6: The Lincolns' Private Chambers

The strain of events begin to show on Mary, who more and more loses touch with reality.

Scene 7: McClellan's Headquarters

McClellan, still not having taken action against the rebel forces, is visited by Lincoln. Lincoln points out to the General how much better equipped his army is than the South's.

ACT 2

Scene 1: The White House

Upon hearing the news of the defeat of a rebel force, Lincoln seizes the event to declare the emancipation of the slaves.

Scene 2: Southern Plantation

News of freedom reaches the Southern slaves. Their reaction to the Proclamation is joyous yet apprehensive.

Scene 3: Lincoln's Office

Lincoln's Cabinet exhibits intense displeasure over the emancipation.

Scene 4: The White House Green Room

Mary is in deep despair over the recent death of their son, Willie. She prays before his coffin while Abraham, torn by his own grief, struggles to find the words to console her.

Scene 5: Lincoln's Office

McClellan has remained unsuccessful as the army's leader. Lincoln suggests replacing him with General Grant, the most aggressive General in the Union. His cabinet is opposed to the plan.

Scene 6: Hotel Room

McClellan has been relieved of his duties. He has become interested in seeking the presidency. He asks for our Narrator's support. Our Narrator declines.

Scene 7: White House and Grounds

Our Narrator speaks about Mary Lincoln's changing and sometimes disturbing behavior as he observes her from a distance.

Scene 8: Lincoln's Office and the Street Below

Hearing news that the war is ended, Lincoln looks to treating the South mercifully, a policy his Cabinet does not share. Crowds in the street are joyous. The crowd is soon sobered as they see the soldiers, many wounded and crippled returning, while some never return to their families at all.

Scene 9: Booth's Hotel Room

The mad actor, John Wilkes Booth, hears of the celebration Lincoln will attend and decides to assassinate him there.

Scene 10: The Lincolns' Private Chamber

Mary hurries Abraham as he dresses for the theatre which he has reluctantly agreed to attend. While looking in the mirror he comments on the practice of people judging other people on their appearances alone. They walk out to their carriage.

Scene 10-b: The Lincolns' Last Carriage Ride Together

They enter a carriage and ride to the theater, taking them to their destiny.