

“Cast off the lines  
Grant us Godspeed to the oceans  
With a Purpose that is just

Facing the foe  
With the cutting bow of Freedom  
And with a Sailor’s constant Navy pride

Ours is the Fight  
That has filled the Hearts of many,  
Those who sailed for Freedom’s cause

FOREVER STRONG  
We will fight our nation’s battles  
USS INDIANAPOLIS!

Hoist up the sails  
Let us venture out for Freedom  
Making way through calm and storm

Wind at our backs  
Let us stand as stalwart shipmates  
USS INDIANAPOLIS!

(Eternal Father)  
Hear us when we cry to thee  
For those in peril on the sea

FOREVER STRONG  
With the cutting bow of Freedom  
USS INDIANAPOLIS!

ANCHORS AWEIGH MY BOYS!  
USS INDIANAPOLIS!...

Ever Strong!”

**Download  
Artwork & Mementi to  
accompany your  
“Forever Strong” recording at  
stormworld.com  
Digital Libretti**

## Special Thanks

to the Musicians and Conductors of  
The San Diego Jewish Men’s Choir  
The Marine Band of the Royal Netherlands  
Navy

The Rundfunk Blasorchester Leipzig  
The Stormworks Symphony Orchestra  
Adelmo Guidarelli

Music conducted by  
Peter Kleine Schaars  
Ruth Weber  
Stephen Melillo

Visual Editing by Andrew Fritzingler

Painting by Irene Krauß

Music, Audio Production & Narrative by  
© Stephen Melillo IGNA 2014-2015

**To the families of those Lost  
at Sea, to the Survivors of the  
USS Indianapolis CA-35 , to  
their families, friends and all  
who support them, and to those  
currently serving in the  
Defense of Freedom,**

**The USS Indianapolis CA-35  
and 880 of her crew never did  
physically return to the Golden  
Gate... the one *here* that is. In  
Heaven and in our Hearts, the  
ship and her crew will always  
be coming home to loving,  
waiting arms.**

**With that Message in that  
Purpose, this work is lovingly  
offered.**

**THANK YOU...**



# Forever Strong

a Tribute to the USS Indianapolis

#1103 In 33:17 by © STEPHEN MELLILLO IGNA 11 Sep 2014

Story, written in Blood by Those Lost at Sea,  
and the Survivors of the USS INDIANAPOLIS CA-35

Dedicated to the Souls, Survived and Sacrificed of the USS INDIANAPOLIS CA-35

In World War II, the **USS Indianapolis** earned **10** Battle Stars, and delivered the components of "Little Boy" to Tinian Island in a record-breaking cruise that would end a horrible War in the Pacific.

On the night of 30 July 1945, the Indy was struck by 2 torpedoes from Japanese Sub I-58.

After 5 days and 5 nights in the "crucible of grace," **317** Men were rescued.

**880** were lost to the sea.

But as Men suffer and die and yet live on, so does lost, spent metal become the enduring Spirit of the USS Indianapolis, Living on... **Forever Strong.**

*"Sharks swam below us, bumping our legs. I am often asked about sharks. My reply: "They don't like Irishmen!" Most of us were Christians or became Christians. We prayed daily. God was always with me.."* **Survivor Paul J. Murphy**

*"Demented men were victims of shark fear— everyone became the enemy. Men were stabbing the people next to them, fighting with whoever was close. Toward morning it became quiet. I guess those of us who remained became exhausted to a point of no return."* **Survivor Frank J. Centazzo**

*"I met a friend who had a rubber belt like mine. We stuck together, telling each other we would make it and not to give up. We took turns sleeping while the other made sure he stayed awake. After three or four days, he looked at me and said, "I can't take this anymore." We started to pray, and that is when he gave me his life belt. He went down. I tried, but I could not reach him."* **Survivor Lindsey L. Carter**

*"Our life jackets became saturated. More men were lost. We had to turn their life lines loose, as they would have pulled us down. More and more men turned to prayer. Several sang the "Navy Hymn," which we had sung every Sunday morning aboard ship... "for those who peril on the sea."* **Survivor William R. Mulvey**

## CREDITS

(for Audio & Visually scored versions)

Painting by Irene Krauß

Images for visual version provided by:

The National Archives

Families & Friends  
of THE USS INDIANAPOLIS

Family of  
Commander Mochitsura Hashimoto

Post WWII Survivor Photographs  
by © Andrew Fritzing, 2007-2014

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**Bell Bottom Trousers**  
WWII Radio Excerpts  
**Stella by Starlight** from "The Uninvited"  
© Victor Young 1944  
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of The Miller Nichols  
Library Marr Sound Archives  
of the University of Missouri-Kansas City

**Eternal Father, Strong to Save**  
Hymn by William Whiting 1860  
Music by John B. Dykes 181  
Rendered by Adelmo Guidarelli  
arranged for Orchestra  
by © Stephen Melillo IGNA 30 July 2014

*"Most Holy Spirit! Who didst brood  
Upon the chaos dark and rude,  
And bid its angry tumult cease,  
And give, for wild confusion, peace;  
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,  
For those in peril on the sea!"*

**FOREVER STRONG,**  
a Salute to the USS INDIANAPOLIS

Music & Lyrics by  
© **STEPHEN MELLILLO**  
IGNA 30 MAY 2014

Rendered by  
The Marine Band of the  
Royal Netherlands Navy  
Peter Kleine Schaars, Conductor  
&  
The San Diego Jewish Men's Choir  
Ruth Weber, Conductor

## Tenor

Bernardo Bicas  
Shaun Edelstein  
William Koepcke  
Doron Peisic  
David Zilberberg  
Steven Brozinsky  
Morris Gold  
Milton Krasner  
Aubrey Meyerowitz  
Abraham Romanowsky  
Jacob Schwartz  
Ivan Strashoon

## Bass

David Gmach  
Grant Parlett  
Albert E. Schafer  
Simcha Silverstein  
Dan Weiss  
Mark Zickel  
Moris Breziner  
Brian Castle  
Bernard L. Frankel  
Stephen Markowitz  
Matt Meis  
Ivan Mendelsohn  
Ivan "Jack" Cohen  
Barry Broomberg